



## **PROTECTED AREA EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS CONFERENCE**

The Impact of COVID-19 on Protected Areas Operations and Programmes  
Proceedings of the First Conference of Africa's Heads of Protected Areas

22-23 April 2020  
Full Webinar Report

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## Acronyms

<b>APAC</b>	Africa Protected Areas Congress
<b>AWF</b>	Africa Wildlife Foundation
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organizations
<b>NP</b>	National Park
<b>PA</b>	Protected Area
<b>PAD</b>	Protected Area Executive Directors
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>WCPA</b>	World Commission on Protected Areas
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



An Elephant at Governor's Camp in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve following reduced human activities over the COVID-19 pandemic, May 6, 2020. PHOTO | GEORGE SAYAGIE | DAILY NATION NEWSPAPER

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# Foreword

The Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) was first brought to global attention in December 2019 and declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020. The outbreak has brought the whole world to an abrupt stop, gravely affecting all sectors of human endeavour. This zoonotic disease, suspected to have been caused by raised human-animal contact, called for immediate action to protect people from infection and to control its spread.

Infectious disease outbreaks have been on the rise in the recent past. These include Ebola, Bird flu (H1N1), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Rift Valley Fever, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), West Nile Virus and Zika Virus. Outbreaks of these dangerous diseases are linked to ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change, land use conversions and illegal wildlife trade - the very issues that have been on the agenda of the global conservation community over the years. The semi-apocalyptic scenario presented by COVID-19 will hopefully force the entire world to understand that protecting nature must become a global priority and everybody's responsibility.

The planning of the first Conference of Africa's Heads of Protected Areas was as abrupt as was the emergence of COVID-19. The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) in partnership with the IUCN-WCPA were in the process of planning a face-to-face conference for Africa's heads of Protected Areas to discuss issues of common interest in preparation for the first Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) slotted in for 2021. Just before invitation letters were sent out, international travel was banned, and most major meetings were cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most Protected Area operations were scaled down or suspended, creating challenges that had no precedents. The idea of holding a face-to-face meeting was shelved and upon the realization that Protected Areas were facing unprecedented challenges due to the broad measure undertaken to control the spread of COVID 19, a plan to hold a virtual meeting to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Protected Area operations and programmes was hatched. A questionnaire was developed and sent to all heads of Africa's Protected Areas, together with a letter inviting them to a virtual conference planned for 22-23 April 2020.

His Excellency, Hon Benjamin Mkapa, the former President of the Republic of Tanzania was the keynote speaker. The AWF CEO, Kaddu Sebunya, welcomed participants to the virtual meeting and also made the closing remarks.

A preliminary analysis of the questionnaire was shared with participants prior to the meeting. It summarized the responses from 19 African countries from across the continent. A final analysis of all responses will be included in a technical report that will be circulated as soon as it is complete.

In his opening remarks, the keynote speaker said that the tragedy of COVID-19 had presented an "opportunity to find ways to elevate nature to its rightful place - at the centre of sustainable and resilient economies". He said that "As humanity, we must

start to see nature as our insurance policy against diseases like COVID-19” which, he added, “lays bare the consequences of neglecting nature and thinking that human health and economic development are separate from it.” He stressed that healthy biodiversity and ecosystems provide us with food, medicines, wood energy and one of the scarcest resources of all, clean water.

The Protected Area Executive Directors emphasized the need to take collective action to cope with COVID-19 and to prepare for future pandemics. The conference recommended the urgent need to develop mechanisms, policies and guidelines to allow collaborative engagement between Protected Area agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and other sectors in the fight against COVID-19 and other emergencies. They also endorsed the creation of a platform for heads of Protected Areas to facilitate the sharing of lessons and best practices for better protection and management of Protected Areas across the continent.

It was clear from the conference that threats and disruptions to Protected Area operations caused by COVID- 19 require a comprehensive and concerted response. Allocation of emergency funds to support critical operations will be needed to avoid the loss of many conservation gains made to halt biodiversity loss and to enhance the livelihoods of the poor and most vulnerable segments of the society. AWF and the IUCN-WCPA regional offices will provide the facilitation and convening capabilities needed to consolidate and enhance Africa’s Protected Areas agenda, and to implement the recommendations made during the conference.

Together, we will heed the message from our keynote speaker - taking care of nature is taking care of ourselves.

Kaddu Sebunya  
CEO AWF

John Waithaka,  
IUCN-WCPA

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IUCN-WCPA wishes to acknowledge the role that AWF has played in conceptualizing, planning, financing and hosting the first meeting of the heads of Africa's Protected Areas. As co-organizers of the meeting, both AWF and IUCN-WCPA wish to thank the keynote speaker, H.E. Hon. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the Republic of Tanzania for accepting to preside over the meeting, and for his remarkable passion for conservation. We also salute all the heads of Protected Areas across the continent for the great work they are doing to conserve and protect Africa's natural heritage, often under very difficult and inhospitable circumstances. We further wish to thank all those who responded to the questionnaire and participated in the two-day conference.

Being a virtual meeting, significant skills were needed to imitate a face-to-face conference, with plenary and breakout sessions, and simultaneous translation throughout the conference. We thank AWF staff who worked tirelessly to make the entire process successful. We also wish to acknowledge APAC staff, the translator and observers. Finally, we wish to thank all the IUCN-WCPA Regional Chairs within the Africa Region for providing the contacts of all the heads of Protected Areas in the different regions.

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## Executive Summary

The first ever meeting of Africa's heads of Protected Areas agencies was held on 22-23 April, 2020 through video conferencing. In February 2020, just at the time when AWF and IUCN-WCPA were finalizing plans to host Africa's heads of Protected Area agencies in Nairobi to discuss issues of common interest, the Coronavirus outbreak struck, and was soon after declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Broad-based measures to minimize infections and control the spread of the pandemic were hurriedly put in place. Travel restrictions, social distancing, cancellation or postponement of events, partial or complete lockdowns, and other measures were instituted. Visitor facilities in Protected Areas were closed, workplaces shut, and global, regional and national supply chains were disrupted affecting day-to-day activities. A plan to bring together Protected Area Executive Directors (PADs) to discuss how to cope with COVID-19 was mooted. A questionnaire was developed and shared alongside an invitation to participate in a virtual conference to share lessons on the impact and measures being taken and how to better prepare for future pandemics and other emergencies.

The meeting was attended by representatives from all African regions – Southern, Eastern, Central, Western and Northern Africa.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Kaddu Sebunya, the AWF CEO said that the conference provided an opportunity for the African Executive Directors of Protected Areas and the conservation community to co-create and shape new pathways for African conservation, and a chance to re-imagine the future for nature and Africa's economies. He observed that COVID-19 had exposed the many structural weaknesses in Africa's economies, stretching the health delivery systems and other foundational services such as water and food security, and at the same time exposing how critical biodiversity and ecosystems were for the health of humanity and for reducing the likelihood of future pandemics. He also emphasized the need to enter into a phase of convergence among different sectors where nature takes centre stage. He stressed AWF's commitment to continue collaborating with relevant stakeholders and provide critical leadership to tackle new and emerging challenges.

