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EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES ON POACHING NAIROBI, KENYA, 18th -19th AUGUST, 2014 AND MWANZA, TANZANIA, 11th -14th FEBRUARY, 2016



Clerk's Chamber
EAC Headquarters
EALA Wing, 3rd Floor
Arusha, Tanzania

2nd June 2016

and

- (v) Get information on the status of facilities and infrastructure which are required for sustainable development of fisheries;

1.3. Expected results

The expected results for the activities were the following:

- i. Increased knowledge by the Committee Members on Wildlife Conservation and fisheries sectors ;
- ii. Members' influence on policy-makers aiming at reducing poaching activities;
- iii. A report to the House with recommendations on reducing /stopping wildlife Poaching and improving the Fisheries sector.

1.4. Participation

The activities were attended by Members of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), regional wildlife and natural resources experts and Staff from East African Community Secretariat and the East African Legislative Assembly as well as Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) expert.

2.0. METHODOLOGY

In undertaking the activities, the Committee used a participatory method that included interaction with stakeholders at field and thereafter followed by experts' presentations and interactive sessions. The meetings were opened by the Chairperson's remarks highlighting the objectives of the activities and the expectations of members among others to have an overall situational analysis on Poaching and Fisheries in Partner States.

revenue of TZS 612 million per annum; part of this revenue is used for sustainability of the Market such as payments for water and electricity bills and sanitation activities. The Manager also spelt out that the Market is not so busy by the days of the visit due to light from Lunar in night in which the fishermen for dagaa do not go for fishing during the onset of the moon.

3.1. 2. Presentation on Fisheries

Dr. Robert Kayanda made a presentation highlighting the importance of fisheries in the region. In his presentation, he reported that fisheries are a source of protein to about 150 million people in the East African Community Partner States. He pointed out that in East African Countries per capita fish consumption is less than 10 Kg per annum compared to World Health Organization recommended per capita consumption of 25 Kg per annum: the 2013 per capita consumption studies for respective Partner States are: Burundi 3.6 Kg; Kenya 3.45 Kg; Rwanda 2.3 Kg, Uganda 10 kg and Tanzania 8 Kg.

He explained that high population growth in the region triggered opportunity for investment in other fisheries technologies such as aquaculture and fish cages, in which Uganda is doing better in the region. He also mentioned that in Lake Victoria the commonly available fish species Hapochromine (Furu), Dagaa, Nile perch and Nile tilapia.

Dr. Kayanda pointed out that on average in Lake Victoria, the overall Fish Biomass had decreased from 1.3 metric tons recorded in 1999 to 0.8 metric tons between 2010 and 2011. The acoustic survey conducted in 2014 revealed that biomass of Nile perch increased by 30% in western part of Lake Victoria particularly in Bukoba. He also explained that the allowable size of Nile perch catch in all East African Partner States is between 50cm and 85cm in which below 50cm and above 85cm are conserved for stocking.



hooks and monofilament; and

- v. Declines in fish catches and export.

3.1.4. Committee Observations

3.1.4.1. Observations on Mwaloni - Kirumba Fish Market

The following are some of the noted observations by the Committee Members:

- a) Most of the business dealers are women;
- b) Young men are the cargo carriers;
- c) Sanitary conditions of the Fish Market is well maintained compared to the previous status when the Committee undertook a tour to assess the Impacts of Climate Change on the environment in 2013;and
- d) Water Hyacinth is still a challenge.

3.1.4.2. Observations on the Fisheries Presentation

After presentation, the Committee Members made the following observations:

1. The presentation on fisheries covered only Lake Victoria which represents 60% of fish production leaving out the remaining 40% from other water bodies of the EAC region. The Committee therefore recommended the presenter to give more information on the production from in-land waters to allow them have a thorough picture of the regional production in fish. As the requested information was not available, the Committee therefore recommends another study tour in all EAC Partner States to have a general knowledge on the status of fisheries in the EAC region.
2. The Nile Perch species of fish was introduced into Lake Victoria from Lake Tanganyika and Lake Kyoga. Introducing exotic fish species need thorough studies to avoid negative impacts to endemic species.

the west, Lake Eyasi in the south, and the Great Rift Valley to the east. As such, it offers the most complex and least disturbed ecosystem on earth.

Elephants are native to the Serengeti ecosystem, but Serengeti elephants were likely all killed off for ivory in the 1800's. At least, there weren't any recorded there until the middle of the twentieth century when they started moving back in again. In the 1960's they migrated in from both the north and the south, and by 1970 there were over 3,000 elephants in the Serengeti. Things got rocky for elephants again in the 1980's as severe poaching reduced their numbers in Serengeti National Park to around 500. In 1988, elephants were given Cites Endangered Species Status and worldwide trade in ivory was banned. This was good news for Serengeti elephants and their numbers rebounded again into the thousands.

