



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Managing Wildlife Resources Sustainably for Economic Growth and Posterity

25th March 2022

FOREWORD

Wildlife conservation and management is one of the key areas of integration in East African Community (EAC) owing to the great importance attached to wildlife as a natural resource in the region. EAC hosts about a quarter of all protected areas in Africa and is home to some of the greatest global concentrations of large mammals in both protected and non-protected areas. For instance, the region holds about 28% of the known elephants in the continent. East Africa's tourism industry depends heavily on wildlife and provides over USD 6 billion annually. Tourism accounts for about 10% of the Gross Domestic Product of each EAC Partner State, 7% of employment, and about 17% of export earnings.

Cooperation on wildlife conservation is provided for under Article 114 and 116 of Treaty establishing the Community. According to Article 114 of the Treaty, Partner States *"agree to take concerted measures to foster cooperation in the joint and efficient management and the sustainable utilization of natural resources within the Community for mutual benefit of the Partner States."* According to Article 116, the Partner States *"undertake to develop a collective and coordinated policy for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife and other tourist sites in the Community."* In particular, they undertake to harmonize policies on wildlife conservation; exchange information on wildlife conservation and management; co-ordinate efforts in controlling and monitoring encroachment and poaching activities; encourage the joint use of training and research facilities; develop common management plans for trans-border protected areas; and take measures to ratify or accede to and implement relevant international conventions.

About 10 years ago, the East African region was faced with a major challenge of poaching and illegal wildlife trade. EAC responded by developing a Regional Strategy to Combat Poaching and Illegal Trade and Trafficking of Wildlife and Wildlife Products. The Strategy has been implemented by the Partner States in collaboration with the Secretariat. One of the key interventions proposed by the Strategy is to strengthen the policy and legal framework for wildlife in the region including development of a regional policy on wildlife conservation and management. To this a consultative process to develop this policy commenced. This process is aimed at facilitating collective and coordinated efforts by the Partner States for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife; promoting harmonization wildlife conservation and management policies, strategies, and laws; supporting effective governance mechanisms for engaging governments, private sector, local communities, and other partners; promoting the active participation of local communities in wildlife conservation and management; and promoting sustainable and innovative financing for wildlife conservation.

EAC is committed to working with Partner States and other relevant stakeholders in implementing the interventions set out in this policy to ensure a well-coordinated and collective approach in conservation and management of the wildlife resources in the region. This includes wildlife within and outside formally protected areas.

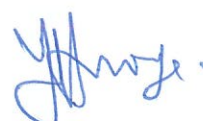
**Secretary General
East African Community**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Many people have contributed to the development of this Policy. They include representatives of the relevant agencies and institutions in Partner States, from the public and private sectors, as well as civil society organisations who provided invaluable information during the process of consultation. While it is not possible to name all of them, we are greatly indebted to them.

We highly appreciate the financial support provided by USAID in formulating this Policy through the Collaborative Conservation and Management of Natural Capital in the East African Community Programme under the Regional Development Objectives Agreement Grant. We also express our gratitude to Kilimanyika Ventures Ltd for providing technical support as well as to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for their support towards finalization of the Policy. The support and cooperation of the technical experts and EAC Secretariat staff throughout the entire policy formulation process is very much appreciated.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The East Africa region is endowed with a biologically diverse wildlife population - both in terms of species richness and endemism. The region is known for its outstanding landscapes and being home to many of the world's best loved and most fascinating animals. Wildlife and tourism are closely interlinked in the region. It is estimated that 70% of tourism in the East Africa region is dependent on wildlife. This therefore means that the conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife is of great strategic importance to the region's social economic growth. In addition, wildlife offer important social, cultural and economic opportunities to many local communities – given that many livelihoods and macro-economic activities carried out by these communities are linked to it. Most communities living in wildlife areas are heavily tied to nature and are heavily reliant on it. Factors such as poaching, habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, expansion of agricultural activities and human wildlife conflict continue to threaten wildlife conservation efforts in the East Africa region.

EAC is the regional intergovernmental organization of the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania (the "Partner States"), with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The EAC Secretariat, in recognition of the growing threats to such an important economic growth driver in the region, has made wildlife conservation a priority agenda item. In line with Article 116 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (the "EAC Treaty"), the EAC Partner States have agreed to develop a collective and coordinated wildlife conservation and management policy to promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife and other tourist resources in the region (the "Policy"). The mandates of the Policy are derived from EAC Treaty Chapter 20, Article 116 and Chapter 19, Article 114. The Partner States will look to work with a broad range of stakeholders including, national governments, conservationists, local communities, development partners and the private sector in the implementation of the Policy.

A situational analysis of wildlife issues and challenges in the Community and the related national, regional and international frameworks is set out in Section 2.

The mandate, vision, mission, and objectives of the Policy are set out in Section 3. The overall objective of the Policy is to promote coordinated conservation and sustainable management of wildlife resources for posterity and social economic growth of the region. The policy specific objectives are to:

1. Facilitate collective and coordinated efforts by the Partner States for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife resources in the region.
2. Promote harmonization of the Partner States' wildlife conservation and management policies, strategies, and laws in the region.
3. Support effective governance mechanisms for engaging governments, private sector, local communities, and other partners.
4. Promote the active participation of local communities in wildlife conservation and management in the region.



5. Promote sustainable and innovative financing for wildlife conservation.

The Policy objectives are addressed within five thematic policy issues set out in Section 4: Coordination of wildlife conservation and management, Community engagement, Wildlife law enforcement, Private-sector engagement, and Cross-sectoral issues. Within each thematic policy issue, the priority areas for action are provided in a set of policy statements.

The arrangements for implementing the Policy are set out in Section 5. This Policy shall be implemented within the framework of the EAC Treaty (1999) and operationalised in accordance with the Partner States' existing legal frameworks, including other related regional and national sectoral policies and strategies governing natural resources and wildlife management, for instance Forestry and Tourism. The Policy shall be implemented in a collaborative manner engaging all key actors as appropriate. The EAC Secretariat will coordinate and monitor implementation of the Policy in close consultation with the Partner States. At the national level, the relevant ministries and agencies in the Partner States will coordinate implementation of the Policy in their respective countries.

The EAC Secretariat shall be responsible for routine monitoring, information documentation, annual reporting, dissemination and compliance with the provisions of the Policy, as set out in Section 6.



LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
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| AEWA | African-Eurasian Migratory Waters |
| AMCEN | African Ministerial Conference on the Environment |
| AU | African Union |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CBO | Community based Organisation |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organizations |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| EAC | East African Community |
| FBO | Faith Based Organizations |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| IPBES | Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| MEAs | Multilateral Environment Agreements |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| PPP | Public Private Partnerships |
| PS | Partner States (of the East African Community) |
| RCMRD | Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SME | Small and Medium Enterprise(s) |
| TWCA | Transboundary Wildlife Conservation Area |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCCD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNFF | United Nations Forum on Forests |
| UNSPF | United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| WWF | World Wildlife Fund for Nature |



DEFINITION OF TERMS

Authority: A body that has legal powers and rights at regional, national or local level

Biodiversity: means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including the ecological complexes of which they are a part and the diversity within and among species and ecosystems.

Community: The East African Community is an intergovernmental organization composed of six countries in the African Great Lakes region in eastern Africa: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Community forestry: Forest management where local communities control the management of forest and tree resources.

Deforestation: means the direct human induced conversion of forested land to non-forested land or the long-term reduction of the tree canopy below the minimum ten percent threshold

Ecosystem: A community of all plants and animals and their physical environment, functioning together as an interdependent unit.

Endemism: Endemism is the state of a species being found in a single defined geographic location

Environment: The environment is considered in its broadest sense and includes all aspects (i.e. physical, social, political, economic, and visual).