Former President Mkapa, a trustee of AWF and the keynote speaker said the timing of the meeting could not have come at a better time for conservation and humanity, taking place when the world was experiencing an unprecedented pandemic that has had a negative impact on lives, livelihoods and economies, including in the conservation sector. He emphasized the need to start viewing nature as our insurance policy against disease and hunger thus should be placed at the centre of sustainable and resilient economies going forward. He said that COVID-19 had exposed the weaknesses and years of underinvestment in sectors such as food security and nutrition, health and water, laying bare the consequences of neglecting nature and thinking that human health and economic development are separate from it. He asserted that the pandemic presented an opportunity

to affirm the economic case for Protected Areas and said that the future requires greater harmony between nature and development. Observing that COVID-19 had presented a defining moment in the conservation discourse, he urged Protected Area leaders to ensure that conservation does not leave behind the custodians of nature.

Finally, he commended AWF for having the foresight in playing a vital convening role by “bringing us together to co-create the “Africa we want” and urged participants to work together to shape a new conservation dawn for Africa. Protected Areas should be a vital part of the engine to realize this vision, he concluded.

The Protected Area Executive Directors shared their experiences and the measures that had been taken to cope with the pandemic in their countries, and how these measures had impacted their conservation mandates. At the onset, coping with this pandemic was compounded by the challenges that most Protected Areas were already facing, including poaching, illegal wildlife trade, climate change, pollution, invasive species, encroachment, low budgets, inadequate staff, and human-wildlife conflicts, among many others. They proposed a raft of measures that should be taken to cope with the present pandemic and prepare for the unpredictable future. They emphasized the need for Protected Areas authorities to work in close collaboration with other government agencies, willing partners and local communities. They underscored the critical role that better technology will play in the management of Protected Areas now and into the future and the need to embrace and invest in its acquisition.

To facilitate an Africa-wide collaboration in the fight against the pandemic, the development of standardized policies, guidelines and protocols for preventing and responding to future emergencies would be needed. They further recommended the establishment of a platform for Protected Area Executive Directors to facilitate sharing of information and networking. As part of enhancing preparedness, they recommended the building of adequately skilled and well-resourced capacities in all the all relevant fields, including research, monitoring, law enforcement, communications and partnerships. Ensuring sustainable funding to support basic operations during emergencies was also identified as a critical requirement, arguing that the traditional reliance on international tourists was no longer sustainable. The role of local communities in supporting the conservation and protection mandates of PAs was seen in a new light during the pandemic. They were the only partners available during the lock-down. It was recommended that these communities should be empowered by establishing diverse mechanisms to support sustainable livelihoods and protecting them from wildlife related damages.

The participants also identified the actions that each country should take to implement conference recommendations and those that will require collaborative efforts. As part of the next steps, another follow-up meeting was proposed to establish a roadmap for the implementation of proposed actions.



## **CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS: OPENING SESSION**

The conference opening session consisted of welcome remarks by John Waithaka, the IUCN-WCPA Regional Chair for East and Southern Africa followed by an opening speech by Kaddu Sebunya, AWF CEO. The keynote address was delivered by His Excellency, Honourable Benjamin Mkapa, former President, Republic of Tanzania. The full texts of these opening speeches are under [Annex I](#).

## **MEETING APPROACH**

The meeting was organized to comprise of two half-day sessions over a span of two days. The preliminary results of the questionnaire were presented on day one for the Executive Directors to have an appreciation of how other countries had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures they had taken to respond to the crisis.

This questionnaire that was designed to assess the impact of COVID-19 on protected areas had been completed by the Executive Directors of Africa's protected areas ahead of the meeting.

Hence, the questionnaire results constituted a critical resource for use by the Executive Directors to review and evaluate whether these initial measures were adequate and what more needed to be done. The results were presented in plenary after which participants were allotted to working groups to deliberate on specific issues. The working groups reported back to the plenary with outcomes that informed the framing of actions moving forward.

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# Preliminary Questionnaire Results

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

This section provides a high-level summary of the questionnaire results that were shared with conference participants. The link to the full questionnaire is available in [Annex II](#).

## OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

It is important to point out that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, biodiversity loss, illegal wildlife activities, and the under-investment in Protected Areas by governments were already areas of significant concern. The pandemic has exacerbated these pre-existing challenges whilst offering opportunities for heads of protected areas to lead change in how the continent's Protected Areas are managed.

The results of the survey clearly showed that whilst there are some differences, most of the African countries that responded were facing similar challenges and applying similar management responses to Protected Area management under COVID-19. These similarities, including some differences, provide valuable pointers for potential areas of collaboration between countries.

Executive Directors on the issue of the impact of COVID-19 on PA management, all countries reported that they had been negatively impacted by the pandemic in one way or the other. Anti-poaching, training, research, collaboration with NGOs, intelligence gathering, and monitoring of illegal wildlife trade had been affected by the pandemic in all countries. A few countries reported insignificant impact of the pandemic on some specific Protected Area operations. For example, only two countries indicated that human-wildlife conflicts was not an important issue, but it is not clear whether this was the case before COVID-19 struck.

On partnerships, nearly all the countries reported high impacts, with collaboration with local communities being the worst hit. Only two countries indicated that collaborations with partners had not been impacted. Other collaborations assessed were those with private land owners, NGOs, government agencies and researchers. As would be expected, PA support for conservation activities in neighbouring areas was also highly impacted, with only two countries reporting no impact.

Regarding the importance of tourism revenue to fund conservation activities, only two countries reported that tourism was not an important source of revenue for managing protected areas. Cape Verde, being one of the two indicated that management of Protected Areas was fully funded by the government. At the same time there were countries that indicated that they relied on tourism revenue for 80-100 % of their funding. For these countries, this loss in revenue has reduced the

capacity of most wildlife management agencies to perform critical functions such as reducing human-wildlife conflicts and illegal wildlife activities. It is also notable that revenue from all other sources outside tourism were also significantly affected.

In summary, of all the 24 PA operations and programmes assessed, 20 of them (83.3%) reported COVID-related impacts of 60 per cent and above in more than 50 percent of the countries.

