



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

44TH SITTING – FIRST MEETING – THIRD SESSION- FIFTH ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 5th November, 2024

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 4.15 p.m. at Parliament House, Kampala, Uganda

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Hon. Joseph Ntakirutimana, in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable members, I do not have any communication to make but I have- as you can see the Orders of today, I have decided to put item No. 4, which is the report of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges, I had decided that this report should be considered the entire afternoon.

Procedure?

10.17

Mr Kennedy Mukulia (Republic of South Sudan): Mr Speaker, I refer you to rule 16 of our Rules of Procedure specifically, rule 16(5) It states, “*By leave of the Speaker, the order of business set out in the Order Paper may be altered on any particular day.*” I think it should be a Member if that is to happen. It will not be the Speaker to alter it.

I also refer you to rule 16(1), “The Speaker shall, in accordance with the direction of the Commission, determine the order of business of the House”. I submit.

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The Speaker: I think that the Speaker has been empowered to review the Order Paper all the time. For example, today, the chairperson of the Council of Ministers is not around and we have no minister with us here. That is why I decided to consider this report when the minister is there. Let's proceed.

LAYING OF PAPERS

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE BY THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY PARTNER STATES

The Speaker: Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources

10.20

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms Francoise Umukiza): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the oversight activity on the management of wildlife by the East African Community (EAC) Partner States. I beg to lay.

The Speaker: Please, proceed.

10.21

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms Francoise Umukiza): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the oversight activity on the management of wildlife by the East African Community (EAC) Partner States be adopted. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Do you have seconders? (*Members rose*) It is seconded by Hon. Ndangiza, Hon. Kanini Kega, Hon. Zipporah and the others.

Ms Umukiza: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Report on the oversight activity on the management of wildlife by the EAC partner states from 30 September to 6 October 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Page 2 are acronyms, pages 3 and 4; the Table of contents

Page 5 - Introduction

The East African Community (EAC) region is highly diverse and extremely rich in natural resources including grasslands, forests, rivers, wetlands, deltas, oceans, lakes and wildlife. These

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natural resources drive national and regional economic development through agriculture, fisheries and livestock, forestry, wildlife tourism and water resources.

The region has some of the biggest populations and megafauna including elephants, rhinoceros, lions, chimpanzees, mountain gorillas and various species. The region is a sanctuary of unparalleled natural wonders characterised by trans-boundary ecosystems and cross-border protected areas, waterways, extraordinary scenic landscapes and productive aquatic systems that support a variety of wildlife.

According to Article 116 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC, Partner States undertook to develop a collective and coordinated policy for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of wildlife and other tourist sites in the Community.

In particular, the Partner States shall;

- (a) harmonise their policies for the conservation of wildlife, within and outside protected areas;
- (b) exchange information and adopt common policies on wildlife management and development;
- (c) coordinate efforts in controlling and monitoring encroachment and poaching activities;
- (d) encourage the joint use of training and research facilities and develop common management plans for the trans-border protected areas; and
- (e) take measures to ratify or accede to, and, implement relevant international conventions.

The following actions have been undertaken by the EAC;

- (a) The Council approved the EAC Wildlife Conservation and Management Policy;
- (b) Developed a draft EAC Wildlife Conservation and Management Strategy;
- (c) The Council approved the Synthesis Report Economic Valuation of Natural Capital in Priority Trans-boundary Areas and its Action plan;

- (d) Capacity-building sessions on the involvement of youth, women and local communities in curbing illegal wildlife trade.

All Partner States have in place strategies and programs to manage wildlife in their territories.

The Speaker: There is a procedural matter.

Mr Gabriel Arol Garang: Mr Speaker, I do not have the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) and I am sure no one has been- if some of the Members have been given, then I think it is not procedurally right to proceed without supplying to Members the report; we are not following what the chairperson is presenting.

The Speaker: Did you get a copy?

Mr Ngole: Mr Speaker, it is not about me. Several Members do not have the report.

The Speaker: They are not complaining. Let us proceed.

Ms Umukiza: Thank you, Hon. Gabriel, for intervening but we can also be using our soft copy, because we, as an agricultural committee, are encouraging this House to reduce the printing out of materials to protect the environment, climate change, mitigation and adaptation; we should go paperless.

The Speaker: Honourable- yes, there is a procedural matter.

Mr Kennedy Mukulia: Mr Speaker, is it procedurally right for the chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources to talk about what is not in the report?

The Speaker: It is not. Please, proceed.

Ms Umukiza: All partner states have in place strategies and programs to manage wildlife in their territories. It's against this information that the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) decided to undertake the oversight activity on the management of wildlife in the EAC Partner States.

2.0 Objectives

The objective of this activity was to assess policies, laws and strategies adopted by the EAC Partner States for the management of wildlife. Additionally, the committee assessed how Partner States cooperate in the cross-border management of wildlife.

3.0 Methodology

The activity was conducted through a consultative meeting with key stakeholders from the EAC Partner States held in Nairobi, Kenya. The officers from the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Rwanda made their presentations online. However, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Federal Republic of Somalia did not send their representatives to the meeting.

4.0 Presentations from Partner States

4.1 Republic of Burundi

4.1.1 Background

Burundi's territory combines both farmland and aquatic areas and a diversity of eco-climatic conditions that give the country a great biological diversity.

The country has made tremendous efforts to protect its biodiversity through the creation of protected areas and the implementation of a new law and related management tools such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which is updated to be in line with the Global Framework on Biodiversity adopted in Montreal in 2022 at the United Nations Conference of Parties - COP15.

4.1.2 Institutional Framework

In Burundi, several institutions are involved in wildlife conservation such as key government ministries and their decentralised departments, local riverside communities, local environmental protection associations, NGOs (local, regional and international), technical and financial partners, civil society, and academic institutions.

You can have some of their institutions down there on page 6 in the last paragraph.

The overall wildlife management in Burundi focuses essentially on the control and regulation of human activities that may have an impact on biological diversity. The responsibility for regulating these activities is shared between numerous government departments at different levels.

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4.1.3 Legal framework

Burundi adopted several legal instruments to ensure the conservation and effective management of protected areas. These include the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi and other laws regulating the management of natural ecosystems.

Article 35 of the Constitution stipulates that, “the State shall ensure the sound management and rational exploitation of the country's natural resources while preserving the environment and conserving its resources for future generations”.

It expresses the country's desire and concern for the conservation and exploitation of natural resources and their habitats. Several legislations were enacted including- page 7, last paragraph. Members, you can read the details,

Page 8; At the international level, Burundi is a party to several environmental conventions directly related to the sustainable management of biodiversity. These include;

- i. The Rio de Janeiro Convention on Biological Diversity;
- ii. The International Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;
- iii. The United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Desertification;
- iv. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and
- v. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species.

The above-mentioned legal framework is made up of a series of sectoral texts with numerous gaps and inadequacies that need to be filled in a coherent and effective way to protect biodiversity in general and wildlife in particular.

4.1.4 Challenges to wildlife management in the Republic of Burundi

The following are the key challenges;

- i. Low level of awareness of biodiversity conservation in general and sustainable use of biological resources;
- ii. Insufficient capacity (tools, techniques, finance) to halt the pressures on biodiversity and safeguard ecosystems and species;
- iii. Low level of valuation of the benefits derived from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and
- iv. Lack of a framework for participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

4.1.5 Recommendations from the Republic of Burundi

The representative from Burundi made the following recommendations;

- i. There is a need to update the law implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES);
- ii. Implement the national laws already promulgated such as the Forestry Code and the Environment Code;
- iii. Conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of biodiversity;
- iv. Updating the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- v. Encouraging institutional mechanisms to facilitate horizontal coordination between the various players involved in biodiversity;
- vi. Creating ecological corridors to ensure the connectivity of certain ecosystems;
- vii. Creating other Protected Areas (PAs) such as the Kibimbi-Inanzerwe, for which the identification study has been completed;

- viii. Developing wildlife research that integrates biodiversity issues into key sectors such as energy and mining management, health and trade; and
- ix. Mobilisation of internal resources for wildlife conservation.