Forest: Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.

Invasive species: Species that are rapidly expanding outside of their native range. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function and human health.

Landscape: A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area.

Natural forest: Forest areas where many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems such as complexity, structure and diversity are present, as defined by FSC approved national and regional standards of forest management.

Partner States: refers to the six countries that form the East African Community and they include: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.



Regulation: A document providing binding legislative rules that is adopted by an authority.

EAC Secretariat: Secretariat of the Community established under Article 9 of the Treaty for establishment of East African Community.

Stakeholder: Individuals and organizations with a legitimate interest in the goods and services provided by an FMU; and those with an interest in the environmental and social effects of an FMU's activities, products, and services. They include- those individuals and organizations which exercise statutory environmental control over the FMU; local people; employees; investors and insurers; customers and consumers; environmental interest and consumer groups and the public.

Transboundary Wildlife Conservation Area: a clearly defined geographical space that consists of protected areas that are ecologically connected across one or more international boundaries and involves some form of international cooperation, designed to protect wildlife or wildlife habitat.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Background and context

1.1.1 Global context

There is an increasing understanding of the role that biodiversity plays within global economies and human systems. These benefits include the pollination and dispersal of seeds, maintenance of habitats, medicinal, bio-chemical and genetic resources, inspiration and learning, and direct sources of livelihoods such as tourism. Wildlife is also an essential part of the cultural heritage of all people and future generations.

However, wildlife everywhere is in precipitous decline. In the last 50 years global population sizes of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles reduced by nearly 70 percent. Extinction rates are 100 to 1,000 times higher than natural rates and are so widespread that 1 in 8 animal and plant species globally are threatened with extinction¹. Wild mammals now account for just four percent of global biomass of mammals, excluding humans.

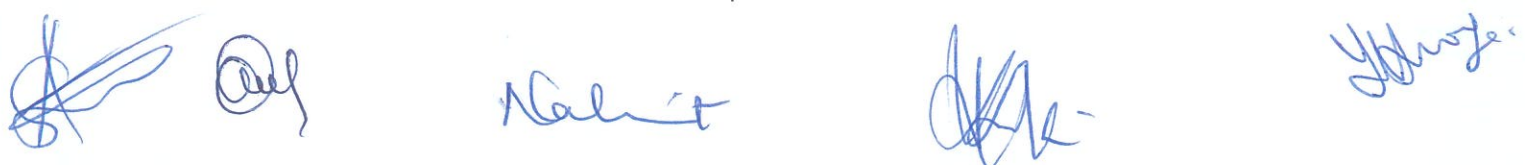
The reasons for the decline of wildlife are well-known. Habitat loss, human-wildlife conflicts, poaching and illegal trafficking, overexploitation, and invasive species are all contributing, and all of these threats are growing as the global population heads to a projected 10 billion people by 2050. Climate change is adding to these pressures by impacting habitats, weather systems, and agricultural productivity.

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the vulnerability of the wildlife sector to external shocks. When global tourism stopped so too did the key source of finance for wildlife management and dependent livelihoods, while progress on global wildlife efforts were effectively suspended.

Yet wildlife issues are now a clear global priority. A host of grand plans are gaining traction including a headline target of protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030 to be discussed under the Convention on Biological Diversity, stronger pledges for climate adaptation and biodiversity-inclusive initiatives on climate arising from the “Glasgow Climate Pact”, new regional laws and proposed agreements embedding wildlife protections into trade requirements, while there is mounting pressure and vocal wildlife commitments coming from the private sector.

In Africa, the challenges for wildlife are particularly stark. Africa holds much of the world’s most charismatic and treasured wildlife, yet these populations have fallen by more than 65 percent since 1970. Africa also has the fastest growing regional

¹ WWF (2020), Living Planet Report



population and amongst the most vulnerable landscapes to climate change. There is both great need and opportunity in sustainably managing these resources.

1.1.2 EAC context

The East African Community occupies a land area of 2.5 million square kilometres (95% land and 5% inland water) and an Exclusive Economic Zone of 340,000 km². Of its 177 million citizens, 78% reside predominantly in rural areas. The region is highly diverse and extremely rich in natural resources, including grasslands, forests, rivers, wetlands, deltas, ocean, great lakes and wildlife. These natural resources drive national and regional economic development, through agriculture, fisheries and pastoralism, forestry, wildlife tourism, hydroelectricity and many other goods and services. East Africa is home to abundant and diverse species of fauna and flora. The region is inhabited by some of the biggest populations of charismatic mega-fauna including elephants, rhinoceros, lions, chimpanzees, mountain gorillas, and various species of antelopes, birds, butterflies, reptiles, fish and a variety of flora. The region is a sanctuary of unparalleled natural wonders characterized by transboundary ecosystems and cross border protected areas and profound waterways, extraordinary scenic landscapes and productive aquatic systems that support a variety of wildlife.

These ecosystems transcend Partner States' boundaries which calls for a regional approach to conservation and management of wildlife resources in the East African Community. The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organization of the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The six EAC Partner States recognise that a holistic approach to development and environmental management is necessary, allowing for the priorities of the six Partner States to be met whilst not compromising the future growth and natural integrity of the region, incorporating threats of climate change.

The EAC continues to use wildlife resources to strategically position herself as a premier global ecotourism destination. Communities also depend on these resources for the provision of a wide range of ecological and social functions to society. Economic and aesthetic benefits aside, wildlife is a source of food and medicine, with additional significant, cultural values and ecosystem services associated with wildlife habitats. The sector provides opportunities for research and development and is responsible for growth and development of other sectors like agriculture through provision services like pollination.

Despite the numerous ecological, social and cultural benefits derived from wildlife, wildlife in the Community continues to face serious threats and challenges that include habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, population pressure, inadequate coordination, climate change, wildlife diseases, and invasive species among others. If these are not addressed through a holistic regional approach, the Community may lose these wildlife resources and attendant benefits.



1.2 Justification and Rationale

Article 114 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community (the EAC Treaty), states that:

“Partner States agree to take concerted measures to foster cooperation in the joint and efficient management and sustainable utilization of natural resources within the Community for mutual benefit of the Partner States.”

More specifically, Article 116 of the EAC Treaty requires Partner States to “develop a collective and coordinated policy for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of wildlife”, including several more detailed obligations set out under Section 2.1 “Mandate” below.

To fulfil these Treaty obligations, it is important that Partner States prioritise and make concerted efforts to address the issues and challenges affecting wildlife conservation in the Community. There is need for a regional wildlife policy because wildlife conservation and its accompanying issues transcend ecosystems and political boundaries.

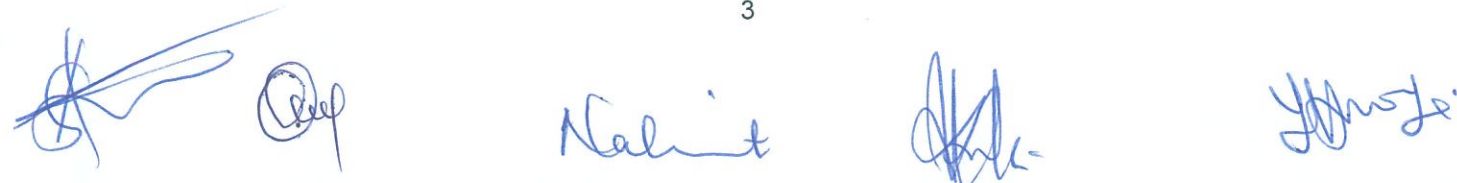
The Policy is needed to address wildlife conservation issues holistically and collaboratively in the community. The Policy focuses on convening the Partner States around wildlife management and conservation issues, harmonization of strategic frameworks and instruments, and capacity development - including investing in training, law enforcement, regional inter-agency mechanisms, and cross-border and regional cooperation. The Policy also seeks to support increased capacities of local communities to pursue livelihood opportunities through sustainable utilization of wildlife resources.