3.2.2. Challenges of the Serengeti National Park

Today, the Serengeti ecosystem is about 40% of what it historically was—much of this has to do with the development of agriculture and settlements. There are twenty tribes living around or in close proximity to the protected area, and the increasing population causes a need for more development to sustain the population, which in turn deteriorates the Serengeti. For example, agriculture is taking over some parts of the Serengeti National Park and the Maasai Game Reserve,

Mining settlements are interfering with the migration path of some animals, and mechanized agriculture has taken over where wildebeests would historically breed their calves. This has caused a loss of habitat for many species in the Serengeti.

Non authorized People enter into Serengeti National Park for various reasons: poaching, hunting, cutting trees/firewood, grazing livestock, fishing, cultivation, mining, collecting thatch grass, collecting medicine,

- Even where more modern statutes exist, there are often shortfalls in their administration and enforcement.
- Lack of awareness and capacity among legislators and prosecutors to draft and apply integrated wildlife management laws hampers efforts to curb illegal exploitation of wildlife.
- There is a low level of awareness of the problem and how to best address it at the appropriate levels.
- Poaching activities have evolved from individual poachers or ad hoc gangs to increasing recurrences of attacks by well - resourced and organized groups including transnational criminal networks.

In summary:

- The illegal wildlife trade robs EAC Partner States and their communities of natural capital and cultural heritage, with serious economic and social consequences. It undermines the livelihoods of natural resource dependent communities and threatens economies as it damages the health of the ecosystems on which they depend and further undermining sustainable economic development.
- The acts and the proceeds from illegal wildlife trade escalates other criminal activities, and in some cases has been linked to armed groups engaged in internal and cross border conflicts, which seriously undermines the security of the Region.
- Personnel responsible for the protection and wellbeing of wildlife resources such as rangers and other law enforcement agents are being killed or injured in significant numbers. This weakens economic development, wellbeing and security of Partner States and their people.



growing semi forest of native trees along 50km of the parks eastern edge;

- iii. In responding to the escalation problem of poaching and wildlife trafficking, KWS has instituted the following initiatives:
 - o Use of sniffer dogs at all country entry and exit points;
 - o Strengthening park surveillance and monitoring operations; and
 - o Strengthening joint cross border operations and sharing of intelligence information.
 - o General prosecution of culprits and collaboration with Interpol.
 - o Land use planning

Wildlife crimes in Kenya

It was said to be an economic crime often perpetrated by criminal syndicates operating in the most remote regions of our globalized world, exploiting local people and laws enforcement for personal gains.

Wildlife Security in Kenya

The Kenya's constitution of 2010 outlines that wildlife is a national asset to be managed for the benefit of the people and for the future generations. This therefore puts a lot of responsibility on Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) as the custodian of the national asset. Kenya's vision on Conservation seeks to save the last great species; the mission focuses at conservation, management and enhancement of wildlife and its habitats and provides a wide range of public uses and benefits in collaboration with stakeholders. The vision and mission are embedded in KWS strategy 2012-2017.

Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Mandate

It aims at eliminating poaching in wildlife protected areas and reduces it to bare

trials. The lab will also enhance wildlife identification, monitoring and DNA to assist in country wildlife crime.

Observations on Kenya

Kenya continues to be a transit route for ivory in Africa, majorly through the port of Mombasa, which according to a survey accounted for the largest volumes of ivory seizures in Africa, with over 10 tons of illegal ivory intercepted at the port between January and October 2013. It has been reported (2014) that Kenya recorded lower rates of poaching in 2013 compared to Tanzania, a fact credited to the country's better law enforcement policies on poaching.

3.2.2. Joint Ivory Action Plan 2013 in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda as a means to reduce elephant poaching

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are beneficiary to the Ivory Fund whose contributors include; Netherlands, Germany, China, UK, France Belgium and South Africa.

Kenya and Tanzania have been identified to be among the eight countries of concern with respect to increased illegal trade in elephant ivory and directed by CITES Parties through the Standing Committee to put in place actions aimed at reducing the illegal trade.

The objective is to enhance cooperation among States and States Agencies to ensure elephant poaching and illegal Trade in elephant ivory is reduced if not eliminated.

3.2.4. Overall challenges observed in wildlife management

Committee Members observed the challenges facing Wildlife Management in general which includes but not limited to the following:

destroyed their stockpiles of confiscated ivory, sending a clear message that ivory trade is prohibited.