4.2 The Republic of Kenya on page 9.

4.2.1 Background

The vision of the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife of Kenya is to have a vibrant and innovative tourism industry supported by sustainable wildlife resources. The mission is to facilitate good governance for sustainable development, management and marketing of tourism and wildlife. The mandate of the State Department of Wildlife is;

- i. Wildlife Conservation and Protection Policy;
- ii. Protection of Wildlife Heritage;
- iii. Management of National Parks, Reserves and Marine Parks;
- iv. Wildlife Biodiversity Management and Protection;
- v. Sustainable Wildlife Biodiversity Economy;
- vi. Collaboration with Wildlife Clubs of Kenya;
- vii. Management of Wildlife Dispersal Areas in collaboration with Partners;
- viii. Wildlife Conservation Training and Research;
- ix. Wildlife Conservation Education and Awareness;
- x. Wildlife Biodiversity International Obligations and Multilateral Agreements;
- xi. Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Response Policy; and
- xii. Wildlife Sector Governance and Coordination.

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4.2.2 The policy and legal frameworks are already there on page 9 continuing to page 10.

Kenya also has the protected areas that include the following parks, sanctuaries and reserves which are managed by the Kenya Wildlife Service;

- i. Twenty-three National Parks;
- ii. Six National Sanctuaries;
- iii. Four Marine Parks;
- iv. Six marine reserves; and
- v. Twenty-eight reserves are managed by County Governments with the support of Kenya Wildlife Services.

4.2.3 Strategic importance of wildlife in Kenya

Wildlife forms the backbone of the tourism industry in Kenya which contributes about 9 to 10 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), plays a critical role in the provision of environmental services and the wildlife sector has provided employment for its citizens.

It is important to note that wildlife resources are paramount in addressing climate change. Wildlife has played a critical role in enhancing security and peace in the country.

4.2.4 Challenges in the wildlife sector

- i. Habitat loss / habitat fragmentation;
- ii. Bush-meat poaching;
- iii. Human-wildlife conflicts;
- iv. Road kills and rail kills;
- v. Climate change and the resultant impacts (invasive alien species & Wildfires);

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- vi. Insecurity;
- vii. Illegal wildlife trade and trafficking;
- viii. Inadequate benefits accrued from Wildlife conservation;
- ix. Pollution;
- x. Bio piracy; and
- xi. Inadequate trans-boundary collaboration.

4.2.5 Key emerging issues

The emerging issues in the sector are, but not limited to;

- i. Outbreaks of zoonotic, epizootic diseases for instance, Mpox.
- ii. The urgent need for establishment and formalisation of Trans-boundary Wildlife Conservation Areas, similar to the Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) model in South African Development Corporation (SADC).
- iii. Carbon credits/markets.
- iv. Financial sustainability in the wildlife sector.
- v. They need to exploit the wildlife economy.

4.2.6 Recommendations from Kenya

The Republic of Kenya made the following recommendations;

- i. The need for harmonisation of policies and laws for optimum conservation of wildlife (Different laws and conservation philosophies hinder trans-boundary management of wildlife resources).
- ii. The need for a unified voice and approach in Multilateral Environmental Agreements/Treaties.

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- iii. There is a need for synergy and concerted efforts in addressing climate change.
- iv. Information & data exchange on wildlife should be enhanced to inform decision-making.
- v. Budget and resources for wildlife conservation should be increased.
- vi. There is a need to hasten the implementation of the EAC wildlife conservation and Management Strategy & Action Plan.

4.3 Republic of South Sudan

4.3.1 Background

The landmass of the Republic of South Sudan covers 644,329 square kilometres, 96 per cent of which is within the Nile River Basin. It has 10 States and three Administrative Areas with a population of approximately 13 million.

The Republic of South Sudan is rich in biodiversity and it has a large intact savannah ecosystem in East and Central Africa with six national parks and 12 game reserves.

The country is endowed with diverse ecological zones, migratory species (tiang, white-eared kob, Mongalla gazelle, reedbuck are doing well) -six million animals great land mammal migration and sedentary species.

4.3.2 Institutional framework

The management of wildlife is vested in the Ministry in charge of Wildlife. Its mandate is to;

- i. safeguard the National Wildlife Heritage with a view to realising the full potential of natural resources for sound national development;
- ii. preserve and conserve the natural habitat of flora and fauna; and
- iii. sustainably manage the natural resources in the context of the law.

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The ministry has adopted the priority policies for the coordination of wildlife conservation and management as you can see them.

The report also talks of the strategic objectives of the above policies and then, we go to the challenges.

4.3.3 Challenges

The wildlife sector in the Republic of South Sudan faces the following challenges.

- i. Commercial poaching and illegal trafficking. Elephants declined from about 8,000 in the 1970s to less than 2,500 in 2000s, buffalos from 96,000 to less than 10,000. Giraffes declined from 13,000 to about 500 individuals and the zebras are now rare to see;
- ii. Proliferation of arms in hands of local populations that enables poaching;
- iii. Inadequate funding resources;
- iv. Poor information sharing and management;
- v. Habitat destruction through logging, free-felling and uncontrolled fires;
- vi. Charcoal production, which destroys the forest cover;
- vii. Development project like mining of oil, road construction, agriculture and settlement;
- viii. The effect of climate change; and
- ix. Weak law enforcement systems.

4.3.4 Achievement of the sector in South Sudan

The Republic of South Sudan has recorded the following key achievements;

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- i. In 2016, the ministry in charge of Wildlife destroyed piles of ivory and planted trees to commemorate the World Environment Day on 5 May 2016. This is the year in which South Sudan joined the East African Community (EAC).
- ii. In October 2016 the Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism initiated a public awareness campaign programme through the dissemination of conservation education messages via cell phone companies operating in the country;
- iii. In April 2023 the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism in collaboration with African Parks conducted a major wildlife collaring and aerial survey initiative in which 126 individual species were collared and showed the seasonal movements within the migration area.

4.4 Republic of Rwanda

4.4.1 Background on page 13.

Rwanda's wildlife is rich and diversified and constitutes a unique natural heritage that is of great importance both nationally and globally. Wildlife resources contribute directly and indirectly to the local and national economies through revenue generation and wealth creation.

Wildlife also plays critical ecological functions that are important for the interconnected web of life-supporting systems in addition to its socio-cultural and aesthetic values.

Rwanda's wildlife protected areas significantly contribute to the production of global public goods and services, such as the protection of biodiversity, climate stabilisation, carbon sequestration and global waters.

Rwanda's major rivers originate or flow through wildlife-protected areas. Nyungwe National Park is known as the furthest source of the Nile. Thus, any adverse impacts on the ecosystems can negatively alter human capacity to survive. The Rwanda Wildlife Policy was developed to ensure the sustainability and protection of Rwanda's wildlife.

The Mission of the wildlife sector in the Republic of Rwanda is to conserve the rich biodiversity of Rwanda for the sustainable development of the country and as an international heritage through

the implementation of appropriate ecological principles and the promotion of strategic partnerships with local communities and other partners.

At a glance, Rwanda is endowed with four National Parks;

- i. Volcanoes National Parks;
- ii. Akagera National Park;
- iii. Nyungwe National Park; and
- iv. Gishwati-Mukura National Park.

The country also has one Ramsar site, Rugezi Marshland, 8.9 per cent of terrestrial protected areas, and 30 per cent of forest cover. Other key biodiversity areas include wetlands, lakes, rivers, and 107 natural forests protected by Ministerial Order.