1.3 Policy development process

This Policy was developed through a consultative process that included the EAC Secretariat, Partner States and other stakeholders.

A technical team with diverse competencies worked with the EAC Secretariat and Partner States experts through the steps outlined below:

- i. Regional Partner States consultations that identified priorities, challenges and issues around the wildlife sector in the Community;
- ii. National consultations with Partner States that identified priorities, challenges, and issues around the wildlife sector in each country;
- iii. Stakeholder consultations in respect of priorities, challenges and relevant issues;.
- iv. Regional validation workshop with Partner States to review and endorse the draft Policy; and



- v. Submission of the final draft Policy to the EAC Secretariat for adoption and approval by the Policy Organs.

A consultative approach was used in the development of this Policy. A regional consultative meeting with representations from the Partner States was held in Dar es Salam in Tanzania from October 27th through October 29th, 2021. National consultation meetings were also conducted drawing participants from line ministries and relevant government agencies. The consultative meetings were planned by the EAC Secretariat and moderated by the consultants' team.

In the consultation meetings, plans and approaches to the policy development work were discussed and agreed. Key reference materials - including strategic frameworks, policies, and other documents that needed to be reviewed and aligned with the policy were identified and discussed. An agreement on the strategic objectives that the policy would focus on was reached with the Partner States' representatives. The nature and schedule of subsequent engagements with other key stakeholders in the policy development process was also agreed on. During the consultations, past EAC work that would feed into the policy development work was identified. The consultations provided a good opportunity to interrogate:

1. EAC's prior relevant work in the wildlife and tourism sectors;
2. Wildlife conservation and management priorities among Partner States;
3. Strategic documents and frameworks around wildlife conservation in the region; and
4. Key challenges and issues for wildlife conservation and management in the region.

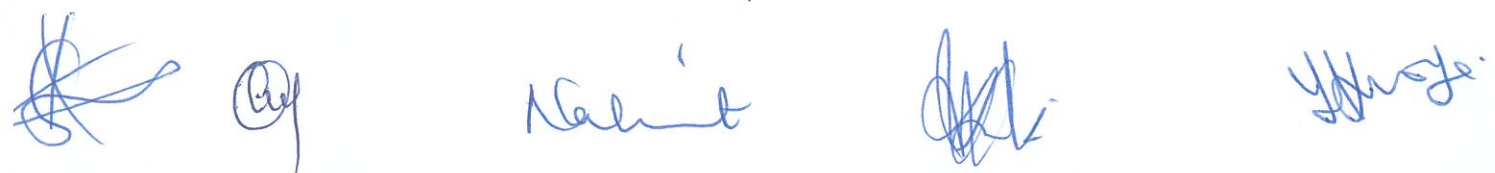
An extensive literature review was also carried out by the team of consultants.

2 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS


Each Partner State's wildlife sector faces its own unique challenges and priorities. In order to synthesise these into a cohesive policy for the Community, a situational analysis was carried out of the core aspects relevant to wildlife conservation and management for the Partner States. An integrative literature review was carried out providing a deeper understanding of the different regulatory frameworks on wildlife management that are in application by Partner States. This section details the resulting challenges, common interests, institutional realities, and existing national, regional and international wildlife management-oriented frameworks.

2.1 Key challenges in the wildlife sector

The main challenges to wildlife resources in the Community are set out under Section 1.1.2 above. While each of these was considered in the Policy development, the key challenges identified by the Partner States are as follows:



- i. **Habitat loss** from competing land-uses continue to diminish the space for wildlife in the Community. According to The Current State of Eastern Africa's Forests by the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), wildlife habitats are particularly vulnerable to agricultural expansion and unsustainable extraction of forest products. and. Wetlands across the region are suffering even greater losses, while drylands are projected to suffer from increasingly severe droughts and heat waves driven mainly by climate change. Terrestrial and Marine habitats across the region are also under significant pressure, the key threat to terrestrial habitat being deforestation and for wetlands being polluted and drained spaces for competing land uses. The coral reefs are also under pressure.
- ii. **Competing land uses** such as extensive agriculture production, mining, industrial development, urbanization and infrastructure development, are expected to continue growing in the region. Big infrastructure projects such as roads, railways and ports are also expected to increase in the region in the coming years. Such projects often lead to damage to wildlife habitat and corridors, and significant biodiversity loss. Addressing wildlife conservation and management challenges associated with such competing land uses require effective coordination and sustained engagement between the Partner States and the sector stakeholders.
- iii. **Human-wildlife conflict:** Human encroachment into wildlife habitat is increasingly leading to competition for land, water, and food between human and wildlife. Crop and livestock losses associated with human-wildlife conflicts deprive people of livelihoods and lead to food insecurity. As this encroachment increases, so does human-wildlife conflict. Such conflict is responsible for up to 75 % of killing of the world's wild cat species and large proportions of many other terrestrial and marine species. The East Africa population is expected to more than double by 2050. East Africa's rapidly rising population and strong development agenda will escalate these conflicts unless robust measures are undertaken to manage them. Addressing this threat will require effective engagement with all stakeholders in the wildlife sector in the region.
- iv. **Wildlife crime:** With its rich biodiversity and ideal international transport links, the EAC region is fertile ground for transnational wildlife crime. Illegal wildlife trade and trafficking is a major threat to wildlife across the region. Additionally, bush meat poaching is on the rise in the region. Such wildlife crimes threaten the ecosystems, food systems and income sources for local communities. It has been noted that organised transnational gangs involved in poaching and illegal wildlife trade contribute to proliferation of small arms and other contrabands thereby threatening regional peace and security. It has been reported that proceeds from illicit trade in wildlife are used to fund civil wars and other crimes such as drug trafficking and terrorism. Addressing this significant and growing wildlife sector threat requires stronger regional partnership and coordination
- v. **Transboundary ecosystems**, both terrestrial and aquatic, hold tremendous natural capital across the Community through social and economic value and the provision of essential ecosystem services. Transboundary ecosystems have been identified as a regional priority. However, these ecosystems are also under tremendous pressure from the key challenges listed in this section. Many



transboundary ecosystems in the Community such as the Northern Savannas, the Albertine Rift Forests, the Rweru-Bugesera-Akagera Wetlands, and the Great East Africa Plains, are rapidly deteriorating. These four landscapes alone have been found to provide USD 11.3 billion annually to the region, they are being undermined by over-extraction of resources, land conversion and degradation, climate change, conflict, and COVID-19. Because transboundary ecosystems span borders, their benefits and also the burden of management cross borders. Stronger national and collective actions are needed to safeguard and sustainably utilise these shared resources.

- vi. **Climate change** is expected to negatively impact wildlife and people disproportionately within the EAC region, mainly because a significant amount of the region is dryland. Key habitats within the EAC region are already experiencing the devastating effects of climate change. Recent studies indicate that there are climate change induced deep-water temperature rises among key lakes in the region. There are also notable decreases in Mt Kilimanjaro's ice fields.

Warmer and drier weather is expected to continue contributing to land degradation and desertification thereby reducing productivity and habitable land within the region. Marine ecosystems are also vulnerable. Mitigating climate change impacts on wildlife resources in the Community will require a coordinated and cross-sectoral collaborative approach. Strategic focus should be placed on building habitat resilience.

