

# OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR CHINESE ENTERPRISES TO ENGAGE IN BIODIVERSITY/WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN UGANDA



Author: Wildlife Conservation Society

June 29, 2017

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CAPTION: Attendees at the *Opportunities and Challenges for Chinese Enterprises to Engage in Biodiversity/ Wildlife Conservation in Uganda*

This report was made possible in part by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-15-00060 - WCS ("Prime Award") for the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) II: Hosting & Management Services, ("ABCG)" Program, dated September 22, 2015. The contents are the responsibility of the members of the ABCG and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

June 29, 2017

# Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group

## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR CHINESE ENTERPRISES TO ENGAGE IN BIODIVERSITY/WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN UGANDA

### A Workshop Summary Report

Program Title:	Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG II)
USAID Technical Office:	Bureau for Africa /Office of Sustainable Development
Cooperative Agreement No.:	AID-OAA-A-15-00060
Author:	Wildlife Conservation Society



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# I. INTRODUCTION

The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) is a coalition of seven US-based international conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with extensive field programs in Africa: African Wildlife Foundation, Conservation International, the Jane Goodall Institute, The Nature Conservancy, World Resources Institute, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). ABCG is supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to advance understanding of critical biodiversity conservation challenges and their solutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

ABCG's Emerging Issues thematic area builds on its position as a partnership with a strong field presence in priority areas across Africa by creating teams to analyse new threats or opportunities, and convening stakeholders in the U.S. and Africa to present data and catalyse discussion. By commissioning targeted one-year projects, ABCG identifies and develops strategies to respond to emerging issues that are likely to shape conservation priorities in the coming years, and influence the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation efforts in Africa.

China is the largest market for illegal wildlife products and the expansion of Chinese investment in Africa is increasing the opportunities and channels for wildlife trafficking. One promising strategy to address these threats directly is to engage with Chinese companies with operations in Africa that are at risk of exposure to wildlife trafficking. However, there are two major existing gaps to this approach: 1) active and positive engagement with Chinese companies to enhance positive environmental outcomes is still in its infancy; and 2) The Chinese central government has issued numerous policies and regulations promoting overseas sustainability which do not address wildlife trafficking in detail, thus awareness of these policies is poor among enterprises and implementation is low.

Through its Emerging Issues small grants, ABCG supported the WCS, in collaboration with WWF-TRAFFIC China, to address these two major gaps by developing a monitoring and implementation framework, including wildlife trafficking, which can enhance existing relevant guidelines or regulation/policy and lead to uptake and implementation by Chinese companies, African host country governments and civil society partners.

The project objectives were to:

- Increase understanding of the risks posed by Chinese investments to wildlife trafficking in African countries.
- Determine how wildlife trafficking links with existing Chinese government policy/regulation governing overseas sustainability and best practices across key sectors
- Determine the elements that lead to greater, improved uptake and implementation of risk-mitigation activities by enterprises in Africa.

This project identified two pilot countries, Uganda and Cameroon, for which WCS and WWF-TRAFFIC: a) mapped risk and opportunities for engaging Chinese enterprises in mitigating and managing wildlife trafficking; b) analysed Chinese policies and regulation governing Chinese overseas sustainable development to highlight existing and potential linkages to wildlife trafficking, review adherence to overseas policies/regulations and identify key challenges and effective enhancements for implementation; and c) developed new guidance for specifically addressing wildlife trafficking in sustainability guidelines. This guidance was vetted at a workshop convened to engage local stakeholders, government representatives and potential Chinese partner companies, and we will use their feedback to develop final recommendations to enhance implementation and effectiveness.

This project therefore capitalized upon a critical opportunity to mitigate wildlife trafficking out of Africa, leading the way in developing recommendations on best practices to be shared with development and conservation actors in Africa and internationally.

WCS engagement culminated in a workshop jointly hosted by the Chinese Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Uganda (CECCU) in June 2017 that attracted the participation of the Uganda Minister for Water and Environment, the Chinese ambassador to Uganda, and 15 Chinese enterprises. CECCU pledged to support biodiversity conservation, reject illegal wildlife trade and actively promote awareness on wildlife trade.