## **IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF COVID-19**

There are several implications arising from the disruption of PA management by COVID-19. An important area that was highlighted is the impact on local community livelihoods that depend directly or indirectly on Protected Areas. As jobs and benefits are affected, communities have continued to lose the incentives to protect biodiversity they previously had. The Protected Area Executive Directors considered the loss of community support as a threat that can potentially reverse previous conservation gains. Some countries also indicated that loss of funding or a delay in disbursement by governments is forcing them to scale down or even stop certain activities such as security patrols, search and rescue operations and other wildlife related emergencies.

The countries were asked to indicate the factors contributing to their inability to adequately cope with the pandemic. Loss of revenue and limited funding from government were cited as two key reasons by more than 83% of the countries. In addition, about 67% of the countries mentioned restrictions on travel and meetings as other reasons limiting their capacities.

## **SUSTAINABLE AND DIVERSIFIED FUNDING**

Underfunding and limited expertise or technical capacity can be significant drawbacks when responding to any challenge, leave alone emergencies or disasters like COVID-19. The funding challenge is not just about the amount of money but also about being able to have diversified and sustainable funding sources. For those countries overly dependent on tourism revenue, the pandemic literally shut down that funding source. Protected Area agencies need to have the capacity to anticipate and respond to disasters or crises like COVID-19. The lockdowns failed to identify Protected Area functions that would be categorised as “essential services” in order to qualify for emergency funding and be allowed to operate.

Responding to a question on how long PA agencies could maintain basic operations under COVID-19, 79% indicated that they could do so for six months or less. Among these, 26% could maintain operations for less than 30 days and another 23.6% for 1-3 months. Only 21% of the countries indicated that they could sustain their operations for a period of 6- 12-months. .

## **ENHANCING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

In order to enhance financial sustainability of PAs beyond tourism revenue, the countries overwhelmingly identified diversification of income sources as a key strategy. For this to be achieved, they agreed that it would be vital to broaden the scope of partnerships, enterprises, capacities, infrastructure and markets. Establishing autonomous Protected Area management agencies was also flagged as a means of enhancing management effectiveness.

## **LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

The importance of collaboration, particularly with local communities, was highlighted as being critical and should be maintained even during emergency periods.

All the countries responded that supporting and strengthening diverse income generating sources for local communities was essential to safeguard their livelihoods, and that collaborations between PAs and local communities should contribute to enhancing the diversification of their income sources. The survey also showed that these communities bore a disproportionate burden of conserving wildlife and often received little or no benefits from revenues generated from PAs.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Some countries shared how investing and using technology such as drones can actually enable certain activities like intelligence gathering to take place under restricted conditions.

## **WORKING GROUP DELIBERATIONS**

Following the presentation of preliminary results of the questionnaire, participants were divided into working groups to address the following questions:

### **Day 1 working group questions:**

1. What is the Impact of COVID-19 on Protected Areas?
2. How effective have Protected Areas responses been to the COVID-19 crisis?
3. What lessons are we learning and how will that make the responses more effective?
4. What is needed to enhance preparedness and response to COVID-19 and other crises in the future?

**Day 2 working group questions:**

1. What are the priority solutions for implementation?
2. What more information will be required to enhance response?
3. How would you as Protected Areas Executive Directors wish to participate in these collective solutions?
4. What are your recommendations for the way forward?

For details of the working group discussions refer to [Annex III](#).

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# Impact of COVID-19 on PA Operations

For those countries reliant on tourism revenue to fund conservation, the pandemic halted consumptive (hunting) and non-consumptive (photographic and nature) tourism and with it a corresponding loss of revenue flows. Funding for conservation was further reduced as government resources were redirected towards emergency health services to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 and to support vulnerable sectors and communities mainly in urban areas. Regrettably, the role of nature in economic development and the ecology of diseases like COVID-19 were not prioritized. Communities directly or indirectly dependent on nature for the livelihoods have been impacted and some have lost their jobs. Loss of income has led to an escalation of some illegal wildlife activities. In most Protected Areas the lack of mobility due to lockdowns and loss of revenue meant that initiatives like human-wildlife conflict management, research, security patrols and enforcement, judicial services and intelligence gathering have had to be scaled down or stopped.

## **PROPOSED WAYS OF MAKING COVID-19 RESPONSE MEASURES MORE EFFECTIVE**

Despite the impacts attributed to COVID-19, Protected Areas Executive Directors did take steps to comply with lockdown guidelines to curb the spread of the disease. These measures included closing parks, maintaining the management of minimum services and cancellation of tourist lodge reservations. It was important to minimise activities requiring human-wildlife interactions such as wildlife translocations and viewing of habituated species like gorillas.

In the latter case, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was provided to rangers and trackers likely to come into contact with primates as well as testing them for COVID-19 as they have been identified as the animals at the highest risk of infection. Some countries had to reduce staff due to lack of funding and the use of technology was found to fill gaps created by lack of 'boots on the ground'. Some Protected Areas with neighbouring communities have also been providing rangers with food and other essential supplies.

African Protected Area Executive Directors proposed innovative and practical ways in which preventive measures could be made more effective. The application of technology for a range of activities such as monitoring and tracking, data and intelligence collection, communication and planning was re-emphasized.

Communities were seen as important partners in conservation and yet they can be exposed to human-wildlife conflicts and be vulnerable to the disruption of the tourism value chain. Hence the participants felt strongly that communities need information and awareness of COVID-19 to enhance understanding and compliance to measures of preventing infections and controlling the spread of the virus. Providing basic support to communities to cope with the crisis was seen as essential. Since

significant biodiversity is found outside Protected Areas, the Protected Area Executive Directors proposed supporting inclusive conservation and community conservation programmes outside PAs, including community conservancies.

Since lack of funding was identified as a key constraint to the ability to respond to the pandemic, finding alternative sustainable and diverse revenue sources was identified as a high priority. Participants also recommended the establishment of a trust or an endowment fund.

Measures such as providing adequate personal protective equipment, sanitary materials, clean water and observing social distancing guidelines should be applied within Protected Areas to minimize human-wildlife contacts, including when handling animals in research and management related projects.

The Protected Areas Executive Directors found the conference as a valuable platform to share lessons and information on COVID-19 and how to respond to its impacts. They felt that promoting coordination and collaboration (including transboundary) between countries was essential to facilitate sharing of applicable emergency plans and strategies, establish standardized reporting and emergency response guidelines and enhance the capacity to address common challenges.

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# Enhancing Preparedness and Response to COVID-19 and Other Future Crises

The discussions were an amplification of responses to earlier questions. Establishing long-term plans and making greater use of scenarios to guide prevention, detection and response to pandemics was agreed to be vital. Ultimately, the Protected Area Executive Directors recommended the establishment of rapid response mechanisms, strategies and guidelines for epidemics and pandemics that would include buffer zones to reduce human-wildlife-interactions. To enable this, they recommended the establishment of protocols or mechanisms to facilitate sharing of intelligence, developing standardized guidelines and measures for reporting of incidents, and participating in joint operations.