- vii. **Population pressure** will exacerbate all key wildlife challenges. East Africa is the fastest growing region in Africa, and according to the UN's 2019 projections: Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi have been projected to double in population between 2019 and 2050, with Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan not far behind. More people means a need for more food, more water, more energy and more space. These will at least partly be fulfilled at the expense of wildlife habitat. Effective wildlife management is essential not only for the survival of wildlife and its cultural heritage within the Community, but also as a key source of livelihood for the region's growing social and development needs. Engaging affected communities will be critical to this.

- viii. **Coordination between Partner States** must be enhanced if these challenges are to be addressed. There is a demonstrated need to improve coordination on transnational issues such as wildlife crime and protected areas management, broader efforts to manage and sustainably utilise wildlife resources and to engage cross-sectoral resources that impact on wildlife management.

- ix. **Biopiracy of biological materials**, including soil micro-organisms, animals, plants and indigenous traditional knowledge associated with biological resources that have been identified, developed and used by local communities, is both a threat and challenge to the conservation and management of EAC wildlife resources. It is exacerbated in the region by low levels of research and development and limited knowledge about the resource values for wildlife. Biopiracy is targeted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nagoya



Protocol, to which all Partner States are party, and regional efforts should build upon this platform.

- x. **Invasive alien species** are a major threat to wildlife resources, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas and aquatic ecosystems. Invasive alien species can transform the structure and composition of species in an ecosystem by repressing or excluding native species either directly by outcompeting them or indirectly by changing the way nutrients are re-cycled within their systems. Invasive species affect the quality and stability of ecosystems, forage availability and ultimately displacing resident wildlife species. This leads to increased human wildlife-human conflicts, reduced wildlife tourism sightings and other associated negative impacts. Control of these invasive species is a major management challenge that often involves high environmental and financial costs.
- xi. There is need for assessment and mapping out of the magnitude of the problem across the region and development of appropriate interventions. **Local communities** play a vital role in wildlife management and conservation in EAC. More than three quarters of EAC's population resides in rural areas often placing them into direct contact and conflict with wildlife. There are inadequate benefits and incentives for communities to support wildlife conservation. This is exacerbated by poverty and population growth rates among communities living adjacent to wildlife conservation areas, engagement of local communities to support wildlife conservation activities and improve sustainable utilisation is a critical part of the envisioned participatory and integrated wildlife management approach advocated for in the Policy. Therefore, appropriate interventions are required to mitigate the growing conflicts, enhance benefits and secure long term community support for conservation.
- xii. **Human resource development** has been identified as a priority area for all Partner States. There is a lack of skilled personnel for essential tasks such as wildlife monitoring, policing and enforcement, financing, and community engagement, education, and conflict resolution. Greater resources must be deployed to train, recruit and properly equip government personnel in the wildlife sector.
- xiii. **Research, monitoring, and use of modern technology** must all be enhanced in all Partner States for effective wildlife management and utilisation. Monitoring is important not only to understand population sizes but also to detect changes and monitor health, raise awareness, and inform decision making. Research capacity is essential for using that knowledge and responding to threats to wildlife. Modern technology such as drones, surveillance and information technology systems is making monitoring, research, and wildlife management more effective.
- xiv. **Diversifying and increasing financing and engaging the private sector** will also be crucial in responding to these challenges. Engaging the private sector is proving a successful strategy in many contexts globally, where public funds, policies and tax incentives are used to encourage private investments. Existing and novel financing mechanisms must also be targeted. A host of significant new



initiatives are arising in response to global biodiversity issues including grand plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity and for climate mitigation, which focus on protection of biodiversity generally and the roles of indigenous and local communities in managing the same.

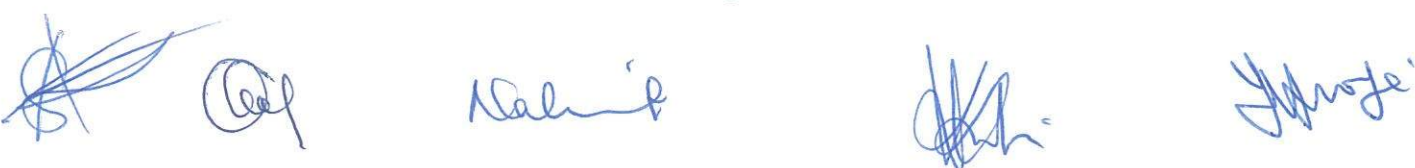
- xv. **Wildlife diseases** threaten wildlife, livestock and humans via cross-contamination, including Avian influenza, Ebola, Tuberculosis, Foot and Mouth disease, Canine distemper, Rabies, Newcastle, Rift Valley Fever, and African swine fever (Morbillivirus), and most recently COVID-19.

2.2 Areas of common interest

Areas of common interest include managing cross-border ecosystems and migrating wildlife, combating poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking, managing human-wildlife conflict, climate change mitigation and adaptation, collaborative tourism development, empowering local communities and stakeholders, equitable benefit sharing within and amongst Partner States. Pursuing these common interests includes development of appropriate partnership tools and management systems, capacity development, cross-border law enforcement, collaborative research and information sharing, collaborative planning, marketing initiatives, improved technology use, improved financing, improved regional and international cooperation.

2.3 Institutional realities and challenges

Wildlife conservation and management in the EAC region is characterized by low level of staffing, limited equipment, inadequate skills, inadequate research and technology (information technology, forensics, unmanned aerial vehicles, breeding, and so on) and underfunding. Inadequate inter-institutional collaboration is a further issue. There is need to establish policy strategies to sustainably address these capacity gaps.



2.4 Regional priority issues

The East Africa region is renowned for its tourism, which generated direct benefits of an estimated USD 6 billion to the regional economies in 2019. Tourism in the region is largely nature-based and is responsible for a significant number of jobs and contributes an average of 10% to the GDP in the Partner States. Tourism is also a major source of foreign exchange earnings, which are important for macroeconomic stability and debt servicing. In Kenya, for example, international tourism earnings are about 18.1% of total export earnings making Tourism is the leading largest source of foreign exchange earnings. The sector is equally important in other EAC Partner States as a source of foreign exchange earning whereby tourism contributions constitute 25% of export earnings in Tanzania, 21% in Rwanda and 16.6% in Uganda.

In recognition of the critical role played by the wildlife sector in the region, each Partner State has put in place their own laws, policies, government agencies, special committees, strategic frameworks, and technical task forces to deal with wildlife management and conservation in their respective territories. These laws and frameworks are aligned in many key respects. These laws and frameworks are all geared towards preserving the respective Partner States' wildlife resources, expanding wildlife protection, improving the contribution of the wildlife sector to national economies, encouraging the participation of local communities and the private sector in wildlife conservation, expanding regional and international collaboration in wildlife, improving national capacities to conserve and manage wildlife resources, and addressing key threats to wildlife that are broadly consistent across the Community.

If threats to wildlife conservation are not addressed comprehensively and holistically in a regional policy approach, there is an increasing risk that some keystone species may decline to extinction. If this happens, the region is bound to lose not only the critically important biodiversity which underpins healthy ecosystems, but also tourism revenues, with a further negative impact on peoples' livelihoods that depend on abundant, functioning biodiversity.

It is against this background that the East African Community (EAC) has developed this Policy to harmonize efforts across the Partner States.

2.5 Regional framework

The Policy is aligned to the regional protocols and statutory instruments in place to regulate and govern wildlife conservation in the Community. Additionally, the Partner States are all signatory to several wildlife crime prevention regional treaties and protocols. There is therefore a need for enhanced coordination and collaboration in the implementation of all these policies and instruments for effective regional conservation. These include the Maputo Convention, Lusaka Agreement Taskforce, Grater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration Treaty, SADC Protocol, African Union Strategy, EAC Strategy to combat poaching and illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products, and the EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking.