## 2. OVERVIEW

The workshop hosted by WCS and the CECCU, titled *Opportunities and Challenges for Chinese Enterprises to Engage in Biodiversity / Wildlife Conservation in Uganda* and originally, was held on June 28, 2017 at the Serena Hotel in Kampala, Uganda.

The workshop sought to present the ABCG project results and solicit feedback from stakeholders on approaches to engaging government agencies and the private sector (i.e. business enterprises, NGOs, academia etc.) on biodiversity, and environmental and social consequences of project developments, as well as examining our current level of experience of wildlife impacts arising from development activities. Most attendees were from government ministries, agencies, private sector actors (i.e. business enterprises of Chinese origin), civil society, oil and gas sector of Uganda and academia.

The primary objectives were to:

- Convene local stakeholders, government representatives and potential partner enterprises to present project results and solicit feedback
- Identify partners for capacity building in next phase whose increased engagement could significantly increase adoption of sustainable practices for wildlife conservation

The original objective was amended to include awareness of best practices from the already licensed oil and gas companies regarding management of impacts on biodiversity. The workshop was meant to offer

not only the opportunity for some biodiversity conservation stakeholders to exhibit their work, but also provide a unique opportunity for relevant actors to begin dialogue on issues which relate to training and biodiversity offsetting during project developments by business enterprises operating in Uganda.

The following is a participant summary:

**Key Guests:** (1) Hon. Dr. Goretti Kimono Kitutu, Uganda's State Minister for Water and Environment  
(2) His Excellency Mr. Zheng ZhuQiang, the Ambassador of the Republic of China

**Target Audiences:** Representatives of Government agencies, Chinese Enterprises, Civil society Organisations, licenced oil and gas sector Companies, Media groups

**Number of participants:** 71

**WCS attendees:** Dr. Simon Nampindo, Dr. Aili Kang, Dr. Grace Nangendo, Beatrice Kyasimiire, Zhuli, Maggy He Qijing, Paul Mulondo, Paul Hatanga, Philip Kihumuro, Elizabeth Kamara

The workshop was inaugurated by the Hon. Dr. Goretti Kimono Kitutu, Uganda's State Minister for Water and Environment. She reiterated the government's commitment to support all efforts that promote biodiversity conservation and ensure sustained life for ourselves and future generations including the development of a legal, policy and institution frameworks. The minister stressed the importance of biodiversity conservation and the need to minimize threats to wildlife conservation. She also spoke about the ongoing review of environment legislations and processes to come up with laws that will handle both the current and new emerging activities considered dangerous to biodiversity, making reference to "sand extraction"/mining which has greatly affected the breeding zones for several organisms such as fish, frogs and other reptiles thereby affecting the tourism and fishing sectors.



*The Hon. Dr. Goretti Kimono Kitutu, Uganda's State Minister for Water and Environment delivering her inaugural speech at the workshop. Photo Credit: WCS*

His excellence the Ambassador of China in Uganda, Mr. Zheng ZhuQiang appreciated CECCU and WCS hosting a workshop and their engagement in wildlife protection (see Appendix IV). Wildlife protection is about our common future. It features prominently in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides for the protection and restoration of ecosystems and its sustainable use in order to account for the loss of biodiversity.



As wild flora and fauna directly bear on the health and security of global ecosystems and our common homeland, their protection is critical to human civilizations and sustainable economic and social development. The international community should give priority to concerted efforts in the following areas:



*His excellence the Ambassador of China in Uganda, Mr. Zheng ZhuQiang delivers his keynote speech at the workshop. Photo Credit: WCS*

First, increasing law enforcement to combat the illegal wildlife trade. The entire process of production, trafficking, and selling should be covered by and subject to laws.

Second, taking a comprehensive and integrated approach to socioeconomic development. Development strategies and policies should ensure a synergy of development and the ecological environment and focus on green development and green life style.

Third, deepening international cooperation in wildlife protection. All countries must act together to fully implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and honor their obligations in this regard.