The management of wildlife conservation inside and outside the National Parks is implemented by these laws:

- i. Conservation planning;
- ii. Protection and law enforcement;
- iii. Research and biodiversity monitoring;
- iv. Wildlife health services; Community participation;
- v. Tourism revenue sharing;
- vi. Human-wildlife conflict management; Technical training; and
- vii. Partnerships and trans-boundary collaboration.

Policy, Institutional and Legal Framework in Rwanda

They have policies that include - the policies you can see. I am not reading the policies because they have them and the laws so that we can speed up to the main issues we are having. They have the legal frameworks on wildlife and conservation in Rwanda. They also have specific domestic laws that govern the wildlife sector up to page 16.

Rwanda is a party to the following international conventions:

- i. International Conventions on Biological Diversity and its Habitat signed in Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil;
- ii. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

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- iii. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention of Biological Biodiversity, signed in Nairobi;
- iv. The Ramsar International Convention of February 1971 on wetlands of international importance, especially as the waterfalls habitats as authorised to be ratified by law;
- v. The Bonn Convention opened for signature on 23 June 1979, on conservation of migratory species of wild animals as authorised to be ratified by law;
- vi. Then page 17, the Washington Agreement – (*Interruption*)

The Speaker: Chairperson of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges – Proceed.

Ms Uwumukiza: Yes, thank you, Mr Speaker.

Community Support

In 2005, the wildlife sector undertook to support the local communities on matters related to the protected area through:

- i. Community awareness and education tool was developed to obtain local community support to conservation;
- ii. Investment of wildlife revenue to support community projects, 5 per cent in 2005; increased to 10 per cent in 2017;
- iii. Investment of 13.4 billion Rwandan francs to support about 1,808 community projects;
- iv. Compensation for damages caused by wildlife through the Special Guarantee Fund that accounts for 5 per cent of the tourism revenues; and
- v. Joint community patrols for snare removal and information sharing.

The community support initiative has resulted in better community perceptions of the importance of the parks, which are no longer considered as a source of problems caused by wildlife animals. There is also active participation to conservation activities by the citizens.

Challenges in the wildlife sector in the Republic of Rwanda

The following are some challenges facing the sector:

- i. Population increase, which puts pressure on conservation;
- ii. Human wildlife conflicts;
- iii. Lack of sufficient resources to support the wildlife sector;
- iv. Climate change impact, including extreme weather patterns;
- v. Pandemics; and
- vi. Weak coordination of information flow between parks and the headquarters.

The Republic of Uganda

This is page 18.

Background

Uganda is a landlocked country and one of the smaller states in the East African region. It occupies only 2 per cent of the world's area. Uganda covers 236,000 square kilometres, comprising 194,000

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square kilometres dry land and 33,926 square kilometres open water, as well as 7,674 square kilometres of permanent swamp. Uganda is endowed with a great diversity of animal and plant species, with 18,783 species of fauna and flora. It is ranked among the top 10 most bio-diverse countries in the world.

The country has over 10 national parks, 12 wildlife reserves, five community wildlife management areas, 10 wild life sanctuaries, 506 forest reserves and 191 local forest reserves. It hosts 53.9 per cent of the world population of mountain gorillas, 11 per cent, 1,063 species of the world species of birds, representing 50 per cent of Africa's bird species. Uganda also holds 7.8 per cent of global mammals' diversity, 345 species, accounting for 39 per cent of Africa's mammals' richness, and is home to 19 per cent of Africa's amphibian species richness, 86 species. It also hosts 14 per cent of Africa's reptile species richness, 142 species, 1,249 species of butterflies, and 600 species of fish. Over 50 per cent of Uganda's wildlife resources remain outside the designated protected areas.

5.5.2. Trans-boundary Protected Areas Network

The Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda shares a trans-boundary ecosystem with Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC. Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda is a part of the larger Virunga Massif, which extends into the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda and Virunga National Park in the DRC. The Queen Elizabeth National Park forms a trans-boundary ecosystem with Virunga National Park in the DRC, whereas the Mount Elgon National Park straddles the Uganda-Kenya border with Mount Elgon National Park also existing in Kenya. Kidepo Valley National Park shares a trans-boundary connection with Kidepo Game Reserve in the Republic of South Sudan.

Institutional framework

The sector is managed by the Uganda Wildlife Authority, which collaborates with other institutions, including the following:

- i. Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities;
- ii. National Forest Authority;
- iii. National Environment Management Authority, (NEMA);
- iv. District local government;
- v. Wetland division under Ministry of Water and Environment;
- vi. Uganda Wildlife Research and Training Institute; and
- vii. Conservation partners.

Legal and the policy framework

As you can see, we have the legal frameworks and the policy and the strategy that are also being implemented in the Republic of Uganda.

5.5.5. Wildlife Conservation Benefits and Community Support

The tourism revenue from the wildlife sector contributes:

- i. \$2.8 billion; this is 5.5 per cent, to Uganda's GDP as per the Financial Year 2023/2024;
- ii. to the employment of over 620,000 direct jobs;
- iii. direct income worth Ugandan shillings, 20 - the numbers are there, billion or? – to the creation of markets for other products and services;
- iv. resources worth Ugandan shillings, the numbers are there, to communities from protected areas in five years; and
- v. to ecosystem services and water catchment.

The sector has contributed to the community-based wildlife utilisation enterprises. \$2,636,489 was generated through sport hunting; out of which \$1,821,000 has been given to local governments, community associations, and landowners where wildlife resides. It has also supported the community livelihood project. 4,400 individuals supported with energy-saving stoves and rainwater harvesting system to 1,250 families in water-stressed communities.

Challenges

The committee was informed of the following challenges to wildlife in Uganda;

- i. Encroachment and habitat loss;
- ii. Human wildlife conflict;
- iii. Illegal grazing in national park;
- iv. Poaching and illegal wildlife trade;
- v. Climate change;
- vi. Industrial development;
- vii. Invasive species; and
- viii. Insecurity and lawlessness in the region – (*Interjections*) – Okay, thank you.

In its efforts to control and manage diseases, Uganda constructed and operationalised the Veterinary diagnostic Laboratory in Mweya. The lab is able to monitor diseases (animal surveillance) such as Anthrax and blindness.

5.5.7 Efforts to combat Poaching and Illegal Wildlife trade and trafficking

The following actions have been undertaken to curb poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking:

- i. The National Wildlife Crime Coordination Task Force has been established;
- ii. A national strategy for combating poaching, illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products developed;
- iii. As a participant to the Container Control Programme (CCP), Uganda signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Uganda Revenue Authority, Uganda Wildlife Authority and the Uganda Police Force to coordinate the management of wildlife crime;

- iv. Wildlife Crime Intelligence Investigation and canine units have been established;
- v. Page 21, Prosecution of 3,259 cases handled with 1,377 offenders convicted;
- vi. Capacity building for 385 staff has been conducted; and
- vii. The collaboration between the security agencies in the region.

Efforts to manage human wildlife conflict

- i. An amount of Ugandan shillings, the other big numbers, the one trillion has been paid out of compensation related to human wildlife conflict cases;
- ii. 24.1 kilometres of the electric fence was constructed making 126.8 kilometres of electric fence fully function in Queen Elizabeth National Park and Murchison Falls National Park;
- iii. 16 kilometres of buffalo wall reconstructed or reinforced in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park;
- iv. 267.6 kilometres of trenches excavated in Murchison Falls Protected Area, Kibaale National Park, and Queen Elizabeth Protection Areas;
- v. 3.5 kilometres of tea planted in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park;
- vi. 3.05 kilometres of elephant deterrent boardwalk in Semuliki National Park and Kibaale National Park;
- vii. 2,105 scouts trained and equipped; and
- viii. Vermin guards recruited in five districts.