Furthermore, the Policy benchmarks other ongoing regional and continental wildlife initiatives and processes including:

- (i) The African Union Commission (AUC) Continental Sustainable wildlife management framework;
- (ii) African Union's Agenda 2063;
- (iii) African Union strategy on combating illegal exploitation and illegal trade in wildlife fauna and flora;
- (iv) Regional economic communities forest initiatives such as the COMESA wildlife management strategy; and
- (v) Other regional economic communities in Africa have on-going initiatives around wildlife conservation and management

2.6 International framework

Article 116 of the EAC Treaty requires Partners States to take measures to ratify or accede to, and, implement relevant international conventions. Accordingly, the EAC Partner States have signed and ratified several conventions and treaties including Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR), especially as Waterfowl Habitat; the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention and its daughter agreement, The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA); and the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD), among others. Further, all the EAC Partner States have ratified the Cartagena Protocol, which is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, while also taking into account risks to human health. Currently the EAC Partner States are at different stages of establishing national biosafety frameworks. This EAC Wildlife policy therefore seeks to strengthen and reaffirm regional commitment and cooperation in implementing these protocols.

3.0 POLICY STRATEGIC DIRECTION

3.1 Mandate

This policy draws its mandate from the EAC Treaty, Article 116 on Wildlife Management. Under this Article, the Partner States have committed to "*develop a collective and co-ordinated policy for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of wildlife and other tourist sites in the Community.*"

In particular, in Article 116 the Partner States have agreed to:

- 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) *co-ordinate efforts in controlling and monitoring encroachment and poaching activities;*



- d) *encourage the joint use of training and research facilities*
- e) *and develop common management plans for trans-border protected areas; and*
- f) *take measures to ratify or accede to, and, implement relevant international conventions.*

Other EAC Treaty articles relevant to this policy include: Article 5, on developing policies and programmes to improve cooperation among the Partner States, Article 112 a, on environmental degradation, Article 112 b, on management of fragile ecosystems, Article 112 e, on integration of environmental management and conservation in development, Article 114 a, on conservation of natural resources, Article 114 b, on management of natural resources degradation and Article 114 c, on management of shared terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

3.2 Vision and mission

Vision: Thriving wildlife resources for regional social economic growth and posterity.

Mission: To promote coordinated and sustainable conservation and management of wildlife resources for social economic growth of the region.

3.3 Objectives

The overall objective of the Policy is to provide a framework for strong collective and coordinated measures by the Partner States to deliver the above-stated Vision and Mission.

The specific Policy objectives are to:

1. Facilitate collective and coordinated efforts by the Partner States for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife resources in the region;.
2. Promote harmonization of the Partner States' wildlife conservation and management policies, strategies, and laws in the region;.
3. Support effective governance mechanisms for engaging governments, private sector, local communities, and other partners;.
4. Promote the active participation of local communities in wildlife conservation and management in the region; and.
5. Promote sustainable and innovative financing for wildlife conservation.

3.4 Guiding principles

In implementing the Policy, the EAC Secretariat, Partner States, and all other institutions shall be guided by the principles enshrined in the EAC Treaty, in particular Articles 111 and 115, and the following guiding principles:



- i. **Recognition and Respect of Sovereignty:** EAC shall uphold the recognition and respect sovereignty of the Partner States. The Partner States shall have full right and power of governing their wildlife resources as enshrined in Article 6 of the EAC Treaty on Fundamental Principles of the Community.
- ii. **Leadership and Stewardship:** EAC wildlife sector shall promote an environment of mutual respect and trust to ensure responsible planning and management - and prudent use of the wildlife resources to benefit EAC Partner States and citizens.
- iii. **Sustainable Management:** EAC wildlife resources shall be utilized and managed for the benefits of all its citizens without compromising the benefits and rights of future generations.
- iv. **Resource Sharing for Mutual Benefits:** EAC wildlife resources shall be shared for mutual benefits of EAC Partner States and citizens.
- v. **Protection of Biodiversity and Ecosystems:** EAC wildlife sector development shall safeguard regional biodiversity and ecosystems - through effective conservation strategies and the application of landscape approaches.
- vi. **Strategic Partnership and Networks for Efficiency:** EAC wildlife sector development shall promote institutional relationships, collaboration and strategic partnerships among all actors at regional level for optimal use of technical and financial resources to enhance efficiency, transparency, accountability, professionalism and build confidence of all wildlife sector stakeholders in the region.
- vii. **Enhancing Private Sector Involvement:** EAC wildlife sector shall work to enhance the involvement of private sector - to ensure optimized sustainable use of wildlife resources and the maximization of sustainable investments and trade in the sector.
- viii. **Gender and Equity:** EAC wildlife sector shall work to ensure integration and active equal participation of women, men, the young, the elderly, the vulnerable, the marginalized, and the disadvantaged groups.
- ix. **Promotion of Cultural Diversity:** EAC wildlife sector shall respect and value the cultures of wildlife resources dependent communities and take due consideration of their traditional knowledge, attributes, and institutions of the different ethnic composition in the region.
- x. **Participation and consultation:** EAC shall promote participation and consultation at all levels of implementation of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Policy.
- xi. **Rights of users and host communities:** EAC wildlife sector shall uphold rights on access, sustainable use and management of wildlife resources - by hosts and wildlife resource dependent communities.



- xii. **Innovation and Technology:** EAC wildlife sector shall promote development of modern and efficient technologies across the wildlife value chain.
- xiii. **Governance:** EAC shall promote good wildlife sector governance at all levels.

4.0 POLICY ISSUES AND STATEMENTS

This section deals with the key policy issues and actions required to guide sustainable wildlife management in the EAC region. The Policy uses five thematic policy issues, that is: Coordination of wildlife conservation and management, Community engagement, Wildlife law enforcement, Private-sector engagement, and Cross-sectoral issues. Within each thematic policy issue a set of sub-policy issues have been identified, followed by a set of policy statements which provide the priority areas for action.

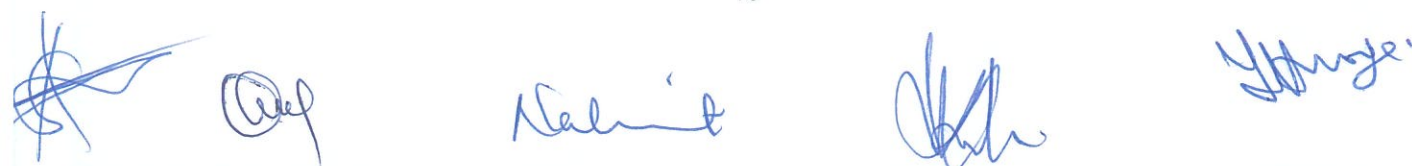
4.1 Coordination of wildlife conservation and management

The wildlife sector in the Community is facing numerous challenges that threaten and undermine its contribution to economic development, poverty alleviation, and other contributions to Community objectives. These challenges include different and sometimes uncoordinated national policies, increasing human-wildlife conflicts, loss of wildlife populations and species within and outside protected areas, infrastructure development, climate change, wildlife diseases and pandemics, among others. Furthermore, much of EAC's wildlife relies upon transboundary ecosystems. The Partner States recognize the importance of coordinating their efforts not only in the conservation of wildlife but also management and utilization of wildlife resources.

In particular, the following policy issues have been identified as priorities in the coordination of wildlife conservation and management:

Priority policy issues

- Wildlife habitat loss and degradation.
- Competing land uses, exacerbated by high population growth rates. Such land uses include agriculture, mining, and infrastructure development, among others.
- Harm to marine wildlife populations, including from loss of mangroves and other key habitats, pollution, and over exploitation.
- Escalation of poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products - compounded by inadequate law enforcement capacities in-country and across border.
- Threats to wildlife corridors and dispersal areas due to land fragmentation.
- Insecurity and illegal firearms which threaten both wildlife and tourism.