A pledge statement to support biodiversity conservation by Chinese enterprises was read by Mr. Ding, the head of CECCU. The pledge statement showcases the readiness of Chinese enterprises, and their commitment and willingness to support biodiversity conservation for the long-term and sustainable development of Uganda. In the statement by CECCU, three major promises were made (see Appendix III):



*Mr. Ding, the head of China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Uganda (CECCU) delivers his keynote speech. Photo Credit: WCS*

- i. Chinese enterprises will strictly abide by the relevant laws and regulations of both Uganda and China, and inform their employees of relevant laws and regulations. They will reject the consumption of endangered wildlife or wildlife products, avoid involvement in illegally trading endangered species and avoid other illegal acts destroying the habitat of endangered species.
- ii. Chinese enterprises shall actively undertake social and environmental responsibility. They will fully evaluate the biological environment in environmental assessments, and make efforts for wildlife conservation in investments, construction and trade.
- iii. They will further develop Chinese employees' sense of responsibility, and actively publicize the significance of wildlife conservation to the community. CECCU will actively report or fight against hunting and poaching, and call for more enterprises and individuals to raise awareness about wildlife conservation, and make contributions to Ugandan society.



*Dr. Simon Nampindo, the WCS Uganda Programme Country Director delivers a keynote speech at the workshop. Photo Credit: WCS*

Dr. Simon Nampindo, the WCS Uganda Country Director highlighted the biodiversity richness of Uganda's flora and fauna and pointed out key threats to biodiversity emphasizing that more effort is required to ensure biodiversity conservation for future generations. Among the threats he mentioned were increasing human populations encroaching upon protected areas, loss of habitat to agriculture and settlement, natural resource exploitation, infrastructure development, and poaching for bush meat and Ivory. He called for engagement with the business

sector as it has a significant impact on biodiversity loss. He also asked for enterprises to pay attention to tools that help improve environmental management and mitigate impacts as part of compliance responsiveness.

### 3. MAIN QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS

Included here are some discussion questions raised regarding the presentations during the workshop. Participants highlighted the prevalence of impacts on biodiversity due to natural resource exploitation citing oil and gas developments, mining, infrastructure (roads, rail Lines, buildings, airports etc.), hydropower dam constructions projects, etc. It was recognized though that resolution of these development projects' impacts will need the cooperation and actions of government and civil society as well as business enterprises/project developers. Some recommendations and actions were made for government and civil society in general, the key being adapting business approaches and helping to ensure positive outcomes in engagements with business enterprises for support of biodiversity conservation in Uganda and Africa. Participants emphasized the need for investors to seek partnerships with conservation experts in order for them to develop appropriate tools and approaches that are relevant for striking a balance between their targets for investment projects and requirements for sustainable environmental management and biodiversity conservation.

## 4. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The original concept was to provide a two day workshop and training on *Opportunities and Challenges for Chinese Enterprises to Engage in Biodiversity/ Wildlife Conservation in Uganda* in May 2017, but following scheduling conflicts for key stakeholders, the event was rescheduled and conducted on June 28, 2017. However, even then there were time constraints given that key participants mainly came from business enterprises and could not spend an entire day at a workshop due to prior commitments and a considerable expected attendance was associated with high cost implications (e.g for suitable venue in Kampala and other logistical requirements). These costs in turn proved higher than the budget allocated for the overall project implementation. The program was therefore trimmed to one-day and ultimately half a day, with transport costs refunded for Ugandan participants particularly government and CSO representatives. In practice, it was clear that the one day was not sufficient given the highly participative nature of the engagements and discussions and the amount of material to share therefore two days would have been more appropriate. The recommendations are:



*Presentation by Dr. Aili Kang, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Asia Programme Executive Director. Photo Credit: WCS*

- Ensure budgets are sufficient to provide enough time for future engagements and training workshops.
- Engage with CECCU to investigate whether it would be preferable to have awareness and capacity building workshops on a more regular basis.
- Investigate whether it would be preferable to schedule internal awareness and capacity building with Chinese enterprises directly based on their time schedules.

There were some comments received showing that participants would like to hear more regarding joint venture handling of cases of noncompliance of member companies under one umbrella organization (e.g CECCU) and what the response would be from the Chinese government to non-compliance by Chinese owned enterprises in Uganda.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Overall the workshop succeeded in bringing together several groups essential to preserving Uganda's biodiversity. Involving the Chinese government is important for ensuring that Chinese enterprises are accountable for their actions not only in Uganda, but in China as well. In Uganda, the CECCU serves the role of monitoring its member organizations and preventing them from engaging in illegal wildlife trade activities. The commitment of both the Chinese government and CECCU allows for better enforcement of the actions of Chinese enterprises. The workshop aside from informing Chinese enterprises about how to become more involved in biodiversity conservation also aided in the development of best practices which will be invaluable for future workshops.