United Republic of Tanzania (URT)

Background

The URT has unparalleled wildlife and national resources, patched on the crossroads of many of the extensive biomass that cover Africa. Tanzania also boasts the highest point in Africa continent, the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, and the lowest point, Lake Tanganyika. Whilst recognised for its unmatched concentrations of large herbivores, the remarkable diversity of habitats from coral reefs to mountain, forest, all combined to make Tanzania one of the most bio-diverse and natural resources rich nations in Africa.

The country has in place 21 National Parks (Non-consumptive utilization) one Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tourism communities and conservation, 29 Game Reserves (Non-consumptive and the consumptive), 23 Game Controlled Areas, then four Ramsar sites, 38 wildlife management area, community-based conservation areas, four natural world heritage sites - these are Serengeti, Kilimanjaro, Selous, and Ngorongoro - Four wildlife farms, 32 zoos, 26 breeding sites, and 5 ranches. Out of 25 globally known biodiversity hotspots, Tanzania is endowed with the Eastern Arc, old Block Mountain Forest; the coastal forests; the Great Lakes for Cichlid fishes; the marine coral reef ecosystems; the ecosystems of the alkaline Rift-Valley Lakes, and the grassland savannahs for large mammals, for example, the famous Serengeti National Park.

The URT is among the four mega biodiversity countries in the world. About 32.5 per cent of the landmass of 942,832 kilometres is protected or conserved. Protected areas, including the Game

Controlled Areas, cover at least 28 per cent of the total land area of mainland Tanzania and the forest reserves around 15.7 per cent. Tanzania also possesses important population of species that are globally endangered and threatened, including the black rhinoceros, wild dog, chimpanzees, African elephant, cheetah, and wattled crane.

There are various conservation successes due to the enabling legal frameworks, community engagement, several conservation management reforms, as well as the adaptive management of the sector.

5.6.2 Contribution of the wildlife sector to the national economy

The tourism contributes 17.2 per cent of GDP with 80 per cent based on wildlife. 1.6 million citizens and non-citizens are directly or indirectly employed. 25 per cent of foreign currency earnings are from the tourism sector. Tanzania ecosystem services include water catchment, habitat, material links (nutrients movement), and carbon sink.

5.6.3 Legal and Institutional Framework

The legal framework for wildlife management in Tanzania includes all those acts you can see.

The institutional frameworks for managing the wildlife sector are also there in the report. You can go through because there are many of them up to page 23, and then come back quickly to challenges facing the wildlife sector.

The wildlife sector in the United Republic of Tanzania is facing the following main challenges:

i) Human-wildlife conflict (HWC)

The main causes for human-wildlife conflict can be attributed to encroachment, lack of or unimplemented land use plans, cattle incursion in wildlife habitat, climate change and invasive plant species, among others. The impact of HWC could lead to crop loss, livestock depredation, human injury, and death. However, the committee was informed that Tanzania has adopted seven strategies to resolve wildlife conflict in memory, namely; community-based mitigation; human wildlife conflict response; managing the human wildlife interface; benefits to communities for human wildlife coexistence; then coexistence education and research, and lastly, monitoring and human-wildlife conflict.

ii) Poaching and Illegal wildlife trade

In the early 2000s to mid-2010, poaching threatened populations of endangered species. During this time, Tanzania registered about 60 per cent decline in elephant population. To-date, poaching for ivory and rhino horn is on halt. Poaching for wild meat is, however, still a challenge. Page 24. We're moving.

The drivers for poaching and illegal wildlife trade may include the increased demand for wildlife bush meat, existing traditional beliefs, social status and perceived medicinal value.

The committee noted that Tanzania applies the following strategy to overcome poaching; strengthening capacity to enforce national laws and implement bilateral and multilateral agreements, strengthening international collaboration in fighting poaching and illegal wildlife trade, with consumer countries, enhancing advocacy and public awareness on wildlife frames, promoting studies and research on poaching and illegal wildlife trade, supporting community engagement in the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife resources.

iii) Habitat degradation

The committee was informed that the biodegradation of the environment is generally caused by increased human activities in wildlife corridors, disposal areas, buffer zones, migratory routes, and the impact of climate change. It is important to note that by diversity, degradation reduces crops and pasture production, damages water resources, increases human-wildlife conflict, and contributes to health issues for the human life.

In order to overcome habitat degradation, the country:

- a. Adopted the Tanzania Wildlife Conservation Regulations, wildlife corridors, dispersal areas, buffer zones, migratory routes in 2018;
- b. Developed the Tanzania wildlife corridors assessment prioritisation and the action plan in the corridors;
- c. Improved the community benefits from conservation.

iv) Invasive species

The committee was informed that inadequate border controls, both technological and human resources, contributed to this challenge. It was noted that there was low awareness on the dangers of invasive plants.

In order to control the invasive species, there is need to prevent the introduction and spread of new invasive species; reduce negative impacts of existing priority invasive species; enhance stakeholder education awareness and participation on the management of invasive species; mainstream invasive species management into regulatory tools; strengthen and promote strong collaboration and coordination with relevant stakeholders on the management of invasive species.

Page 25 Are you there, honourable members? Page 25, please –

5.6.5 Trans-boundary Collaborations

On matters related to trans-boundary collaborations, the meeting was informed that all Tanzanian wildlife conservation strategic documents adhere to the EAC Wildlife Conservation and Management Policy Framework.

Additionally, there are active collaborations between Tanzania and Kenya, along shared trans-boundary protected areas, with several annual meetings and experience sharing which include synchronising anti-poaching wildlife surveys and human-wildlife conflict mitigation of Serengeti-Masai Mara, Amboseli-Kilimanjaro and Mkomazi Tsavo ecosystems.

Tanzania collaborates on bilateral and regional basis with other EAC Partner States through national task force for anti-poaching. There are also exchange visits between Partner States.

5.6.6. Recommendation from Tanzania

In order to resolve conservation challenges, the EAC should:

- i. Facilitate a dialogue through diplomatic means to resolve common challenges like poaching, human wildlife challenges, climate change, as well as invasive species;
- ii. Ensure that Partner States are sensitising the decision makers on the necessity of increasing budgets for conservation undertakings; and
- iii. Advocate for reduced donor dependence in the conservation sector.

6.0. Observations of the Committee

The committee made the following observations:

- i. Partner States demonstrated their willingness to work with the EAC Secretariat and EALA on the wildlife sector;
- ii. Although Partner States are at varied levels with regard to wildlife policies and laws, they are willing to harmonise their policies and laws on wildlife and adopt common positions, especially on cross border control on zoonotic diseases, endangered species and invasive species;
- iii. Community involvement in the management of wildlife has shown a positive impact to wildlife conservation and community development;
- iv. Almost all the EAC Partner States face common challenges, although they approach them differently. The main challenges include poaching and illegal wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflict caused by the growing human population, zoonotic diseases, invasive species and financial constraints, which slow down the development of the wildlife sector;
- v. Partner States recognise that wildlife and tourism are interdependent and have great economic potential to the region;
- vi. Several wildlife resources are located outside of the protected areas, hence providing difficulty to ensuring their conservation;

- vii. There is limited regional collaboration and cooperation within the EAC in the management of our wildlife sector, except some bilateral initiatives on protection of trans-boundary protected areas between Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania;
- viii. In the Republic of Burundi, tourism and wildlife are positioned under different ministries, hence causing some challenges in collaboration and policies.