3.2.6. Members' Observations on Wildlife Poaching Presentation in Mwanza.

The Committee commended the presenter on the good and inspiring presentation on Wildlife poaching and made further observations as follows:

1. Elephants and rhinoceros are highly affected by poachers in search for ivory; other animals like impala, gazelle, antelope and wildebeests are killed for meat.
2. Poaching is organized by rich people using poor people as recently shown by the event which happened in Tanzania where poachers shot down a helicopter in which a captain was shot dead. They concluded that commercial poaching is done by rich people who can own guns vehicles and can corrupt rangers.
3. Measures and institutions at our airports, borders and ports are still weak as the export and import of illegal wildlife are passing through these terminals. Members therefore expressed the need to put in place strict measures to control illegal trafficking especially at East African countries borders.
4. There is conflict between wildlife and human beings; they found that it is unjust to destroy farms of communities living around protected areas in the name of protection of wildlife. Members were of the view that governments should find a solution for these people to avoid them invade the protected areas.
5. There are however communities which live in harmony with the wildlife like the Massai Communities. Local Governments should consider

activities, the Committee formulated the following recommendations on the two sectors:

5.1. FISHERIES

1. The Committee should undertake another site activity in the remaining Partner States to get a thorough information on fisheries in the EAC region as the information received covered almost Lake Victoria alone.
2. The Committee recommends that research on fisheries be enhanced knowing that fisheries is a dynamic sector.

5.2. Poaching

1. The Committee urges EAC Partner States to reform wildlife laws
2. The Committee urges the EAC to promote community conservation initiatives.
3. The Committee urges Partner States to consider traditional knowledge for conservation issues especially for the people living near or inside protected areas as a means to address challenges.
4. The Committee urges Partner States to develop/improve Wildlife conservation strategies and protection measures through patrols, joint cross border operations, surveillance and information sharing.
5. The Committee urges EAC Partner States to provide part of the revenue collected from wildlife tourism to the communities living around the National Parks to promote conservation.
6. The Committee urges EAC Partner States Governments to address issues of militias, corruption and governance in general.
7. The Committee recommends the EAC Secretariat to expedite the ongoing anti-poaching Strategy to combat poaching, illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products to foster regional coordination.
8. The Committee recommends the EAC Secretariat to develop Harmonized

Further oversight on Fisheries in Partner States needs to be carried out to allow Members to understand what is happening in other water bodies outside Lake Victoria.

7.0. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Rt. Hon. Speaker and the Clerk of EALA for the facilitation given to undertake this important activity.

The Committee thanks Hon. Ogle Abubakar for the wake - up call through his resolution which has lead this Committee to undertake this oversight activity to understand what is happening in the wildlife poaching in the EAC region.

The Committee also expresses its gratitude to the House for adopting the Resolution which allowed the Committee to undertake this activity.

Finally, we are grateful to the experts met in the process of undertaking this activity.



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1. Hon. Christophe Bazivamo

2. Hon. Isabella Ndahayo

3. Hon. Jeremie Ngendakumana

4. Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye

5. Hon. Chris Opoka-Okumu

6. Hon. Mike Kennedy Sebalu

7. Hon. Susan Nakawuki

8. Hon. Bernard M. Murunya

9. Hon. Adam Kimbisa

10. Hon. Shy-Rose S. Bhanji

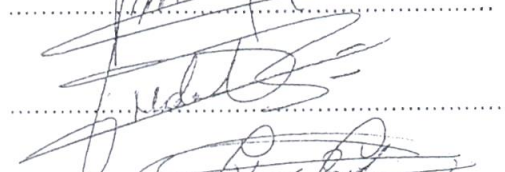
11. Hon. Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo

12. Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga

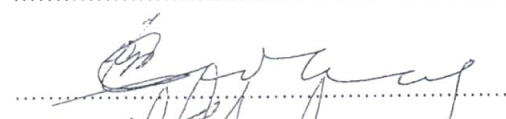
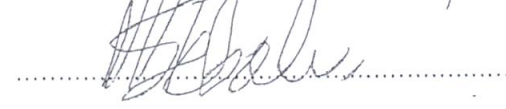
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14. Hon. Mumbi Ng'aru

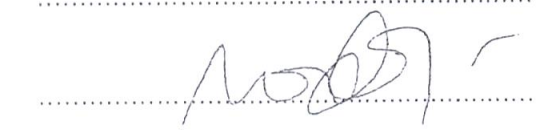
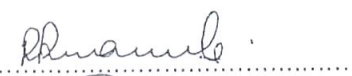
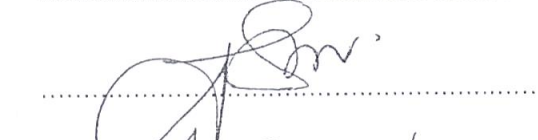
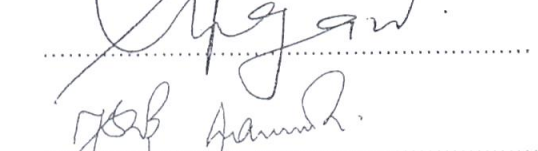
15. Hon. Saoli Ole Nkanae


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