- Inadequate coordination amongst the Partner States for managing transboundary wildlife and habitat

Therefore, this Policy aims to strengthen wildlife conservation and management at the regional and national level through the following policy statements:

Policy statements

- i. Facilitate and coordinate efforts on conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife resources in the region;
- ii. Promote and support improved monitoring of wildlife resources in the Community, and the creation of a regional wildlife database;
- iii. Promote and support efforts to address the problem of habitat loss for wildlife;
- iv. Promote and support the creation and expansion of wildlife conservation areas;
- v. Promote regional collaboration on biological diversity and recovery of population sizes;
- vi. Promote and support regional collaborative approaches to land and marine management to sustainably manage and conserve wildlife habitat;
- vii. Promote and support efforts to address poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking (including illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing);
- viii. Support regional and national efforts to build and rehabilitate wildlife sector infrastructure;
- ix. Support regional and national efforts to address the proliferation of illegal firearms;
- x. Promote and support collaborative management of wildlife resources and habitats that cross the borders (transboundary ecosystems);
- xi. Promote and support the efforts to create a "Transboundary Wildlife Conservation Areas Network"; and
- xii. Consider the creation of a regional wildlife act to provide a legal framework for the management of wildlife in the Community.

4.2 Community engagement

In all of the Partner States wildlife is widely distributed outside protected areas, including many key dispersal areas, breeding grounds and migratory routes. In such areas local communities are generally key players in determining wildlife and other natural resource uses. Local communities are recognized as primary stakeholders and beneficiaries in the conservation of wildlife, habitats, and protected areas within the Community.

There is therefore a need to give wildlife economic value to rural communities. Providing economic value for wildlife can enhance rural community development



without prejudicing ecological sustainability, so long as these benefits compensate for the opportunity cost to this land use. Developing local incentives for wildlife conservation based on wildlife's economic, but also cultural and other values, will be essential for the future of the wildlife sector in all Partner States.

Priority policy Issues

- Human-wildlife conflicts;
- Inadequate incentives for communities to tolerate the cost of living with wildlife, especially where there are issues of crop raiding and livestock predation;
- Conservation incompatible with cultural belief systems and vice versa;
- High poverty levels in and around conservation areas;
- Limited awareness about the values of wildlife amongst some policy makers and communities living with wildlife; and
- Limited sustainable livelihood options among local communities living adjacent to wildlife protected areas.

This Policy aims to address the above issues through the following policy interventions:

Policy statements

- i. Support efforts to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts;
- ii. Support innovative approaches and best practices for promoting harmonious co-existence between wildlife and people;
- iii. Promote and support alternative sustainable livelihood options for local communities in wildlife areas (including through development of the blue economy);
- iv. Promote and support improved (higher-value and sustainable) utilisation of wildlife resources; developing personnel skills, technology, and innovative and best-practice approaches;
- v. Promote and support active participation of local communities in wildlife conservation and management in the region, and education as to the benefits of wildlife; and
- vi. Promote and support fair and equitable sharing of wildlife benefits and resources with local communities in wildlife conservation areas.



4.3 Wildlife law enforcement

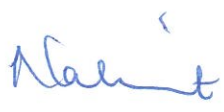
Poaching and illegal wildlife trade continue to be a significant threat in the sector. Despite considerable efforts by Partner States to build and equip their wildlife law enforcement authorities, inadequate personnel and lack of specialized training and equipment among wildlife law enforcement units continues to be a big concern. There is also the issue of inadequate cross-border and in-country coordination, law enforcement cooperation and sharing of critical wildlife crime information and forensics cooperation. Over the recent past, there has been a notable rise in scale and scope of wildlife crime - and a significant shift in the way this illicit trade is carried out in the region. There has been a marked increase in resources and sophistication in the crimes. More organised and better resourced criminal groups are becoming involved in wildlife poaching. This is partly driven by the existence of a ready and lucrative market for illicit wildlife products in Asia. The increasingly complex nature of these crimes necessitates a well thought out and collaborative regional approach to wildlife law enforcement.

The Partner States recognize the adverse economic, social and environmental implications of poaching and illegal wildlife trade and are already investing in strengthening their national and regional responses to the problem. Additionally, there is a consensus among Partner States that a collaborative law enforcement approach is needed to tackle the growing poaching and illegal wildlife trade problem in the region. To further this goal, there is a need for the Partner States to harmonize their approach to tackling poaching and illegal wildlife trade - based on the progressive conservation legislations that each country has in place.

Priority policy issues

- Inadequate national capacities on enforcement, investigation, and adjudication of wildlife crimes;
- Governance issues in the wildlife sector, including resource use conflicts, insecurity, political differences, refugee crisis;
- Disparities in national policies and laws across the region;
- Inadequate cross-border collaboration in wildlife law enforcement and management; and
- Inadequate intelligence information sharing among wildlife law enforcement agencies both at regional and national levels.

This Policy aims to address the above issues through the following policy interventions:



Policy statements

- i. Support the development of wildlife law enforcement, investigation and adjudication capacities;
- ii. Promote and support efforts to address poaching, illegal wildlife trade and trafficking;
- iii. Support efforts to strengthen national governance issues relating to wildlife management;
- iv. Support the harmonization of national laws and frameworks for managing wildlife across the region;
- v. Support regional collaboration on wildlife law enforcement, including intelligence sharing and joint initiatives;
- vi. Support periodic and strategic assessment and reviews of Partner State responses to wildlife law enforcement; and
- vii. Facilitate sharing of information and technology around wildlife law enforcement among Partner States.

4.4 Private-sector engagement

Wildlife in the Community draws local and international tourists who visit national parks, game reserves, conservancies, and other nature attractions - generating many economic opportunities along the tourism value chain. These economic opportunities generate direct and indirect benefits to local people and have multiple other economic spin-off benefits.

There are numerous opportunities in the wildlife sector for private entities to pursue businesses that realize attractive financial returns. Building on their progressive laws around wildlife and tourism the Partner States are eager to build mutually beneficial partnerships with private investors, aimed at advancing private sector led wildlife-tourism and at the same time promoting conservation. The Partners States are also keen to encourage public private partnerships (PPP) in wildlife tourism, as one of the many entry points for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth in the sector. To achieve these goals, however, there is a need for the Partner State governments to have more structured engagements with the private sector, based on full comprehension of private sector dynamism, concerns, risk and financial interest profiles. On the other hand, the private sector must recognize that the Partner State governments are looking to deliver economic and social benefits from tourism with minimal or no adverse ecological and social impacts.

Currently, the key challenges to private sector entry in the wildlife tourism sector include capital constraints, high business risks, high transactional costs, challenging regulatory environments and inadequate exchange of information between government and potential investors. This Policy seeks to enhance private sector and



Partner State partnerships - and to promote mutually beneficial and ecologically sound investments in the wildlife sector in the region.

Priority policy Issues

- Disparities in regulatory frameworks in wildlife and tourism sectors among Partner States;
- Challenges with capital and transactional costs associated with investments in the wildlife and tourism sectors;
- Risks associated with wildlife conservation and tourism sector investments;
- Insufficient information on wildlife and tourism sector investment opportunities and potential; and
- Few PPP opportunities in the wildlife conservation sector.