COVID-19 has exposed the need to collaborate across sectors and disciplines. Agriculture is a key driver of habitat transformation and biodiversity loss and managing disease outbreaks requires understanding the epidemiology of zoonotic diseases. To this end, Protected Area Executive Directors proposed a coalition of stakeholders to establish mechanisms for cross-sectoral engagements, particularly with the agricultural, forestry, fisheries, health, education, economic planning, rural development, extractive industry, security and judicial sectors and land-use planning agencies. Much of this collaboration needs to be underpinned by joint research initiatives.

## SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Here is the summary of proposed actions requiring country-specific and multi-country collaborative actions between Protected Area Agencies.

### (A) COUNTRY SPECIFIC ACTIONS

- Establish and/or strengthen mutually supportive strategic partnerships with local communities, governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the private sector
- Make every effort to empower local communities and establish close and mutually supportive and rewarding relationships
- Manage human wildlife conflicts to protect communities from wildlife damage
- Make long-term plans to diversify revenue sources so as to reduce over-reliance on international visitors
- Build appropriate teams with capacities to effectively deal with basic priority issues, including prevention, detection and response to COVID-19 and future pandemics
- Invest in appropriate technology for research, monitoring, surveillance and communication
- Develop a national disease risk assessment and response plan
- Create guidelines for accurate reporting and effective information sharing mechanisms
- Determine minimum operational requirements for protecting biodiversity under emergency situations



- Reduce human-wildlife contacts to minimize possibilities of contracting zoonotic diseases
- Develop strategies for inclusive conservation

## **(B) COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS BETWEEN AFRICAN PROTECTED AREA AGENCIES**

- Create a forum/ platform for Heads of Protected Areas (Protected Areas Executive Directors Forum) to meet regularly and share information, lessons, best practices and experiences on pertinent issues related to Protected Areas, and to participate in cross sectoral platforms for Covid19 crisis response as part of promoting a One Health.
- Develop Emergency Preparedness and Response Policy and Guidelines to enable standardized and consistent approach in the prevention, detection, response, and recovery processes of COVID-19 and future pandemics
- Establish a Regional African Wildlife Crisis (Trust) Fund
- Lobby African government to provide greater support for Protected Areas by allocating sufficient funds from national budgets
- Develop practical ways of addressing common challenges such as biodiversity loss, illegal wildlife trade, diseases outbreaks and impact of climate change
- Develop best practice guidelines for minimizing human-wildlife interactions and interfaces to reduce transmission and spread of zoonotic diseases, including COVID-19

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## Next Steps

To implement the above recommendations, the following immediate steps were recommended for consideration;

1. Finalize and circulate the report of the conference proceedings to Protected Area Executive Directors and other key stakeholders.
2. Establish a Pan-African Protected Areas Director's Forum that among other things will facilitate collaboration between Protected Area agencies and affirm the support and commitment of PA Executive Directors towards its establishment.
3. Write an open letter to Africa's political leaders to make the case for nature conservation and Protected Areas' role as a natural solution to environmental health, sustainable development and human well-being.
4. Organise a follow-up meeting to establish a roadmap for the implementation of proposed actions and identify key issues and solutions for implementation at both national and regional levels.

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## Closing Remarks by Kaddu Sebunya

Mr. Sebunya noted that while it was important to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, it was equally important that the conservation leaders start thinking about the future and about practical ways to ensure that nature is seen and treated as a solution to resilient and sustainable economies.

He reminded participants that collectively we are custodians of a huge and valuable resource. We have an obligation to ensure that these PAs that we have been entrusted to manage, can contribute meaningfully to our economies including those of local communities.

He suggested a stepwise approach to reimagine African conservation that leaves no country behind and begins with ways we can address the immediate impact of COVID-19. The three steps are:

1. A coalition of like-minded African conservation leaders that re-imagines a vision of Africa's economic development unpinned by nature that is socially and environmentally just, maintaining respect for nature and for people
2. Positioning of nature conservation at centre stage of the crisis response and recovery plans.
3. Advocating for increased investments in protected and conserved areas and to livelihoods of communities living around and within key nature preserves. This will help prevent erosion of conservation gains and community livelihoods.

He closed the meeting by thanking the Protected Area Executive Directors for their active participation, the facilitator, John Waithaka, and the AWF team for supporting the meeting.

Refer to full closing speech in [Annex IV](#)

- END OF CONFERENCE -



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## ANNEXES

### ANNEX I: OPENING SESSION SPEECHES

#### **Welcome Remarks by John Waithaka. IUCN-WCPA Regional Chair for East and Southern Africa.**

I wish to welcome all the participants to this meeting that brings together the heads of Africa's Protected Area agencies for the first time ever. The WCPA-IUCN in collaboration with AWF and other conservation partners have great plans for engaging the heads of PAs in organizing and staging the first African Protected Areas Congress slotted to take place in 2021.

We desire to see a broad understanding and acknowledgement across all sectors of society that effectively managed and equitably governed Protected Areas play a crucial role in reducing poverty, creating employment, generating wealth and promoting good health.

We want Protected Areas to be placed at the centre of national development and macro-economic planning. We also want them to be recognized and appreciated for promoting human health and well-being.

It must become evident that the separation of health, economic and environmental policies is a dangerous delusion because human health and prosperity are entirely dependent on healthy ecosystems. In addition, COVID-19 is sounding the message that our collective health is also dependent on the organisms we share the planet with, including viruses, many of which can transmit diseases through the wildlife we cherish and protect.

From the ravaging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the contributions of PAs in sustaining global health will hopefully start to make sense to all. The few weeks of lockdowns and other restrictions have forced humanity to understand that nature is very unforgiving when ignored, neglected or abused.

As leaders in conservation, we must strive to ensure that Africa's Protected Areas are recognized, appreciated, celebrated and treasured for the role they play in delivering sustainable environmental, economic and livelihood benefits at local and national levels. This recognition may be the only way Africa, and indeed the whole world can achieve both biodiversity conservation objectives and sustainable development goals.

We will look up to the Protected Area Executive Directors in the continent to provide leadership, explore new opportunities, discover new solutions, drive transformational change, influence new policies and elevate ambitions for protecting Africa's natural heritage! We can achieve these and other goals if we work together.

Today's meeting, the first of its kind, comes at a time when we are all at our lowest, brought down by the Coronavirus which has attacked the entire world. It has caused fear, despair, confusion, uncertainty, suffering and death, and interfered with the core mandates of all Protected Area agencies in ways that we are yet to understand.

We must pull together and in the same direction if Africa will get out of this quagmire wiser, stronger, united and better prepared to face this and other future pandemics.

