

Implementing the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa: Experiences, Opportunities, Impacts and Challenges

Date: May 20, 2021 • **Time:** 15:00 – 17:00 EAT • **Venue:** Zoom



The Background

The illegal trade in wild fauna and flora involves the harvesting, procurement, transport, and distribution both domestically and internationally, of animals and plants, as well as their parts and derivatives, in violation of laws and treaties. It ranges in scale from single items being traded locally to commercial containers shipped worldwide to international markets.

In many African countries, the livelihoods and socio-economic development of communities in both rural and urban areas depends heavily on the use of wild fauna and flora resources, thus the loss of African wildlife directly or indirectly affects the livelihoods of African people. Additionally, the illegal trade in Africa's natural resources deprives African States of revenues, hindering economic growth.

The African Union, concerned by the unsustainable use of African wild fauna and flora, and increase of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna in recent years – undermining sustainable development, peace, security, rule of law and good governance – adopted in June 2014, the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.832 (XXV) during its 23rd Ordinary Session held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The Decision specifically targets the illicit trade in African wild fauna and flora and calls upon the Commission in

collaboration with the relevant partners to develop an African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna. The Strategy, an outcome of the International Conference on Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade of Wild Flora and Fauna in Africa held in Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo, builds upon international commitments and declarations made in relation to the challenges posed by illegal wildlife trade highlights the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife; the a rise in security and governance concerns and the need to take action on both the supply and demand sides.

The African Union Commission (AUC) together with TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, will hold a webinar on "Implementing the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa: Opportunities, Impacts and Challenges" The webinar will discuss the experiences, opportunities, impacts and challenges related to the unsustainable and illegal exploitation and trade in wildlife - including from forest, freshwater and marine resources and the potential for legal and sustainable trade In natural resources from wild biodiversity

PROGRAMME

The Webinar will be Co-moderated by the AUC's Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) and TRAFFIC

- Mr. Harsen Nyambe, Head of Environment, ARBE, AUC
- Dr. Taye Teferi, Policy & Partnership Coordinator – Africa, TRAFFIC,

Preliminary Agenda:

- Opening remarks by H.E. Amb. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, AUC (5 mins)
- Opening remarks by, Steven Broad, Executive Director and CEO of TRAFFIC (5 mins)

Panel Speakers:

- **CITES Secretariat - Ivonne Higuero - Secretary General:** A synergistic approach to engaging with MEAs, and opportunities for a coordinated approach to CITES implementation by African Parties (15 mins)
- **FAO - Dr. Sheila Wertz-Kanounnikoff - Senior Forestry Officer and Team Leader Forest Resources Management, Forestry Division of the FAO:** Laying the ground for sustainable trade in Africa's natural resources in the 21st century: Traceability, legality frameworks and other tools for post-pandemic economic recovery (15 mins)
- **TRAFFIC – Nick Ahlers- Africa Programme Director- Fostering multilateral partnerships to combat wildlife crime in Africa:** examples from working along the Africa to Asia trade chain. (15 mins)
- **AUC – Leah Wanambwa – A continent-wide, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to the challenges of overexploitation and illegal trade in wildlife:** The Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa: Opportunities. (15 mins)
- **Youth Representative - Mr. Peter Moll, CEO and Founder World Leaders Of Today:** Mainstreaming Youth in Wildlife Conservation (15 mins)

- **Facilitated Question and Answer session**
- **Concluding wrap up and closing remarks by, tbc TRAFFIC**
- **Concluding wrap up and closing remarks by tbc AUC**



Register in advance for this meeting from the link below:
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0scOypqj0iHNzs_1ylyt_ACZ-Kruno2XxTi