## 6. APPENDIX I

### Workshop Agenda

Workshop Agenda, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Opportunities and Challenges for Chinese Enterprises to Engage in Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation in Uganda

中国企业在乌干达参与生物多样性、野生生物保护的机遇与挑战  
会议日程

Organizers: China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Uganda (CECCU),  
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

主办方：乌干达中资企业商会

国际野生生物保护学会

**Location: Katonga Hall, Kampala Serena Hotel**

Time 时间	Session 内容	Facilitator/Speaker 主持人/发言人
8:00-9:00	Registration 签到	CECCU/WCS
9:00-9:40	Welcome and introductions 欢迎致词及会议、嘉宾介绍	Zhuli Hess 国际野生生物保护学会

	Welcoming Remarks 嘉宾开幕致辞	
	Keynote speech from Ministry of Water and Environment, Government of Uganda 乌干达水利和环境部代表致辞	Dr. Mary Goretti Kimono Kitutu, Honorable Minister of State for Environment 乌干达水利和环境部国务部长
	Keynote speech from Uganda Chinese Embassy representative 中国驻乌干达大使馆致辞	The Chinese Ambassador to Uganda, His Excellency Zheng Zhuqiang 中国驻乌干达大使阁下
	Keynote speech from CECCU representative 乌干达中资企业商会代表致辞	Mr Ding, Head of CECCU
	Keynote speech from Wildlife Conservation Society 国际野生生物保护学会代表致辞	Dr. Simon Nampindo, Country Director, WCS Uganda 国际野生生物保护学会乌干达项目主任
9:40 - 10:00	Presentation and discussion: Biodiversity Conservation and its Challenges in Uganda 演讲与讨论：乌干达生物多样性保护和面临的挑战（Including 5 min Q&A, 包括提问时间五分钟）	Mr. Charles Tumwesigye, Deputy Director Field Operations, Uganda Wildlife Authority 乌干达野生动物管理局

10:00 – 10:30	<p>Presentation and discussion: Highlights of Uganda legal and regulatory framework for biodiversity conservation</p> <p>演讲与讨论：乌干达在生物多样性方面的法律法规框架简介</p> <p>(Including 5 min Q&amp;A, 包括提问时间五分钟)</p>	<p>Ms. Christine Akello Echokit, Deputy Director, National Environment Management Authority</p> <p>乌干达国家环境管理部</p>
10:30-10:40	<p>Tea Break 茶歇</p>	
10:40-11:05	<p>Presentation and discussion: ABCG and COMBO Highlights</p> <p>演讲与讨论：WCS在两个相关研究上的成果分享</p> <p>(Including 5 min Q&amp;A, 包括提问时间五分钟)</p>	<p>Beatrice Kyasiimire &amp; Zhuli Hess, WCS</p> <p>国际野生生物保护学会</p>
11:05 – 11:35	<p>Presentation and discussion: Best Practices of TOTAL and CNOOC for biodiversity conservation in Uganda</p> <p>案例分享：道达尔和中海油在乌干达参与生物多样性的正面影响</p> <p>(Including 5 min Q&amp;A, 包括提问时间五分钟)</p>	<p>Ms. Christelle Jenet, Head of Environment, TOTAL Exploration and Production Uganda, B.v., and Mr. Tianxu Duan, Department Head QHSE, CNOOC Uganda Limited</p> <p>道达尔和中海油</p>