**The objectives of this meeting are three-fold:**

- Understand the impact of COVID-19 on Protected Area operations and programmes;
- Share information on how PA agencies have responded to the pandemic, and the lessons they have learnt;
- Understand what needs to be done to respond to this crisis in the short and long term.

The meeting will be conducted like any other major conference, complete with plenary and breakout groups, and with simultaneous translation in English and French throughout the sessions.

I wish to thank AWF for conceiving the idea of having this meeting, participating in planning it and meeting all costs.

I now wish to call upon Mr. Kaddu Sebunya, the AWF CEO to make some remarks and then invite the keynote speaker.

**Opening Speech by Kaddu Sebunya, AWF CEO**

On behalf of AWF let me personally welcome the leadership of Africa's Protected Areas to this virtual meeting. This group is collectively responsible for managing 14.4% of Africa's total land area and a further 3% that is marine protected.

The group represents diversity in how Africa's Protected Areas are managed. This huge network of Protected Areas is under different managed models. We have government departments, state enterprises as well as management through partnership agreements.

Some of you receive significant funding from the state and yet others get very limited funding. There are some that do not receive any funding at all from the state and yet are still expected to perform social functions such as education, research, problem animal control, stopping illegal wildlife trade and maintenance of the Protected Areas on behalf of the nation.

AWF is therefore very honoured and privileged to be able to convene this virtual meeting of the thought leaders of conservation in Africa. As a conservation organization based and working in Africa, AWF values the leadership role you play and the burgeoning strategic partnerships between us.

AWF sees this meeting as a first in many more as we seek to define and own the future of conservation in Africa. It is this group, working with like-minded global partners that should provide much needed leadership on how Africa's nature is managed and contributes to economic development on the continent.

### **This meeting was triggered by two events.**

The first is the African Protected Areas Congress that is organized by IUCN-WCPA. We felt it was important that the leadership of Africa's Protected Area Network needed to be part of shaping the agenda and contributing to technical content that would facilitate sharing of lessons and experiences from across the continent and other biodiversity regions of the world. More importantly we see the Congress as an opportunity for the African Protected Area Executive Directors to co-create and also shape new pathways for African conservation.

The second trigger is one that none of us planned for; and that is COVID-19. Africa, like the rest of the world is living through an unprecedented crisis. COVID-19 has exposed the many structural weaknesses in our economies. The health delivery systems have been stretched, as have other foundational services such as water and food security. But it has also exposed how critical biodiversity and ecosystems are for the health of humanity and for reducing the likelihood of future pandemics.

The disruption of global supply chains is causing economies to shrink. One of the key sectors to be affected is tourism. Continental and global tourism have come to a halt leading to the closure of many Protected Areas. Many of you have lost significant revenue streams that are needed to sustain functions such as maintenance of infrastructure, illegal wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflicts and payment of salaries to staff. Many small and medium sized enterprises and communities that depend on tourism for income have not been spared. For many countries the Protected Areas are the nucleus of the tourism industry. I commend you all for your leadership thus far and your dedication to protect Africa's biodiversity even under the most challenging circumstances. The pandemic is an affirmation of the Protected Area network that in the future deserves greater funding rather than less.

### **What is AWF's expectation?**

At AWF, we see the current pandemic as presenting the conservation community with an opportunity to re-imagine the future for nature and our economies on the continent. I want to end with a few messages.

To address the COVID-19 pandemic in a coordinated manner, we need to enter a phase of convergence among different sectors, in which nature takes centre stage. For this to happen, we would require leadership across sectors and disciplines and the emergence of a coalition of African organizations, governments, experts, youth and the environmental custodians in which there is respect, trust and a willingness to work collaboratively. This meeting can assist in thinking about how we bring this about.

This coalition should craft a vision of the future architecture of development that recognizes that whilst economic development is necessary it has to be done within the spirit of a social compact for a socially and environmentally just economy and maintaining respect for nature.

Identification of the changes or actions we need to make today in order for us to get to the future we want. We need to be bold enough to introspect and acknowledge what is working and what is not working.

Once again let me acknowledge and thank you for prioritizing this meeting and for the important leadership you provide in managing Africa's biodiversity and ecosystems. We have an opportunity to shape the future of conservation and AWF looks forward to continued collaboration as we provide critical leadership to tackle new and emerging challenges innovatively.

COVID-19 is also affecting how we work. Our traditional ways of working are not feasible under lockdowns. We are meeting virtually because the planned face-to-face meeting was no longer possible. So, let me acknowledge my colleagues in AWF who have been working round the clock to organize this meeting. Technology is making it possible for us to maintain momentum.

It's now an honour for me to introduce our keynote speaker, the former President of Tanzania and a trustee of the African Wildlife Foundation, His Excellency Hon. Benjamin Mkapa. His passion for nature and conservation is unquestionable. He is someone who advocated very strongly for nature to get appropriate recognition in the AU Agenda2063 - "The Africa we want".

Welcome Mr. Mkapa.

### **Keynote Speech by His Excellency Hon. Benjamin Mkapa. Former President, Republic of Tanzania**

Thank you Kadu for the kind introduction.

Given my passion for conservation and nature I appreciate being invited to make a few comments at the beginning of a very important meeting of African conservation leaders. The timing of this could not have come at a better time for conservation and humanity. It is taking place when the world is experiencing an unprecedented pandemic that has impacted negatively on our lives, livelihoods and economies. One of the most impacted sectors is of course conservation.

As a former president, I want to commend my fellow African leaders for their leadership thus far. They have implemented measures to save lives and avoid a total economic collapse. I also empathize with those that have lost loved ones and are struggling to cope with the consequences of lockdowns.

It is against this background that I want to acknowledge and thank you, the African conservation leaders, for prioritizing this meeting and seizing the opportunity to find ways to elevate nature to its rightful place at the centre of sustainable and resilient economies.

COVID-19 is like a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it has exposed the weaknesses and years of underinvestment in sectors such as food security and nutrition, health and water. At the same time, it has shown the world why we cannot afford to misuse and neglect nature.

As humanity, we must start to see nature as our insurance policy against diseases like COVID-19. It lays bare the consequences of neglecting nature and thinking that human health and economic development are separate from it. Rich and healthy biodiversity and ecosystems provide us with food, medicines, wood energy and one of the scarcest resources of all, clean water.

Conservation is an investment. It can create jobs, support livelihoods and reduce costs of reacting to pandemics like COVID-19. Wise African governments and leaders recognize conservation as an important pillar of economic development. Wise African leaders acknowledge that the livelihoods of rural communities are directly connected to nature, be it through tourism, local food production systems and energy sources. So, we have an opportunity to affirm the economic case for Protected Areas and that the future requires greater harmony between nature and development.

