MINISTERIAL LEKGOTLA
23 SEPTEMBER 2016
SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE
PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

**Host and Facilitator: Minister of Environmental Affairs – South Africa, Dr Edna Molewa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Arrival and registration</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Opening and Welcome</td>
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<td>- Minister of Environmental Affairs – South Africa, Dr Edna Molewa</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10</td>
<td>Introduction (including the objectives of the Ministerial Lekgotla)</td>
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<td>- Minister of Environmental Affairs – South Africa, Dr Edna Molewa</td>
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<td>10:25</td>
<td>Adoption of the programme</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Finding Common Ground: SDGs, sustainability of wildlife and trade</td>
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<td>- Mr Erik Solheim – Executive Director: United Nations Environment</td>
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<td>Programme (UNEP)</td>
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<td>10:40</td>
<td>CITES and its role in advancing the achievement of the SDGs through</td>
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<td>legal and sustainable trade and tackling illegal trade in wildlife</td>
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<td>- Dr John Scanlon – Secretary General: CITES</td>
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10:50 The magnitude of and trends in legal international trade
- Mr Neville Ash – Director: UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

11:00 Multiple challenges posed by illegal trade in wildlife and the findings of the first World Wildlife Crime Report
- Mr A Lale-Demoz – Deputy Executive Director: United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

11:10 The role of Customs in facilitating legal trade and intercepting illegal trade in wildlife and its links to CITES and the SDGs
- Dr Kunio Mikuriya – Secretary General: World Customs Organisation (WCO)

11:20 The Convention on Biological Diversity as a tool to achieve the SDG’s and its collaboration with and links to CITES
- Dr Braulio F. de Souza Dias – Executive Secretary: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

11:30 How the outcomes of the World Conservation Congress will support implementation of the SDGs and its links to CITES
- Ms Inger Anderson – Director-General of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

11:40 The SDGs in the wider development context with a focus on its links to biodiversity conservation and CITES
- Mr Nik Sekhran, Director Sustainable Development, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

11:50 People and Conservation and the role of legal and sustainable utilization of wildlife
- Mr Rodgers Lubilo - IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group

12:00 Financial implications associated with tackling illegal trade in wildlife
- Ms Joanne Yawitch – Chairperson: South African National Parks Board

12:10 Facilitator: The nexus between the SDGs, CITES, legal and sustainable trade and the challenges posed by illegal trade in wildlife
(Guidance relating to discussion after lunch)
13:30 Facilitated session
3 – 5 min interventions by Ministers and leaders of delegations on: Nexus between SDGs and CITES and challenges posed by illegal trade in wildlife, the opportunities presented by legal and sustainable trade and the role of CITES in advancing the SDGs.

Key Questions to guide interventions:

A. What are the intersecting and relevant issues between:
   a. The Sustainable Development Goals, with special reference to Goals 1, 2, 8, 12, 14, 15 and 17; and
   b. CITES as a convention that aims to regulate legal and sustainable international trade; and
   c. Illegal wildlife trade that threatens species, ecosystems, socio-economic development and national security?

B. Is there a need to reconcile / balance potential conflicts between:
   a. legal and sustainable international trade that is regulated and facilitated through CITES and forms part of sustainable utilization of natural resources, is an important part of economic development for various countries, and forms part of the SDGs; and
   b. the challenges posed by illegal wildlife trade that seems to result in an increasing number of countries implementing stricter domestic measures relating to international trade, including actual or proposed bans on international trade. These measures close markets for developing countries, resulting in:
      i. A loss of revenue generated from wildlife and wildlife products that are legally and sustainably utilized;
      ii. Loss of value associated with wildlife resources; and
      iii. Impacts on livelihoods and loss of economic opportunities relating to sustainable utilization as an integral part of conservation management.

The above impacts are amplified due the fact that these stricter measures are implemented without establishing and facilitating the implementation of legitimate and sustainable alternative financing models.

C. How can governments ensure that the SDG Goals and related targets relating to species and ecosystem protection and sustainable use as well as the means for implementation are achieved despite the challenges presented by illegal wildlife trade?

The following are issues highlighted for considered and discussion:
   o Funding for conservation and protection – This remains a challenge especially if high value species cannot be utilized based on their
environmental, social and economic value. The dependence on donor funding to implement conservation interventions is of concern especially relating to long-term sustainability.

- Governance challenges to be addressed, especially in relation to institutional arrangements, legislation, enforcement and local community involvement in and beneficiation from the wildlife sector; in particular, the devolution of rights of use, management and proprietorship to landholders / local communities.
- Biodiversity economy and economic opportunities associated with the legal and sustainable utilization of wildlife.
- Demand reduction vs demand management.

D. What is the role of CITES?

Can the Convention advance the achievement of the SDGs and create conditions that favour legal and sustainable trade; discourage trade that is not likely to be sustainable; and that incorporates principles of governance and economics into its decision-making framework. What is the relationship between CITES and other Conventions in addressing illegal wildlife trade, and in particular Conventions such as the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption?

16:45 Summary of key issues to be included in CITES CoP17 Information Document – Facilitator

17:00 Closure