7.0 Recommendations

The committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to:

- i. direct the EAC Secretariat to initiate the process of harmonisation of policies and laws on wildlife management in the EAC Partner States;
- ii. direct EAC Secretariat to engage with Partner States to develop strategies for cross-border trans-boundary cooperation in the management of wildlife resources;
- iii. direct Partner States to enhance the community participation in the management of wildlife and commit sufficient resources to community development;
- iv. direct Partner States to develop proper land use management plan with clear demarcation between land for wildlife, agriculture and livestock and human settlement to reduce the human-wildlife conflict;
- v. direct Partner States to provide alternative economic activities to communities living around the wildlife conservation areas to enable them to reduce their dependence on illegal activities against wildlife resources;
- vi. direct Partner States to enhance their efforts to fight or remove bird species encroaching the flora and fauna in the wildlife resources;
- vii. direct Partner States to develop and share reliable data, information, and conduct joint operations for better coordination and addressing the common challenges of the sector across the region. Page 27. The recommendations continue.
- viii. direct Partner States to develop strategies and action plans to preserve, protect wildlife located outside of the protected areas;
- ix. There is need to enhance collaboration and cooperation within the EAC region for the management of wildlife sector and promotion of domestic tourism;

The committee also recommends to the Assembly to:

- x. commend all partnerships for recognising the importance of wildlife and for their efforts taken to enhance the management of wildlife in the EAC; and
- xi. include visits to tourist attractions in Partner States while undertaking activities of conducting plenary meetings in Partner States to promote domestic tourism.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude reading this report to the House, I would like to put it on the *Hansard* that some items, such as, the conclusion and acknowledgement – because they will ask to bring this report to the House – are there but we should register that the acknowledgement is there because the committee is thankful for the collaboration with the stakeholders and also to the Assembly for having granted this time to go and do this oversight. Thank you, Mr Speaker – *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable members, kindly, let us recognise the presence of Rt Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, who is in the VIP gallery. *(Applause)* She is not alone. She

came with her team. We should also recognise her team. *(Applause)* Thank you, right honourable Anita Among. You are welcome. Thank you for everything.

11.13

Mr Kennedy Mukulia (Tanzania): Yes, Mr Speaker, I rise under rule 30 to move a motion that we suspend rule 12 on quorum. I beg to move. *(Members rose_)*

The Speaker: Order, order. Please sit down. Please, take your seat.

Mr Mukulia: Mr Speaker, I have raised a motion suspending rule 12 and that is my motion.

The Speaker: Rule 12 is about quorum. - Please, honourable members. - Rule 12; *“the quorum of the House or the committee of the whole House shall be half of elected Members and such quorum shall be composed of at least one third of elected Members from each Partner State. If at any time of Sitting, or when the House is in committee, any Member objects that there is no quorum present, the Speaker or the Chairperson shall, on ascertaining it to be true, suspend the proceedings of the House for an interval of 15 minutes, during which - shall be rang ---”*

So you propose the motion, do you? - I do not want to see any Member standing that way. Please, sit, when you have the Floor, you stand, catch my eye and then, you speak. There is a motion on the Floor. - We have to first finish with the motion. The motion is there. Do you have – We have to go one by one. The motion is there, we finish with it. If the motion is seconded, we have to put a question. If the question is put and it is not supported – *(Members rose_)* we now have seconders. We have four seconders. These are Hon. Ngole James, Hon. Siranda, Hon. Victor, and Hon. Olivier.

What is next is to put the question. I put the question.

(Question put and negatived.)

The Speaker: Please, proceed.

Mr Mashaka: Mr Speaker, procedure under rule 58

The Speaker: Order. Honourable members, sit down.

Mr Mashaka: Procedure under rule 58(5) and (6)

The Speaker: Can you read it?

11.19

Mr Mashaka Ngole (The United Republic of Tanzania): Mr Speaker, rule 58(5) states-

“Unless provided otherwise in these rules, all questions shall be decided by a majority of voice and the result shall be declared by the Speaker, who shall say, I think the ayes have it, or I think the “Nos” have it, as the case may be. But any Member by forthwith challenge the opinion of the Speaker and claim a count by rising in his place and calling a count.” And rule 58(6) says, “if any Member claims a count, the Speaker shall direct a count to be taken if he or she considers that there is reasonable doubt as to the outcome of the vote in question. Or five or more further Members rise in their places to support the Member claiming the count.”

Mr Speaker, I am claiming for the votes to be counted. (*Members rose*)

The Speaker: You sit first, and when you catch my eye, I give you the Floor, and then you speak. Please, Hon. Amongin, sit.

Honourable members, I will have to start maybe suspending some Members. If you do not respect this House and respect yourself – this is not a public market, this is a House. We have Hon. Mashaka Ngole, the Chairperson for the committee on legal raised this Article 56.

Mr Mashaka: It is rule 58 (5) and (6).

The Speaker: Rule 58 on counting votes.

Mr Mashaka: Yes, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: In my power, I have that – on item 6,

‘If any Member claims a count, the Speaker shall direct a count to be taken if he or she considers that there is a reasonable doubt at the outcome of the vote in question, or five or more further Members rise in their places to support the Member claiming the count. In the event of the Speaker directing a count, the Clerk shall immediately, after such direction, ring the count bell.’

So are you one to raise this rule 58 or do you have Members who are supporting you? (*Members rose*) You have one, two, three, four Members supporting you. Mary, Victor – no, no, there is no more motion. The Clerk will count the votes.

11.24

Ms Mary Mugenyi (Uganda): Mr Speaker, we have not understood your directive. Please, help us to understand how we are voting. Please, I beg, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: We are acting on the directives of rule 58(7),

“The Clerk shall immediately, after such direction ring a bell for a period of two minutes. After such an interval, the vote shall be taken by the Clerk calling each Member's name separately and asking him or her how he or she desires to vote, and recording the votes accordingly. And the Clerk shall then announce the number of those who voted for the proposal, those who voted against and those who abstained from voting and the Speaker shall declare the result of the votes.”

Ms Mugenyi: So what are we voting about, Mr Speaker? It is still not clear.

The Speaker: We are voting.

Ms Mugenyi: There are two proposals.

The Speaker: There is a motion that has been moved by Hon. Kennedy. Can you, please, repeat your motion again?

Ms Ndangiza: Point of clarification, Mr Speaker. Point of procedure, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Please, wait because you have to know what you are doing. That is what I am doing. The motion from Hon. Kennedy was about suspending the quorum. And he was seconded. I put the question and the nays had it. This is one. (*Interjections*)

Second, if the nays had it, I have been challenged by the Chairperson of legal who said I am not sure that the nays had it, and who then proposed to go on count by rule 58. Now, we proceed. We have three points of procedure. I cannot read your – I will take your procedure please, quickly. Use one minute.

Ms Ndangiza: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have two questions; 1. How do we raise a question of quorum when we have quorum? No. 2, if Hon. Mukulia raised this issue – it is a motion; he should have been given an opportunity to just it before you rule on it. Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Kakooza?

Mr James Kakooza: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think we need to be very systematic. When we are debating issues, once the Speaker rules, we take it and there is a provision for rescinding that ruling.

The motion to suspend the rules was not justified. But two, you took a decision in your wisdom that whether there is somebody seconding or not, you put a question. And when you put a question, it was challenged by the rules. That means the step was jumped. Therefore, we are at a step whereby your ruling was challenged. And it is authentic in the rules. If the challenge was put to you, and you have ruled that the question should be put for counting, and you have agreed with the honourable Chair of legal, that is what we should go with.

The Speaker: Immediately. We do not have time to lose. Honourable members, those who are supporting the motion raised by honourable – We will not go back. Honourable members, I have ruled and I will not go back there. - Those who want that the motion of Hon. Kennedy – please, sit down. I said the nays had it; meaning that from what I heard from you, you were not supporting it. Therefore, those who are not supporting it, who are with nay, will raise their hands. Then the Clerk will count. I mean those who are in favour of nay – those who are in favour of suspending the rules will raise their hands. Have you counted? Those are with Hon. Kennedy.