As African governments struggle to stay ahead of the COVID-19 crisis and seek ways to cope with the pandemic, they will clearly not have the bandwidth to think about the future. Thinking about the future is left to the rest of us. The conservation community has a unique opportunity to come together to think about how we can reposition nature at the centre of future development. We need to find ways to work more closely with the agriculture and health sectors to reduce the likelihood of future pandemics and avoid huge health costs.

Africa is a young continent. The youth represent Africa's greatest opportunity in safeguarding its biodiversity and future, as both leaders and custodians. The youth are less naïve about a globalized world and are keen to define new norms for nature and sustainable development. Let's not waste this huge dividend as we imagine our future.

The current focus of the COVID-19 response has been urban. This is mainly a reflection of the disease transmission routes and should not delay inclusion of rural areas in response efforts nor overlook the importance of key aspects of local resilience, including biodiversity and nature. The COVID-19 pandemic presents a defining moment in the conservation discourse and holds an opportunity to imagine new models for inclusive and equitable conservation that are long-term. So, as Protected Area Executive Directors, I urge you to ensure that future conservation does not leave behind the custodians of nature.



I commend AWF for having the foresight in playing a vital convening role by bringing us together to co-create the “Africa we want”. We should maximize the time we have together to shape a new conservation dawn for Africa. I encourage you to share generously your knowledge and experience so that together we can shape a future where nature is centre stage.

We all have a role to play. So, this meeting should be seen as our resolve to rise in the face of this pandemic, and create the healthy, prosperous and sustainable Africa that Africans so desire. Protected Areas should be a vital part of the engine to realize this vision.

On behalf of AWF trustees, I once again salute you for engaging at this critical juncture in the face of COVID-19 and wish you successful deliberations. The trustees will definitely be looking forward to engaging with the outcomes of this meeting and enduring partnerships on this long journey.

Thank you.

## **ANNEX II: QUESTIONNAIRE**

Available here <https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/#HjkuqO3j>

## **ANNEX III: NOTES FROM WORKING GROUPS**

### **DAY 1 NOTES**

#### **Question 1: What is the impact of COVID-19 in African countries?**

- Limitations in movements to manage and control infections with implications on everything.
- Almost complete halt in tourism with implications for revenue flows.
- Disruption of the hunting season with implications for revenue flows.
- Reduced government allocations.
- Reduced supplies and equipment.
- Reduced extension services and community engagement.
- Reduced capacities of team / staff.
- Research limited to in-house if at all.
- Disruption of Investigation and judiciary services.
- Disruption of habituation programs.
- Reduced surveillance and monitoring of Protected Areas.

### Question 2: How effective have African countries responses to the COVID-19 crisis been?

- Enhanced measures for human wildlife observation and contacts by rangers & trackers.
  - Testing of rangers everyday (those handling primates).
  - Increased PPEs for rangers and trackers.
- Local dispute resolutions.
- Use of technology for surveillance and monitoring which promotes limited but strategic engagements.
- Awareness raising through local radio programs & phone calls.
- Community engagement and support (provision of food and supplies).

### Question 3: What lessons are we learning and how will that make the responses more effective?

- (a)** Employment of technology for monitoring and tracking species and incidences.
  - Use of drones for surveillance, monitoring, planning, etc.
  - Smart tools for data collection, synchronizing, analysis, planning, coordination.
  - Collaring of target species.
  - Digital communication devices and equipment.
- (b)** Community engagement and awareness through effective communications.
  - Information materials to support understanding and compliance of communities to measures of protection.
  - Radio stations and radio programs (messages) and phone call provisions.
- (c)** Finding alternatives for revenues lost.
  - Diversification of funding away from tourism.
  - Trust funds / endowments.
- (d)** Provision of Personal Protective Equipment and supplies.
  - Masks, Gloves, Gowns, Goggles.
  - Sanitary materials.
  - Water and sanitation.
- (e)** Enhanced protection measures within Protected Areas
  - Provision of personal protective equipment and supplies.
  - Distancing measures and enhanced regulations for human wildlife contacts.
  - Enhanced research regulations.
- (f)** Coordination and collaboration between countries.
  - Sharing plans and strategies.

- Reporting and responses.
- Addressing common challenges.

**Question 4: What is needed to enhance preparedness and response to COVID-19 and other crises in the future?**

- Long term planning.
  - Planning for uncertainties and scenarios.
  - Buffers for planning.
  - Establish a rapid response system for epidemics and pandemics (zoonosis).
- Improved coordination and collaboration amongst countries.
  - Trans-boundary planning and strategies.
  - Sharing information.
  - Intelligence sharing.
  - Reporting of incidences.
  - Joint operations.
- Increasing investment within Protected Areas
  - Building infrastructure.
  - Capacity building including on zoonosis diseases and related health epidemics.
  - Equipment and supplies.
  - Strengthening management approaches.
- Increasing linkages and work across sectors.
  - Coalition of stakeholders.
  - Cross-sector engagement: Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Public Health, Education, Economic planning, Rural Development, Mining and extraction, Security personnel, Judiciary.
  - Engagement with NGOs and CSOs.
  - Joint planning.
  - Land Use Planning.
- Increasing engagement with communities
  - Inclusive conservation.
  - Awareness creation on nature conservation.
  - Strengthening community livelihoods.
  - Supporting conservation enterprises.
  - Community engagement in protection (scouts).
  - Community empowerment and rights-based approach trainings.
  - Supporting Community Conservancies.

- Increasing diversification of funding streams to Protected Areas
  - Government budget allocations.
  - Endowment funds / Trust funds.
  - Revenues from entrance fees / tourism (local and international).
  - Donor grants.
  - Conservation enterprises.
- Increasing investment into conservation technologies
  - Surveillance and Intelligence.
  - Monitoring of species.
  - Patrols and field visits.
  - Communications.
  - Coordination.

## CASE STUDIES

### **Cape Verde** – (total of nine islands each with Protected Areas)

- They don't have large PAs. Very different to most African nations as small PAs – largest is 90km<sup>2</sup>
- Don't have large circulation of people within PAs and no large mammals so threat of poaching is low.
- Tourism is not focused on PAs – mass tourism based on beaches.
- They are fully funded by the state.
- Not really impacted by the COVID-19.
- They don't have large mammals so no poaching issues. Main pressure on the parks is from agriculture (demand for land) and wood harvesting.
- They plan to establish biosphere reserves on two of the islands that have minimum tourism.
- Trying to change this and increase number of visitors and interest in the PA network.

### **Mozambique:**

- Difficult to compare situations across countries as have different situations and responses to COVID-19.
- Mozambique has a relatively low number of cases of COVID-19 and has declared a state of emergency.
- Impact has been high on ANAC due to the travel restrictions, staff not able to travel.
- While most civil servants are working from home, security forces including rangers are still working as normal.
- Major challenge with supply chain, getting essential equipment and supplies to PAs. Have engaged organisations to help with flying in some essential supplies.
- Given the challenges, can expect law enforcement to be weak and increase in illegal activity such as poaching.
- GLTFCA is a poaching hot spot but ANAC have reduced the threat there in recent years – need to maintain.

