Statement

By

Her Excellency
Ana Paula Samo Gudo Chichava
Deputy Minister
Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs of the
Republic of Mozambique

At the

2008 Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance

Bonn, 27 May 2008
Mr. Dieter Schramm  
President of the CIC

Mr. Robert Hepworth  
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel greatly honoured and privileged to represent the People and Government of the Republic of Mozambique at this auspicious occasion of the presentation of the 2008 CIC Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance.

It is a source of great pride for the Mozambican Government, the management and, above all, the community around the Niassa National Reserve to be distinguished with such a prestigious Award on the occasion of the 9th Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity.

We see this Award as a clear recognition of our relentless efforts towards the fulfilment of our commitments to the Convention on Biodiversity and our contribution to humankind’s endeavour to preserve our Planet. We feel encouraged to forge ahead.

The Niassa National Reserve is one of the important protected areas of our country. It is worth noting that in the past seven years, we have increased the size of protected areas from 11% to 15.5% and we are working to expand in the coming years.

We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank all international partners who have been cooperating with us in conservation and environmental protection as a whole.

It is with great joy that, on behalf of the People and Government of Mozambique I accept the 2008 Markhor Award for Outstanding Conservation Performance. We thank the CIC for this distinction and we shall endeavour to correspond to the high responsibility placed upon us by this Award.

I Thank You Very Much!