Those who are against Hon. Kennedy's motion, please, raise your hands. - Hon. Kanini Kiga, this is not a public market. You have to respect the House. Sit down. Have your seat immediately. If not, this House – as I told you, I will not let the Members to make it a nightclub. We are proceeding according to the rules. We are respecting the rules that we have.

Now I –

Honourable members, it is becoming a nightclub and I will not allow this. I have to suspend the Sitting. Maybe you need to consult on when to speak.

I suspend the Sitting for 30 minutes.

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(The Assembly was suspended at 11.34 a.m. for 30 minutes)

(On resumption at 12.17 p.m., the Speaker presiding.)

The Speaker: Honourable members, we are going to resume our business. Hon. Mukulia, you have the Floor.

12.18

Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I brought a motion to suspend rule 12 and the purpose for which I brought it was that looking at our Order Paper, it is a full day. I expected us to dispose of the matters that are on the Order Paper.

However, there is a misunderstanding that the purpose under which I brought the suspension of that rule has a hidden motive. I want to put it clearly that nobody is in my brain. It is myself and myself and if that is what people are thinking about, let me withdraw my motion and then, you proceed with the order of business. Thank you. *(Applause)* Why are you clapping? *(Laughter)*

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable chairperson of General Purpose. Hon. Zipporah and Hon. Sankok, please. I now give the Floor again to the chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture. Because he has removed his, even Hon. Ngole's motion has died. I give the Floor to the chairperson of the agriculture committee to proceed.

Had you finished?

Ms Uwumukiza: Yes, Mr Speaker, I have finished. It is you to proceed with the –

The Speaker: Oh, yes, I have to propose.

Honourable members, I now propose the question that the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the oversight activity on the management of wildlife by East African Community Partner States be adopted. Debate is open. We will start with my left side; Hon. Sankok and Hon. Nadra. We will also have Dr Woda, Dr Itto and Dr Aisha.

(Dr Woda rose_) Sorry? Is Dr Woda a member? No; those who are members, please leave the Floor to others. Hon. Sankok, you have the Floor. Are you a member? If you are not, proceed.

12.21

Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to support this very progressive, well thought out report of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. I want to start by congratulating the chairperson, Hon. Francoise, together with all the members who came up with this very good report.

Mr Speaker, as the East African Community, if we want to still survive on the issue of tourism, especially in respect to wildlife, we have to take into consideration the communities that live around the wildlife zones. These communities have paid the ultimate price for us to have wildlife in those zones.

We contributed in terms of land. It is those communities who are denied two, three or four acres of land for us to host wildlife. We do not do any agriculture in a radius of almost 50 kilometres from this game reserve because any crop will be destroyed by those wild animals.

We have cows that do not have calves because the calves are eaten by hyenas. We have calves that do not have their mothers. We are giving them porridge because their mothers were eaten by lions.

Mr Speaker, we have several graves of our citizens around the wildlife corridors who were killed by wild animals. Some of them were killed by lions, buffaloes and elephants. They have paid the ultimate price to host wild animals. They have brought that wildlife tourism attraction scenery using their lives, their economy, in terms of agriculture and their land.

Anything I have paid for with my blood, using my life, using my crops or using my livestock; I entirely own it. It is only good that this report also recommends that 70 per cent of all the proceeds of wildlife tourism should be reinvested back to those communities that support tourism.

Tourism is a game changer in the East African Community, because unlike oil, silver, gold and diamond, that can be discovered elsewhere, you can never discover a wild animal elsewhere in the world. It can only be extinct. So, this is the gold we have that we must highly invest in.

Mr Speaker, as an economic and regional bloc, we have concentrated so much on wildlife tourism, yet we have other forms of tourism. In the United Arab Emirates, they attract the highest number of tourists because of conferencing. We can also have a law that all our government officers will have conferences within our region, rather than going to Dubai, because we also have to attract tourism using conferencing, just like Switzerland, Geneva and other countries.

We are also lucky that we have 38 freshwater lakes. We can also invest in sports tourism. Regarding sports tourism, we are lucky to have the second largest water tower in the whole of Africa. If we put football fields within forests like Mau Forest or Congo Forest, I am sure Chelsea Football Club, Manchester United Football Club - which I support - or Manchester City, our noisy neighbours will not go to China during pre-season practice. They will come to East Africa to have their pre-season training.

We are also lucky in sports tourism because of athletes. I come from an area where it is 2,982 metres above sea level. It is 10 kilometres to Naivasha, which is 2,086 metres above sea level. It is a difference of almost 1,000 metres above sea level. For an athlete to practise in high altitude and low altitude will help the lungs because the higher you go, the lower the concentration of oxygen. So, in terms of athletes' training, that is sports tourism, we can do a lot.

Mr Speaker, I support this report 100 per cent, but let us invest 70 per cent of proceeds of wildlife tourism back to the communities that have paid the ultimate price to host those wild animals.

In other places, they have even eaten rats; they do not have rabbits. We are living with lions; we are living with elephants. We are risking our lives. Seventy per cent of all proceeds of wildlife tourism should be reinvested back into those communities that have paid the ultimate price. I say this with no fear of contradiction. *Nanasema kwa makusudi*. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Sankok. Honourable members, in the VIP Gallery this morning, we have His Excellency Joseph Rutabana, who is the Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to Uganda. Please welcome him. *(Applause)* I now invite the next Member to contribute.

12.28

Ms Nadra Juma Mohame (Republic of Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to contribute to this report, especially on the recommendations of the committee.

Mr Speaker, it is now the time for our countries to put more effort in the contributions to domestic tourism. They should encourage domestic tourism, especially, for example, to set East African special rates towards accommodation. As East Africans, we should have special rates in hotels, lodges and on entry fees.

When we do this, it will help East Africans to not only enjoy or know our heritage, game reserves and parks, but also to visit and see the importance of maintaining them. I am sure we East Africans want to enjoy and see but the problem is the rate. These hotels are treating even the locals as foreign tourists, which is very wrong.

So, in order to enjoy and visit, and for East Africans to maintain their heritage, we have to put in more effort. Our Partner States must put in more efforts in encouraging domestic tourism. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you. I now give the Floor to Hon. Ndangiza.

12.30

Ms Fatuma Ndangiza (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to start by thanking the agriculture committee and our chairperson for a very good report, but I have to admit that I am also a member of the committee.

As you all know, wildlife management is critical to the promotion of tourism in our Community and statistics show that 70 per cent of our tourist attractions are due to wildlife. Therefore, it is important that we come up with policies in our Partner States that help to conserve and harmonise wildlife management because some of the challenges, as we saw in the report, are the same.

Tourism, as we know, contributes to the GDPs of our economy. Before COVID-19, it was contributing 7 per cent to our GDPs and creating almost 7 per cent of employment. When you look at various countries like the Republic of Kenya, it is contributing 9 to 10 per cent of the GDP. In the Republic of Tanzania, it is 17.2 per cent to the GDP and also employing 1.6 million citizens. In the Republic of Uganda, it is close to 6 per cent. I know that even in the Republic of Rwanda, it is contributing to wealth creation; the same applies to the Republic of Burundi.

The question now is; since this is a major contributor to our economies, how do we harness the potential of tourism? That is why we need to come up with joint programmes, in terms of sharing information, addressing the challenges that we face such as the issue of conflicts related to wildlife and also harmonising policies and strategies to ensure that we conserve wildlife.

We also realise in the report that the issue of harmonisation, and the implementation of even existing EAC policies and strategies is still weak. So, I want to urge our Partner States to fast-track the harmonisation of our policies or practices.