- Communication and awareness in communities is a problem – trying to engage local radio stations and media to assist with awareness.
- Community livelihoods are important and will be affected – how to work with them to alleviate challenges.
- Funding from the state but budget was only approved a week ago. Previously operating using funding from partners.
- Tour operators affected by decline in tourism so lodges closing.

## **Rwanda**

- Tourism and research programmes have been stopped in the Volcanoes NP.
- Law enforcement continues – anti-poaching and monitoring of different gorilla groups.
- Rangers divided into 2 groups, 1 group patrolling and monitoring, the other at home observing national lock down.
- For those working, hygiene and sanitation is high and have to stay in their posts when not patrolling.
- Field staff have been tested for COVID-19 and only those that are negative able to work
- All rangers must wear a face mask when in presence of gorillas and must not approach closer than 10m.
- Working to maintain relationships and support from key partners who have helped with equipment and supplies.
- Good support from government including Ministry of Health who issued testing kits.
- Similar support for Nyungwe NP which has chimpanzees.
- Many communities have developed partnerships with tourism operators which help fund livelihood programmes – very threatened at the moment with the lack of tourism.
- Rwanda Development Board (RDB) in communication with the communities and very aware of their situations.
- Working to try and diversify their livelihoods e.g. Rwanda Development Board gave communities 700 dairy cows last year
- Supporting communities to diversify income sources.
- Working through community partnerships around the parks.
- Transboundary collaboration between DRC and Uganda has been positive and strong. Exploring how to share lessons through transboundary partnerships with DRC and Uganda.

## **Nigeria:**

- Has 7 Protected Areas, 2 in the forest zone and 5 in the savannah.
- Currently all operations are at a skeletal level in response to restriction imposed by COVID-19
- Limited patrols on-going.
- Engagement with judiciary to support cases disrupted with courts not functioning.
- Using local dispute resolution mechanism to support cases but not adequate for all cases.
- Use of drones and cyber tools to support surveillance and monitoring.
- Community extension programs impacted however use of radio programs enhanced to support outreach.
- Research halted for external researchers but local level research as lead by Park Authorities continuing

- Tourism impacted heavily.

## DAY 2 NOTES

### Question 1: What are the priority solutions for implementation?

1. Enhancing support to Protected Area Authorities towards maintaining core team capacities for operations.
2. Developing standardized guidelines on data collection, detection, prevention and response to zoonosis and sharing them across Protected Areas in the African continent, including immediate articulation of enhanced protective measures for human wildlife contacts (rangers, researchers, trackers, tourists, trade & markets).
3. Enhancing the capacity of PA teams through improved trainings, awareness and communications on early warnings, and the provision of basic personal protective equipment and supplies to support their operations.
4. Sharing and upgrading technologies and in-terms of equipment for surveillance, monitoring and management of PAs across in Africa.
5. Enhancing community information and awareness on COVID-19, including provision of basic support to communities to cope with the crisis.
6. Identifying innovative ways to support communities living adjacent to Protected Areas so as to reduce over-dependence on tourism.
7. Exploring ways of developing sustainable funding for PAs to support conservation activities even in the face of crises such as COVID-19.
8. Establishing strategic partnerships between Protected Areas in Africa and with development & private sector partners willing to support conservation.
9. Protected Area Executive Directors take lead in determining priorities, meeting regularly and sharing information and experiences about their conservation of Protected Areas in Africa.
10. Protected Area Executive Directors participating in cross-sector platforms for COVID-19 crisis response, promoting a one health approach (inclusive of environmental health).
11. Advocating for behavioural change in the implementation of existing solutions to prepare for crises; - In many countries, the solutions are always there but often takes situations such as a pandemic for action to be taken.

### Question 2: What more information will be required to enhance response?

1. Establish an information system to enable early warning and alert across all Protected Areas and adjacent communities.
2. Define data collection and management protocols for zoonosis Information on Human Wildlife interactions/ conflict and pandemics.
3. Follow up on the questionnaire to PAs and include epidemiologist's follow-up questions in the research.

4. Information on alternative and resilient livelihoods means for rural communities dependent on tourism and Protected Areas.
5. Information on the minimum requirements that a given PA would need to support its operations in the face of a crisis.
6. Information on opportunities for financing and alternate revenue sources for Protected Areas including Trust and Endowment funds for PAs.
7. Information on vulnerability to future pandemics and the level of preparedness.
8. Information on climate change and its effects on Protected Areas.
9. Information on Protected Area emergency response policies that could be adapted.
10. Information on Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines for emergency response.
11. Information on applicable and relevant technologies for Protected Area Surveillance and Management.
12. Information on unimplemented existing Protected Area emergency policies.

**Question 3: How would you as Protected Areas Executive Directors wish to participate in these collective solutions?**

1. Establishing an Africa Protected Area Network Partnership as led by PA Managers.
2. Establishing an Africa Protected Area Managers platform to lead and to enhance communications.
3. Integrating Protected Area management structures in COVID-19 emergency management systems.
4. Increasing the engagement between Africa PA Executive Directors network with African Institutions, NGOs, CSOs, bilateral and multilateral platforms.
5. Influencing support for the strengthening of capacities within all African Protected Areas.
6. Advocating for leadership will and support to nature conservation and to PAs specifically as premise for sustainable development.
7. Engaging within transboundary Protected Area platforms.
8. Participating in actual development of solutions since some solutions are country- specific.
9. Informing the development of new technologies that will help in the management of PAs and future emergencies.
10. Developing risk assessment plans.
11. Conducting peer reviews and benchmarking against external/ global solutions.

**Question 4: What are your recommendations for the way forward?**

1. Circulate the report of the conference deliberations.
2. Establish a roadmap for the implementation of propositions.
3. Affirm the support and commitment of PA Managers towards the establishment of an Africa PA Executive Directors network or Alliance.
4. Establish a platform for Africa PA Managers to engage regularly in driving the agenda for an Africa PA network.
5. Bring along other Africa PA Executive Directors not present in the meeting.
6. Develop an advocacy / influencing strategy towards strengthening political will and support to nature conservation.

7. Write an open letter to our political leaders makes the case for nature conservation and Protected Areas as a solution to human security and well-being.
8. Establish South-South linkages with Africa Protected Area Network & Managers.
9. Establish an Africa Wildlife Emergency and Resilience Fund.
10. Follow-up meeting to distinctively identify key issues and solutions for implementation at both national and regional level.
11. Individuals in every country need to have in-house discussions and strategize on how to implement solutions that are country specific.
12. Determine implementation strategies and delegate implementation roles of regional/ international solutions to selected stakeholders.
13. Develop standard guidelines that will ensure the success of this engagement going forward.