11:35 – 12:00	Public statement of Chinese companies on “Wildlife conservation in Uganda” (including group photo) 集体承诺：参会中国企业代表将积极参与乌干达生物多样性保护事业	Uganda Chinese Embassy, Ministry of Water and Environment, CECCU
12:00-13:00	Buffet 自助午餐	Exhibitions: Conservation and Community Programs in Uganda 乌干达野生动物保护与社区项目一览
13:00-13:20	Chinese Investors’ CSR Practice and Image Building-A Must Do for Sustainable Development 案例分享：中国海外投资的企业社会责任和形象塑造——可持续发展的必经之路	Xinhua News Agency Yuan Qing 新华社
13:20 -13:50	Introduction and Case studies on the Mitigation Hierarchy 案例分享：如何在商业开发和建设项目中减少或者避免对生物多样性的负面影响	Beatrice Kyasiimire/Simon Nampindo, WCS 国际野生生物保护学会
13:50-14:00	Active engagement of enterprises in wildlife conservation - an action menu 案例分享：行动指南——企业如何积极参与野生动物保护	He Qijing, WCS China Program 国际野生生物保护学会



14:00	Closing 闭幕	WCS
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## 7. APPENDIX II

### Organizations in Attendance

ACODE
APOC Africa
CATIC
China Communications Construction Company Limited (U)
China Gezhouba Group Ltd. Uganda Office
China International Water & Electric Corporation (Uganda)
China Jiangxi International (U) Ltd
China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (Uganda)
China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Co., Ltd. Southen Africa Company
Chongqing Construction
CICOj
CNOOC Uganda
CP3
CWE
Ecotrust
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the republic of Uganda
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the republic of Uganda
IUCN
Huawei Technology (Uganda) Ltd.

Jane Goodall Institute
Makarere University (Forestry)
MOWE
Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA) of Uganda
MWE
National Environment Management Authority of Uganda
NIBS TV
Sinohydro - Southeast Africa Marketing Department Uganda section
Tian Tang Group
Total Uganda
UBFG
UG Sino-Watson Minerals
Uganda Biodiversity Fund
Uganda Conservation Foundation
Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority (UMRA)
UIA
WWF
Xinhua Uganda
Yanjian (U) Co., Ltd
Zhang's group
Zhongxing Telecommunication Equipment Corporation (ZTE) Uganda



**ABCG & COMBO TRAINING WORK SHOP  
PARTICIPANTS REGISTRATION FORM: 28th-June-2017**



Name/Title	Company/Organization	Telephone Number	Email	Signature
Wang Xuy	CR3	0786645178	37588462@22.com	
Nassah Fahiah	NIB-TV	0705868435	Phahiah23@gmail.com	
Imbe Ben	Kfu	0782448662	benara2002@yahoo.com	
Xyago Moses	WCS	0773525201	MYago@ug.edu	
DIANE Wochum	CICO	0772740656	cicowachum@gmail.com	
PATRICK KAMANDA	UNRA	0772952000	patrick.kamanda@unra.gov.ug pkamanda@gmail.com	
Elizabeth B. Kamara	WCS	0789952546	beth.kamara96@gmail.com	
Priscus Kibumuro	WCS	0781413057	pkibumuro@wcs.org	
Paul Murlondo	WCS	0775500285	Pmurlondo@wcs.org	
Kirama John Bosco	WCS	0772226002	bosco_kuma@yahoo.com	



WCS

ABCG & COMBO TRAINING WORK SHOP  
PARTICIPANTS REGISTRATION FORM: 28th-June-2017



SINOCHAM

Name	Organization	Telephone	Email	Signature
Stephen Asumu	PR1	0775132755	Stephen-asumu@fanne-flora-ug@mafcom.gov.ug	[Signature]
Domingo	China Embassy	0786380660	ug@mafcom.gov.ug	Domingo
Akasho Ruth Apusan	Uganda Conservation Foundation	0783471049	apusanruth@gmail.com	[Signature]
Christine Echoukuf	NEMA	0772595252	casello Echoukuf@gmail.com	[Signature]
XUE MING	UG SINO-WATSON MINERALS	0750555111	brightming33@gmail.com	[Signature]
ZHAO GUANWEN	YANTIAN (U) Co., Ltd	075662895	376983822@qq.com	[Signature]
Bruno OKWIR	NFA	0772673286	brunookwir@gmail.com	[Signature]
Mirembe Brenda	Jai - Uganda	0775319310	Brenda Mirembe 45@gmail.com	[Signature]
David OCHANDA	Total E&P Uganda	0794888221	david.ochanda@total.com	[Signature]
Wang Jun bo	CR3		2807372514@qq.com	[Signature]
Neebawu	UBF	0752802923	S. Kiwanuka E. ugalebi@pdi.veryfund.org	[Signature]
Seabos N. Kiwanuka	UBF	0772-971766		[Signature]