However, there are also good practices. For example, in Rwanda, I know 10 per cent of the revenues that come from tourism has to go to the nearby communities. So, there is benefit sharing, but I know in every Partner State, there are good practices. We need to have a platform where our Partner States can share good experiences, so that we can leverage on this important potential that is contributing to our economies and the livelihoods of our people.

With that, Mr Speaker, I support the report and urge everyone to adopt and support it. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Amb. Ndagiza. I now call Hon. Rose Akol.

12.34

Ms Rose Akol (Republic of Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this report. From the onset, I want to thank the committee for the very informative report about wildlife abundance in our Community and the fact that, as Hon. Sankok said, that is the gold we have and we should preserve it.

Mr Speaker, the last recommendation by the committee is that we should include visits to tourist attractions in Partner States –

The Speaker: Hon. Omar, are you a minister or ex-officio member? Can you, please, go back to your seat?

Ms Akol: The last recommendation says, “Include visits to tourist attractions in Partner States while undertaking activities or conducting plenary meetings in Partner States to promote domestic tourism.”

Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity – it is never too late - to invite this Parliament to visit the Murchison Falls and see the River Nile pass through a width of just one metre and goes down the gorge. It is the one and only one you should see. So, I invite you for that.

The Speaker: Where is it located?

Ms Akol: It is located in - can I call it - mid-northern region. That is Masindi. The depth is – I do not know. You all need to go and discover it. I do not want to tell you everything, but it is a beautiful place to be in.

Mr Speaker, I commend the committee and our Partner States for the efforts to conserve our wildlife. I further request that the issue of human-wildlife conflict needs to be addressed further because this one exists in all our Partner States. The human-wildlife conflict is where wildlife crosses the other side to the human habitat and human beings try to encroach into the parks, either to poach or even take animals for grazing. So, that has to be addressed.

We should all understand that this is where we earn foreign exchange from because we get visitors coming to look at these animals. It is not ordinary. These animals are not everywhere in the world; they come here because we have them. So, we need to make sure that we restrain ourselves and handle this conflict effectively.

I encourage the Governments, as it is here, to further perhaps increase the revenue towards the communities that live near and within the parks. Increase that revenue and also engage further with them to understand the importance of taking care, by themselves, of these animals in one way or the other.

I know for sure that the communities that live within the parks know how to handle if an elephant –(*Applause*)- or even a lion is charging at them. They know how to chase away this lion without harming it and without the lion also harming them. So, these techniques that are indigenous to those communities need to be taught to all those who stay within and who shift to stay within those areas.

As I conclude, Mr Speaker, I commend the committee for a good report, but also request that further management of these conflicts be addressed seriously, and also the revenues to these communities that are staying within and surrounding the parks be reviewed and increased, so that they feel that they earn from the existence of this wildlife within them. Thank you. (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Akol. Next is Dr Itto. Dr Makame, you were not among those on the list.

12.39

Dr Anne Itto (Republic of South Sudan): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to this report presented by the chairperson of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee.

Personally, I think this is a very powerful report, in that it has highlighted very important areas, which contribute to development. We are now more aware about the number of national parks and conservations. We are more aware of what our Partner States are doing, in terms of their protection and investment in them, so that it can attract more tourism. I, therefore, support the report.

Mr Speaker, I have stood up because I see some gaps in this report, much as I support it. The first gap is the omission of the largest wetland area in the whole of Africa. I think it is the second largest in the world. It is in the Sudd area. That area has the richest number of bird species in the world and also has a lot of wildlife benefitting from it.

There are some bird species that fly from Europe during winter and, come and nest in the wetlands. When summer comes, they fly back for thousands of miles and they never seem to forget their way. So, it is very important. Apart from the wildlife species, it is also a very good area for navigation and tourism. So, I beg the committee to take note of that and include it there because it is a very big omission.

The second area of my comment is on page 12; it is about the challenges. Under (i), the committee has given figures about the number of wildlife in South Sudan in the 1970's and how they are

today. I request that the committee checks the source of information because I do not believe there are only 500 individual zebras in the Republic of South Sudan. I think there are many more.

Another thing is that the animals were not poached. Wildlife is just like us; when there is conflict, they leave. It is very true for the case of South Sudan, because I was in charge of the productive sector those days. We found out that half the animals migrated to Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda for their safety, just like we human beings did.

When the peace agreement was signed in 2005, they came back but not all of them, just like the human beings. Some remained behind when they found a place more suitable. So, I think they should take note of this. As a result of this, Mr Speaker, the Republic of South Sudan and Uganda have agreed to jointly manage the game parks, especially the one in Nimule. In the evening, an elephant may be in Nimule; it may spend the night in Odupele which is in Uganda and that is very true.

This is more reason why the East African Community, particularly in relation to wildlife, needs to take note of this because animals do not require visas to move. They go where they think they are comfortable. Because of that, it is very important to develop a joint management mechanism, so that they are comfortable wherever they are.

I believe these are the omissions that have been made in this particular report. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I beg to submit and hope the committee will take note of that. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Dr Itto. I now go to Dr Aisha.

12.44

Dr Aisha Nyiramana (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I would like, first of all, to congratulate the committee for the good report and from the onset, I support the report.

Mr Speaker, while we are talking about tourism, which is based on economics, I wonder whether we can have tourism without doing conservation. I say that because in our ecosystem, we have native species but also endangered species, which are in danger of being extinct. Why are they going to be extinct? It is because we have what we call “exotic species”.

So, if we look everywhere at agriculture and aesthetics, we find many species, which are exotic but not native to our ecosystem. This can have an impact on our native species, to the extent of being made extinct by those species which are exotic.

An example is Lake Victoria, where they introduced the Nile Perch fish. It was economic but at the end of the day, we found all those fish species, which were native to Lake Victoria became extinct. So, this is a matter, which needs a kind of effective management, but also to see how we can coordinate conservation and avoid the exotic species.

This is also a very important issue. We are talking about the free movement of trade, goods and people, and we are moving with those exotic species. You do not know what people have in their suitcases. On this, I would like to urge the Council to ensure that the personnel at the borders what native and exotic species are. So, that is the kind of information they need to know how they can be informed on those species.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, on the wildlife species we are talking about, many of those animals do not know boundaries. They do not know where their own areas are. We have some trans-border ecosystems where we share some animals. We can take an example of Virunga National Park where we have gorillas. Gorillas from Rwanda do not know where the eco system of gorillas in Rwanda go when we are looking to the part of Congo. Still, we have some animal conflicts with the human population and I think those people who have their crops and have been losing their lives need to be compensated.

If the Council can see how, in a bilateral engagement, they can think about a compensation fund where those people must be compensated because even though we are encroaching on the eco system, we have to pay more attention to our people and see how they can be compensated, especially because they are meant to be more concerned about conservation.

That is why we are talking about this Community plus conservation. These people know those animals and they know how to deal with them. I think it is a policy that we can encourage on those ecosystems to see how people can be involved in biodiversity conservation and also conserve themselves.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I would like to submit and support the report.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Dr. I now give the Floor to the ex officio members, if any. The CTC? It is now time for ex officios. Can we proceed?

12.49

The Secretary General, East African Community (Ms Veronica Nduva): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. On some consultations from the Front Bench, I am here to say that we want to thank the committee at large for discussing and for going into detail about this report. If there is one thing as East Africans that we are proud of, it is our fauna and flora. Our wildlife is really epitomised in everything. If you look at our crafts and the anthems, our documentaries, the wraps, our money, there will always be wildlife.

I am here, therefore, to support this report and also to associate myself with the remarks that were made by other Members who took the floor.