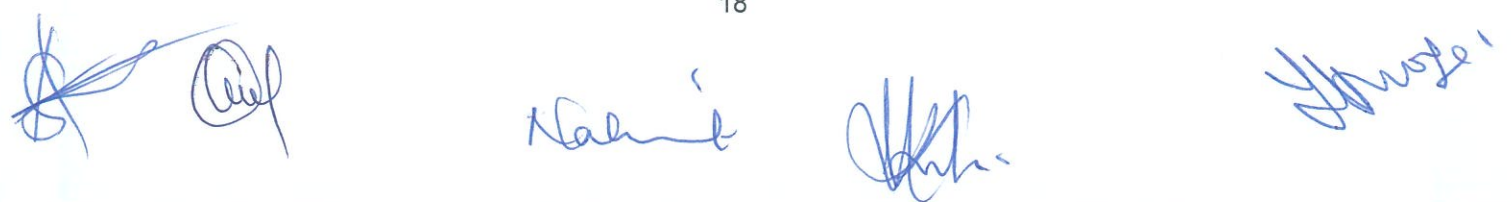
Policy statements

This Policy aims to address the above issues through the following policy interventions:

- i. Support and coordinate private sector involvement in conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife resources in the region;
- ii. Support the harmonisation of frameworks and policies for managing wildlife and tourism within the region;
- iii. Facilitate dissemination and sharing of information on opportunities and potential for private sector involvement in wildlife management and conservation;
- iv. Promote sustainable value chains in wildlife conservation and tourism;
- v. Promote efforts to address challenges and risks (perceived or real) for the private sector in investing in the wildlife and tourism sectors in the region;
- vi. Promote and support diversified, innovative and sustainable financing for wildlife conservation and management in the region; and
- vii. Promote and support PPPs in wildlife conservation.

4.5 Cross-cutting issues

A number of issues cut across the key themes addressed in this Policy, as set out below.



Priority policy issues

- Competing land uses, exacerbated by high human population growth rates. Such land uses include agriculture, mining, and infrastructure development, among others;
- Wildlife diseases, including the risk to humans from cross-transmission of zoonotic diseases;
- Climate change, which has not only affected wildlife habitats but also wild animal species directly;
- Disasters and crises that undermine wildlife conservation;
- Limited capacity on wildlife management - in terms of skills, equipment, personnel numbers and financing;
- Inadequate opportunities for women and youth within wildlife conservation and management sector;
- Bio-piracy due to low levels of research and development and limited knowledge about the resource values for wildlife; and
- Inadequate regulation and enforcement on use of agricultural chemicals that harm wildlife.

This Policy aims to address the above cross-cutting issues through the following interventions:

Policy statements

- i. Promote wildlife conservation as a competitive and viable alternative to other land-uses;
- ii. Promote collaboration and integration of wildlife issues into the management of other related sectors, including agriculture, mining, forestry, and infrastructure development;
- iii. Promote and support collaboration on addressing zoonotic diseases using one health approach;
- iv. Facilitate efforts to collaboratively address climate change and disasters that may impact the wildlife sector;
- v. Promote and support regional collaboration in wildlife research, training, and knowledge management;
- vi. Promote international best practices around wildlife conservation including the use of Environmental Impact Assessments, Environmental Audits and Strategic Environmental Assessment;



- vii. Promote joint participation and negotiation of wildlife related MEAs by Partner States;
- viii. Promote mainstreaming of gender and youth empowerment in wildlife conservation initiatives;
- ix. Promote and support education and public awareness on wildlife value and conservation;
- x. Promote and support diversified, innovative and sustainable financing for wildlife conservation and management in the region.
- xi. Support the establishment and re-construction of wildlife infrastructure, personnel and institutional capacity development;
- xii. Develop capacity for bioprospecting and ensure appropriate technology transfer;
- xiii. Ensure bioprospecting and access to genetic resources occur in strict compliance with relevant national and international law, including ensuring that benefits thereof, such as intellectual property rights, traditional knowledge and technology, are shared equitably;
- xiv. Promote and facilitate efforts to control and mitigate invasive alien species; and
- xv. Mainstream both climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in wildlife conservation and management

5.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

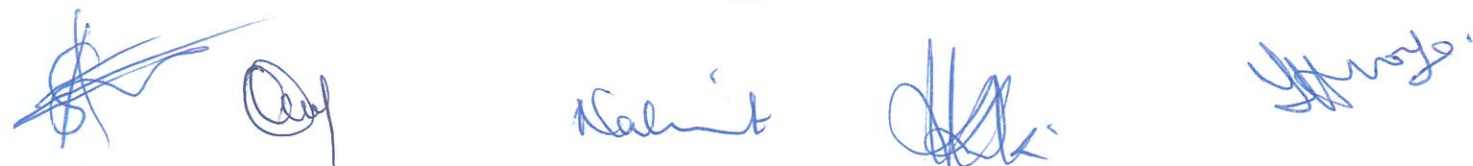
5.1 Approach to implementation

In implementing the Policy, the Partner States shall endeavour to:

- i. Give effect to the Policy as soon as reasonably practicable and actively participate in the same.
- ii. Take such policy, administrative and legal measures as are appropriate to give effect to the Policy, and enforce the same.
- iii. Cooperate, coordinate and harmonise with the other Partner States in preparing and taking implementing measures.
- iv. Continue to update their implementing measures to respond to changes over time and, in particular, in accordance with recommendations of the implementing institutions under this Policy.

5.2 Institutional arrangements

The Policy shall be guided by the Treaty for the establishment of EAC and attendant protocols and procedures guiding the implementation of programs in the Community.



The Policy shall be implemented by the following institutions:

- i. Partner States are responsible for implementing the Policy in their national jurisdictions and for collaborating towards its regional objectives.
- ii. EAC Secretariat shall work closely with the Partner States , in coordination, monitoring and providing technical support to the different actors in implementing the Policy. The Secretariat's responsibilities shall include to:
 - coordinate sectoral contact points and the efforts of Partner States;
 - support Partner States and key stakeholders in inclusive implementation of the Policy;
 - coordinate and support cooperation between the Partner States on harmonisation, enforcement, research and monitoring, transboundary wildlife resources, and all other policy issues and initiatives under the Policy;
 - coordinate and promote strategy(ies), programmes and other initiatives under the Policy;
 - ensure that complementary institutions, programmes, and initiatives in the region are included in the implementation processes for the Policy, and encourage synergies between them;
 - ensure that activities under the Policy are aligned to EAC instruments; and
 - promote awareness about the Policy.
- iii. Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management shall give overall policy guidance to the Partner States and provide oversight of implementation of the Policy. It should meet at least once a year to assess regional policy and development strategies, review activities of the Secretariat and any committee(s) carrying out functions under the Policy and consider amendments and updates to the Policy and any Strategy around the Policy.
- iv. Sectoral Committee on Wildlife Management shall meet at least once a year to discuss progress, issues and cooperation with the Policy and any applicable Strategy, including on efforts to coordinate with other sectors and stakeholders. It shall report to the Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management and Secretariat with meeting outcomes and such other technical guidance, recommendations or reports it considers to be appropriate.

The Partner States shall also consider establishing a wildlife sector coordinating unit to have primary responsibility for the coordination and management of the Policy and whole regional wildlife sector. It is envisaged that this unit will take over the role assigned to the EAC Secretariat in Sub-section 5.2 (ii) above as Secretariat and overall coordinator of the Policy, and will be given a similar role in relation to other regional wildlife initiatives. In the event a regional wildlife sector coordinating unit is

established, the EAC Secretariat will continue to play its core role to promote, coordinate, facilitate, monitor, and provide technical support for the Policy, as required and as may be agreed with the coordinating unit.

5.3 Implementation process

The Policy will be implemented by the institutions as described in Section 5.2 above, who shall give effect to the following processes.