## **ANNEX IV: CLOSING REMARKS BY KADDU SEBUNYA, AWF CEO**

Greetings once again colleagues.

Yesterday, I had the honour of speaking to you at the start of this meeting and I highlighted that it was important for African conservation leaders to come together as a coalition of like-minded professionals especially in the context of COVID-19.

Our starting point is of course the impact of COVID-19 on conservation and related economic activities. We also realize now that while it is necessary that we respond to the immediate challenges caused by the pandemic, it is equally important that we start thinking about the future. We must ask critical but practical questions about how we can ensure that nature is seen and treated as a solution to resilient and sustainable economies. And in the words of the former President of Tanzania, how can we ensure that we invest in nature as our insurance policy against future pandemics and poverty?

Despite the lockdowns we successfully engaged over the past two days, thanks to technology. Our discussions were complemented by the results of the questionnaire that most of you completed. For those yet to complete the questionnaire, I urge you to please do so.

Although I was not able to be with you throughout the two days, the feedback indicates that the quality of the discussions was high and the value of coming together has been appreciated. We discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on PAs and how we have responded thus far. On day two we started to look at possible solutions.

Our first meeting is clearly an important milestone as conservation leaders. We came together powerfully as like-minded leaders to begin a journey of sharing and defining a new direction for conservation on the African continent.



I pointed out yesterday that collectively we are custodians of a huge and valuable resource. We have an obligation to ensure that these PAs that we have been entrusted to manage, can contribute meaningfully to our economies including those of local communities. For this to happen we need to embrace change and ask ourselves what we can do differently, what we can do better and what we need to stop doing.

Therefore, we should build on this initial meeting if we are to have any impact. From your discussions I believe we have a solid foundation to reimagine African conservation. So, what are some of the ways for this to happen?

AWF envisages a stepwise approach that leaves no country behind and begins with ways we can address the immediate impact of COVID-19. The three top things we can take forward include:

1. A coalition of like-minded African conservation leaders that re-imagines a vision of Africa's economic development unpinned by nature that is socially and environmentally just, maintaining respect for nature and for people
2. Positioning of nature conservation at centre stage of the crisis response and recovery plans.
3. Advocating for increased investments in protected and conserved areas and to livelihoods of communities living around and within key nature preserves. This will help prevent erosion of conservation gains and community livelihoods.

Let me once again thank you all for making this meeting possible by your virtual presence and engagement. Let me again acknowledge the facilitator, John Waithaka, and my AWF team for supporting this effect. For this meeting to be possible, we had the support of IUCN WCPA, and to that end, I will like to thank them also.

I am looking forward to making this journey with you all in building a strong Protected Area Network in Africa.

## ANNEX V: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Position	Country / Organization
HE Hon Benjamin Mkapa	Former President of Tanzania (Keynote speaker)	Tanzania
Ndenga Mikeng Edmond	Ministry of Forest and Wildlife	Cameroon
Thulani Methula	Director of Parks, Eswatini National Trust Commission	Eswatini
Telesphore Ngoga	RDB, Tourism and Conservation Department	Rwanda
Abel Musana	RDB, Tourism and Conservation Department	Rwanda
Eugene Mutangana	RDB, Conservation Management expert	Rwanda
Prosper Uwingeli	RDB, Tourism and Conservation Development	Rwanda
Idephonse kambogo	RDB, Tourism and Conservation Development	Rwanda
Ariella Kageruka	Head of Tourism and Conservation Department, RDB	Rwanda
Kumara Wakjira	Director General, Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA)	Ethiopia
Ibrahim M. Goni	Conservator General, National Parks Service,	Nigeria
Dr. Agboola Okeyoyin	Assistant Conservator General, National Park Service, Niger ia	Nigeria
Ahmed Mohamud Osman	Director of Somali Wildlife	Somalia
Justino Biai	Directeur de l` Institut de la Biodiversité et des Aires Protégées de la Guinée-Bissau	Guinée-Bissau
Abilio Rachid SAID	CHM-NFP, Instituto da Biodiversidade e Áreas Protegidas (IBAP)	Guinée –Bissau
Mateus Mutemba	Director General of the National Administration for Conservation Areas	Mozambique
Mohamed Harun	Advisor to DG of National Administration of Conservation Areas ANAC	Mozambique
Jeremy Ngumbi	Director General, ICCN	DR Congo
Mamy Rakoto	Directeur general de Madagascar National Parks	Madagascar
Alexandre Rodrigues	Director, Direção Nacional do Ambiente	Cabo Verde
Kabouya ilham	Algerie directrice de la protection de la faune et de la flore	Algeria
Sam Mwandha,	Executive Director, Uganda Wildlife Authority	Uganda
Fedinand C. KIDJO	Directeur Général/CENAGREF	Benin
Banaventure Kipidiba	Gestionnaire des aires protégées.	Togo
Evangeline Sworpe Nyantee,	Manager, Division of Protected Areas Management, Conservation Department	Liberia
Phillip Muriithi	Vice President Conservation Science and Planning	AWF
Alistair Pole	Senior Director, Project Management & Partnerships	AWF
Lindsay Kosnik	Vice President Development & Public Engagement Marketing & Creative	AWF
Eric Coppenger	Vice President, International Policy & Policy Relations	AWF
Simon Nyoike	Manager, Information Technology	AWF
Eileen Kairu	Communications and Advocacy Assistant	AWF Kenya
Nashipae Orumoy	Director, Public Relations and Corporate Communications	AWF Kenya
Charly Facheux	Vice President, Conservation Strategy, Knowledge Management & Impact	AWF
Yemi Katerere	Consultant	Zimbabwe
Theo Marube	French /English interpreter	Tamarind Interpretation Services

Hypolite Ntia	French /English interpreter	<i>Tamarind Interpretation Services</i>
Frederick Kumah	Vice President External Affairs	<i>AWF</i>
Manfred Aime Epanda	Cameroon Country Coordinator	<i>Cameroon AWF</i>
Kaddu Sebunya	Chief Executive Officer	<i>AWF</i>
John Waithaka	IUCN-WCPA Regional Chair - East and Southern Africa	<i>IUCN WCPA</i>
Janvan Kombo	China Relations Intern	<i>AWF</i>
Jane Otieno	Administrative Assistant	<i>APAC</i>

## **COUNTRIES THAT COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Ghana, Malawi, Chad, Rwanda, Swaziland, Nigeria, Algeria, Sudan, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Somalia, Seychelles, Niger, Cameroon, Uganda, Benin, Ethiopia, Madagascar.