I particularly wish to associate myself with the remarks from hon. Sankok and I believe hon. Rose Akol and also the Doctor from South Sudan that in some communities, wildlife and human beings have enjoyed peaceful coexistence and therefore, this is something that has to be nurtured.

We are witness that thousands of tourists come to our different countries, whether it is to see the amazing gorillas in Rwanda and parts of Uganda, whether it is to see the towering elephants in Tanzania, whether it is to see the beautiful tall necked giraffes resplendent in their beauty as the women from Kenya. It is amazing that our wildlife is something we have to be proud of and indeed, we have to protect it.

So, I associate –

The Speaker: You said, as the women from?

Ms Nduva: Kenya, East Africa.

The Speaker: Yes.

Ms Nduva: But when I talked about the towering elephants of Tanzania, you did not correct me on the same. It would be good to apply equal standards.

The Speaker: And the gorilla?

Ms Nduva: And I also talked about the gorillas in Rwanda and you didn't ask me to say, East Africa. Anyway, I stand corrected. As the beautiful animals and women of East Africa.

I associate myself and the report will come to Council and we will see the best way in which to ensure that this is committed to the relevant sectoral council for further deliberation and policy intervention. I thank you and I wish to support.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. SG. Now the mover of the motion, you have the Floor.

12.50

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms Francoise Umukiza): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me opportunity to appreciate Members and also the Council for coming in, in the report. Thank you for giving me and the committee some more views to consider as the report is heading to the Council of Ministers for recommendation and consideration.

First and foremost, hon. David Ole Sankok, I would like to thank you very much for bringing in the aspect of considering giving incentives to the local communities that are surrounding the wildlife conservation areas but also the parks and other game reserves because it is very important to consider them.

There is another aspect that you have to consider that is in the report and that are kind of close to this one; those who were removed from these reserves or wildlife management areas to other places that need to be given compensation which is also very important. Thank you very much for that.

You said you have put 7 per cent. I do not know the basis of this percentage because for me, it is little. Maybe you can tell us why 7 per cent and not 20 or 30 or 50 per cent. (*Interjections*) 70? Okay, thank you very much for clarifying. It is 70 per cent.

Hon. Nadra, thank you very much. You also mentioned about the EAC having special rates to allow not only Members but all EAC citizens to be part of domestic tourism. It is very important to encourage this and I think we already have some special rates as Members when we are in hotels but EAC citizens do not have this. I was able to observe this when I was in Entebbe where we were given special rates but when EAC citizens came after us, they were not granted that rate. I think it can be generalised to all EAC citizens and not only Members of Parliament.

Hon. Amb. Fatuma, I thank you. You mentioned policies and strategies that are there to harmonise our wildlife management and tourism towards EAC as a tourism destination. This is also good but the issues of implementation are still weak. The Council is here to take all these recommendations because they are very key, relevant and timely. Some countries have initiatives which we call good practices to allocate some funds. Like hon. Amb. Fatuma mentioned, in Rwanda, 10 per cent of benefits for tourism is going to local communities. I think it can be an approach for all Partner States to make sure they allocate some funds to the local communities.

Hon. Rose Akol, what I can say is I thank you. I also request the Rt hon. Speaker, with your permission, that we will try to see how to go to Masindi and these mid northern areas she mentioned next time to ascertain this encroachment but also to see how we can advocate for the increase of revenues to be given to the indigenous communities that are living close to the parks and reserve games.

Hon. Dr Anne Itto, thank you very much for appreciating the report and calling it a powerful report and also for the information you gave us.

I would also like to comment on this by giving another piece of information. When we were in the field collecting data, we relied on the report that we were given by the Partner States through the focal points; people that shared information with us. So, we cannot know if we left out any information if it was not shared with the committee. However, I promise you that we will go further and maybe liaise again with South Sudan as a country through the focal point to see if the information you provided us - I request that you share it with us in writing so that we can look at it and also confirm it through ten person who shared with us the data that we used to produce this report.

I thank you very much for giving the information about animals moving around freely, enjoying the free movement of goods. They do not know borders - so it is also something we have to be proud of, as we are happy with our tourism.

Hon. Dr Aisha, thank you very much. I agree more with you that we have to look at the exotic species that are in our wildlife conservation areas and also engage the Council to manage and coordinate efforts so that we can have one EAC tourism destination and also support compensation, as you said.

This fund you mentioned is also supporting the wildlife management and tourism sector in terms of the compensation fund. I think it should be available in all Partner States to support the local communities, as you said, but also to make sure we move forward as one team.

Hon. SG, thank you very much for also acknowledging that this report is useful and relevant and also for recalling that our wildlife conserved areas and tourism are our pride at EAC level. We would also like to encourage all of us to join our efforts to make sure this tourism destination we want for our Community becomes a reality.

Thank you for appreciating the report, all of you. Allow me to name – this is a procedural matter that you have to name the people who contributed to the report and applaud them properly. I will start with hon. David Ole Sankok, hon. Nadra, hon. Amb. Fatuma, hon. Akol, hon. Dr Anne, hon. Dr Aisha – (*Interruption*)

Mr Mashaka Ngole: Mr Speaker, we are out of time and our rules provide that anything has to be done within the prescribed time so I was afraid that –

The Speaker: What time is it?

Mr Ngole: It is now 1 p.m. and that is why I intervened.

The Speaker: We are still in.

Mr Ngole: No, we are out of time.

The Speaker: One minute?

Mr Ngole: Mr Speaker, I move a motion that we extend for only five minutes so that we can dispose of this motion.

The Speaker: Do you have seconders? (*Members rose*) Honourable members, those who are in favour of hon. Ngole say, “aye” and those against say, “nay.”

(*Question put and agreed to.*)

Ms Uwumukiza: Thank you very much, honourable Chair of Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee. Actually, I was winding up because I am thanking Members and the Council for their contributions. Hon. SG and the team, thank you very much. I rest my case.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Francoise, for your motion. If you could have East Africa as a tourism destination, it would be wonderful.

Honourable members, I now put the question that the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the oversight activity on the management of wildlife by the East African Community Partner States be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: I suspend this House until 2.30 p.m.

(The Assembly was suspended at 1.02 p.m.)

The Assembly resumed at 3.11 p.m.)

The Speaker: Honourable members, good afternoon. We have been late for more than 30 minutes. It was for a reason. We have been consulting on some of the items we have on the Order Paper. We were with our ex officio members, our honourable ministers, the Chair of the Council and others like the SG. Some colleagues joined us and considering where we reached, we need more consultations on some items, which are on the agenda for today.

Guided by our Rules of Procedure, I have decided to suspend this afternoon's business again for one hour and immediately, continue consultations as agreed. We will have a meeting right now and quickly with the commissioners and the Chair of the Council. Thank you.

Honourable members, wait for us. I will be joining you.

(The House was suspended at 3.14 p.m.)

(The Assembly resumed at 4.41 p.m.)

The Speaker: I found two communications for my chair. In the public gallery, we have Mr Goima Peter Mwangila from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Please welcome him. Is he still around? *(Applause)*

I also have Hon. Miriam Mukhaye, a Member of Parliament representing Mbale District in the Eastern part of Uganda. *(Applause)*

She is accompanied by two guests, Mr Robert Mark Ssozi and Dr Rhoda Ingrid Maria Elizabeth. *(Applause)*. Thank you.

Honourable members, we had a fruitful meeting in the Commission and we have reached a decision that I have - rule 7(2)(g) and I direct that the report on legal be referred back to the committee for further consultations in line with these rules. *(Applause)* Honourable Members, I adjourn this

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sitting to Tuesday at 10 a.m. (*Member rose*) – (*Members rose on procedure*) Honourable Members, I have adjourned the House to Tuesday at 10.00 a.m.

(The Assembly rose at 4.45 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday 5 November 2024 at 10.00 a.m.)