5.3.1 Wildlife Management and Conservation Strategy

A strategy on wildlife conservation and management (the "Strategy") shall be developed to guide the implementation of the Policy. The Partner States shall ensure that the Strategy is developed as soon as reasonably practicable following approval and adoption of the Policy. The Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management shall recommend amendments to or replacement of the Strategy as and when it considers appropriate.

The Strategy shall include a detailed and specific action plan to implement the Policy.

5.3.2 Legal instruments and policies

The Policy has been prepared in consideration of the various legal instruments and policies already in place for addressing wildlife management and conservation issues in the region, as set out in Section 2 above.

Noting and taking full account of these existing arrangements and obligations, the Partner States shall:

- i. Create or amend their national policies, related instruments, and (where appropriate) laws concerning wildlife to give effect to the Policy, and to collaborate with the other Partner States to harmonise the same.
- ii. Collaborate to effect or amend regional instruments and efforts relating to wildlife in accordance with the Policy.
- iii. Collaborate to harmonise the Community's involvement in international agreements and instruments concerning wildlife in accordance with the Policy, including taking positions as a bloc pursuant to the Framework and in respect of any implementing arrangements.

5.3.3 Programmes and initiatives

Partner States may implement national and regional programmes and initiatives as required to deliver the Policy objectives (guided by the policy statements) and Strategy.

5.3.4 Research, monitoring, cooperation, and capacity building

a. Research, monitoring and evaluation

Partner States shall collaborate in conducting research, monitoring and evaluation of wildlife resources in the Community. Partner States shall accordingly:

- i. develop guidelines that set out harmonised methods and requirements for monitoring, evaluating, and regular reporting on wildlife populations; and
- ii. develop guidelines or such other initiative(s) as they deem appropriate to provide for collaborative research efforts.

b. Regional database

Partner States shall consider establishing a regional database on the status and management of wildlife. A regional data base should:

- i. comprise data on as many wildlife species as is feasible across the Community; and
- ii. be accessible to Partner States and to the general public, as long as and to the extent that it does not compromise the security of the States, stakeholders, or wildlife.

In respect of efforts to establish a regional data base, the EAC Secretariat (or such other body as may be given this role) should be empowered to:

- i. coordinate the establishment of the regional database, which shall compliment those already in existence;
- ii. coordinate and assist the Partner States and other stakeholders in assimilating surveys, wildlife databases and related efforts already in existence;
- iii. assist in efforts at the national level and co-ordinate efforts at the regional level to gather data for incorporation into the regional database;
- iv. coordinate the development of standard methodologies for wildlife inventories;
- v. serve as the clearing house mechanism for the regional database;
- vi. ensure that the regional database is linked with other appropriate databases in the Community and that it is accessible (without jeopardising security), and that data is stored safely in accordance with any applicable laws and regulations; and
- vii. perform any other tasks necessary for the establishment and proper functioning of the regional database.

c. Information sharing, knowledge management and other measures



Partner States may establish such other measures for information sharing and knowledge management in relation to the Policy objectives and Strategy as they deem appropriate.

d. Cooperation in wildlife law enforcement

Partner States shall ensure they have the necessary measures and resources in place for effective wildlife law enforcement.

In carrying out wildlife law enforcement, Partner States shall:

- i. co-ordinate with their designated international enforcement agencies (such as Lusaka Taskforce and Interpol);
- ii. exchange information concerning the illegal taking of, and trade in, wildlife and wildlife products;
- iii. co-ordinate efforts with wildlife law enforcement authorities (regional and Interpol) to apprehend illegal takers and traders and to recover and dispose of illegal wildlife products;
- iv. undertake any other initiatives which promote the effective and efficient enforcement of wildlife laws and regulations within, between and among Partner States.

e. Cooperation on all other Policy objectives

Partner States shall cooperate in the delivery of the Policy objectives, including to coordinate resources, information and efforts.

f. Capacity building

Partner States shall make efforts to, and cooperate in, capacity building for wildlife conservation and management. Such efforts should include:

- i. training programmes, recruitment, and general upskilling of experts and personnel involved in the wildlife sector;
- ii. joint training, programmes, and knowledge sharing in order to improve and harmonise capacity across Partner States in accordance with international best practices; and

integrating modern technology into wildlife conservation and management and striving to harmonise technological capacity and use across Partner States.

5.4 Participation and coordination of key Stakeholders

The EAC Secretariat and Partner States will engage with all relevant key stakeholders in the public, civil society and private sector towards the effective implementation of



the Policy. The key stakeholders will play distinct but complimentary roles in respect of the Policy, as follows:

5.4.1 Central governments

Whereas the procedures for implementing the Policy will be carried out and overseen by the Secretariat and Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management, respectively, Central Governments have primary responsibility for complying with the Policy in accordance with their Treaty obligations. Central Governments shall take all steps as may be required to give effect to this Policy and any applicable Strategy.

5.4.2 Local governments

The role of Local Governments will be to support the implementation of this policy as well as mobilise funds for wildlife conservation and development.

The local Governments will have a role to provide extension service and lead other agencies in the implementation of this policy in their areas of jurisdiction by formulating and enforcing by-laws as per EAC individual state, providing technical support and conservation education to communities and preparing development plans that protect wildlife resources and habitats.

5.4.3 Private sector

The private sector will need to play a substantial role in supporting governments in the conservation, development and sustainable utilization of wildlife resources through investment in the wildlife sector. The private sector is integral in providing, growing and sustaining economic value from the wildlife sector. The Community shall encourage the private sector to invest in the wildlife sector in a way that will benefit local communities as well as the sustainable use and management of wildlife resources. Governments shall provide guidelines and appropriate incentives, to create a conducive business environment for investment in the sector. Regulation of private investment shall work to promote transparency, market forces, environmental safeguards, and equitable business relationships.

5.4.4 Development partners

Development partners support the wildlife sector through the provision of technical and financial support, and are expected to continue to provide fiscal and technical resources for the implementation of the Policy.

5.4.5 Civil society organisations (CSOs)

Various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) have supported the sector through; wildlife management advocacy (community user rights and equitable sharing of benefits) and enhanced sustainable management and conservation of wildlife through creating awareness of the importance of conserving the wildlife resource, capacity building of the communities in wildlife management and established livelihood



projects to provide alternatives sources of livelihoods to communities living adjacent to wildlife areas. They will then continue to promote wildlife governance through public education, information dissemination and training of local communities on wildlife management and sustainable utilizations.

5.4.6 Communities

Given that there are significant wildlife populations in community areas, there will be emphasis on involving local communities into wildlife management issues. All the EAC the Partners States are committed to promoting equitable benefit sharing mechanisms between all the wildlife sector stakeholders. Local communities are also expected to support government efforts in the conservation, through indigenous knowledge, management, development and sustainable utilization of wildlife resources.

5.5 Financing

In accordance with the EAC financing mechanism, Partner State contributions and support from development partners will be the main sources of funding for the Policy. Additional sources of funding will also be explored with an emphasis on long-term, sustainable financing. These will include options to crowd-in private sector finance through innovative mechanisms such as PPPs, and from new initiatives including those arising from the main global environmental agreements.

6 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management shall guide and oversee monitoring progress with the Policy implementation.

The EAC Secretariat shall:

- i. Develop a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, with clear milestones and indicators for implementation of the objectives and actions in the Policy
- ii. Carry out routine monitoring and evaluation of compliance and progress of Partner States and key stakeholders with the Policy and Strategy.
- iii. Prepare and disseminate best practice guidelines for implementing the Policy and Strategy.
- iv. Produce an annual report of compliance, progress, and other matters relevant to the implementation of the Policy and Strategy.

The EAC Secretariat shall evaluate and report on the Policy every 10 years to assess its impacts on the EAC wildlife sector.