



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE HANOI CONFERENCE ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE**

**Hanoi, November 17 2016**

The Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade is held in Ha Noi, which endorsed prioritized actions in promoting the international community to combatting illegal wildlife trade of fauna and flora.

The Conference, chaired by Dr. Ha Cong Tuan, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, and attended by H.E Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Vice State President of Viet Nam;; H.E Sonxay Siphandone, Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR; the Duke of Cambridge and H.E Yury Fedotov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations; world leaders from 47 nations and heads of 07 international and UN agencies, commit to help save iconic species from the brink of extinction by implementing collaborative measures to combat illegal wildlife trade.

The Hanoi Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade is the third global high level conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade after the ground-breaking London (2014), and Kasane (2015) Conferences. The Hanoi Statement on Illegal Wildlife Trade carries the outcomes of these conferences into the future with a focus on international cooperation to implement commitments made in the London Declaration and Kasane Statement, through voluntary concerted actions proposed by those adopting the Hanoi Statement.

The illegal wildlife trade increases the risk of extinction for many endangered and rare species of wildlife, undermines sustainable development, adversely affects natural resources and rural communities, and generates illegal profits for international crime syndicates. Response to this complex global threat at the highest levels of government brings prominence to the global recognition that wildlife poaching and trafficking are serious crimes.

Governments agreed on the urgent need for actions; practical, comprehensive implementation of existing commitments is needed across the entire trade chain, including preserving wildlife populations and habitat, involving local stakeholders and promoting sustainable livelihoods, strengthening legislation and enforcement, and reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife in consumer markets. As such, delegates represented law enforcement, judiciary, wildlife services, conservationists, community groups, security experts, and academics.



*“Along with the commitments and statements, to ensure their sustainability we need to turn the commitments into practical field actions and create a mechanism to oversee the enforcement of these actions,”* remarked the Vice State President of Viet Nam.

Key states and UN agencies agreed to actions that will help eradicate the demand for wildlife products, strengthen law enforcement, and support the development of sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by wildlife crime.

These include:

- strengthening engagement with the private sector and online retailers to put in place measures to prevent the sale of illegal wildlife products;
- renouncing the use of products from species threatened with extinction;
- supporting Governments and financial bodies to detect, investigate, and disrupt money laundering and other financial crimes related to the illegal wildlife trade;
- strengthening cross-border co-ordination and support for regional wildlife law enforcement networks;
- engaging communities living with wildlife as active partners in conservation, through reducing human-wildlife conflict and supporting community efforts to advance their rights and capacity to manage and benefit from wildlife and their habitats;
- further analysis to better understand the links between wildlife crime and other organized crimes, and to explore links to terrorism.

The Hanoi Statement comes at a crucial time as demand for illegal wildlife products has risen sharply in the last decade. Viet Nam’s hosting of the event demonstrates the resolution of the nation in cooperating with stakeholders in the battle against the insidious and illegal wildlife trade.

The United Kingdom graciously announced that it will host a further Conference in early 2018 to review progress of proposed government actions and reaffirm commitments through implementing further initiatives.

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