

**Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, 17-18 November 2016,
Hanoi, Vietnam. Intervention by Mr. Paul Harrison, Global Adviser
on Wildlife Enforcement, United Nations Development Programme
(UNDP).**

Your Excellences,
Your Royal Highness, the Duke of Cambridge,
Honourable Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme, I give warm thanks to the Government of Vietnam for hosting this important conference on illegal wildlife trade and also thank the United Kingdom and Botswana for their great support to the process, building on important efforts born in London two years ago, sustained through Kasane, Botswana last year and reiterated today.

Illegal trade in wildlife has to be understood as the development, environmental, and security challenge it is. We know that action in this field has to be for both the short and the long term.

UNDP provides direct technical support to 130 countries in the field of biodiversity conservation, working closely with partners such as the Global Environment Facility in support to wildlife management, through support to protected areas, land use planning, community engagement and other comprehensive efforts in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation over a \$1.6 billion portfolio of investment. UNDP's work in tackling illegal wildlife trade utilizes our global presence and our expertise in governance, the rule of law, poverty eradication, and environmental protection generally.

UNDP is proud to be part of a Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development. In this we are working with the Global Environmental Facility, the World Bank, other GEF agencies, government agencies and other technical partners across 19 countries in Africa and Asia on a comprehensive programme of support to countries amounting to \$131million in total from the GEF alongside substantial co-finance. The *Global Wildlife Programme*, as it commonly known, will invest in tackling illegal wildlife trade through concrete country-level actions in Africa and Asia addressing governance, enforcement, education and sustainable livelihoods interventions as a means of tackling poaching and illegal wildlife trade. The first phase of country level support

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begins in early 2017 following an extensive preparation phase. The programme includes a global ports project addressing maritime trafficking where UNDP is working with the United for Wildlife transport industry taskforce, initiated by HRH the Duke of Cambridge, of which we are a proud partner.

Alongside the Global Wildlife Programme, UNDP is also working with its sister agencies - the UN Environment Programme, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and the CITES Secretariat - to support nations and local communities to tackle poaching and wildlife trafficking, and to reduce the global demand for illegally traded wildlife products. In May 2016, key UN agencies led by UNEP launched the [#WildforLife](#) campaign to raise awareness and we have more communications plans ahead. Now the UN agencies involved are initiating a new UN wildlife taskforce working on closer strategic and operational UN collaboration in addressing the multiple and interconnected aspects of illegal wildlife trade.

In conclusion, UNDP has hope that today's conference will generate even stronger actions, building on London, Kasane and other commitments to our shared objective of beating poaching and illegal wildlife trade. At UNDP, we will continue to do whatever we can to contribute and support the international community going forward, thank you.

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