MPA2





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PARTICIPANTS REGISTRATION FORM: 28th-June-2017



MP43

	杨敏	CWE	0785287049	yangji@cwe.cn.	杨敏
	Panta Kasoma	JCU	0772587284	panta@jamesgoodallug.org	<del>Panta Kasoma</del>
	王冠 WANG WAN	CGGC	0787688836	cggcww@gmail.com	王冠
	Mark Infirjol	MWE	0782502308	mark@infirjol.in	Mark Infirjol
	丁建明	CCC	071210026	dingj-m-f@cccetd.cn	丁建明
	王冠	Huawei	0700006666	wanghwa@solu.com	王冠
	王文通	王冠 Tiantang	0703000025		王文通
	LUKEI LYN	Huawei	0751889139	lynlukei@gmail.com	LUKEI LYN
	Mirembe klinnie	KIAF	0779223946	mirembe@wufug.org mirembe@innid@glab.com	Mirembe klinnie
	Kaye Emmanuel	UIA	0776741000	ekaye@ugandainvest.org.ug	Kaye Emmanuel
	Tong Yimpeng	Huawei	0776717528	tongyimpeng@huawei.com	Tong Yimpeng
	CHARLES TUMWESIGYE	UWA	0772461908	charles.tumwesigye@uganda-wildlife.org	CHARLES TUMWESIGYE



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Name/Title	Company/Organization	Telephone #	Email	Signature
ZTE Lin Yang	ZTE	0776339789	LinYang@zte.com.cn	[Signature]
Zhao Xinfen	embassy			
DUAN TIANXU	CNMOOC	077278816		[Signature]
Yuan Bing	Xinhua	07875685	yuanyang511@gmail.com	[Signature]
Colin O'Leary	MoWE	077288962	OlearyColin@gmail.com	[Signature]
OWOR DOMISICHO	MTWA	0773336200	oworodom@gmail.com	[Signature]
Gerald EILU	Makerere University Forestry	0772642660	gerald.edu@gmail.com	[Signature]
Polycarp Mwima	IUCN	0772632697	Polycarp.Mwima@iucn.org	[Signature]
Pauline Nantongo	ECOTRUST	0772743562	Phantong@ecotrusters.org	[Signature]
Luyanzi Academic Director		0750888866	Wanyinof8888@gmail.com	[Signature]
Gonzalez BRIAN	Jonio Goodall Immature (JGI)	0700862375	gonzalezbrim88@gmail.com	[Signature]
Chen Xi Kun	Albatross	0777753023	Sifelyxikuna@gmail.com	[Signature]

## 8. **APPENDIX III Wildlife Conservation Pledge by China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Uganda (CECCU)**



### **Declaration on Uganda Biodiversity Conservation of Chinese Enterprises**

The conservation of biodiversity is important for the long-term and sustainable development of Uganda. Chinese enterprises have played a significant role in this regard over the years. In order to better perform the social and environmental responsibility, on behalf of its members, the China Enterprise Chamber of Commerce Uganda (CECCU) hereby solemnly promises:

I. Chinese enterprises will strictly abide by the relevant laws and regulations of both Uganda and China, and inform their employees relevant laws and regulations. Rejecting to any endangered wildlife and product consumption, avoiding involvement in illegal trade of endangered species and other illegal acts destroying the habitat of endangered species.

II. Chinese enterprises shall actively undertake social and environmental responsibility. Fully access the biological environment in environmental assessment, and make efforts for wildlife conservation in investment, construction and trade.

III. Further develop Chinese employees' sense of responsibility, and actively publicize the significance of wildlife conservation to the community. Actively report or fight against hunting and poaching, call for more enterprises and individuals to raise the awareness of wildlife conservation, and make contribution to the Ugandan society.

China Enterprise Chamber of Commerce Uganda (CECCU)

Witnessed by

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Uganda

Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

June 28th, 2017

## 9. APPENDIX IV

### **Speech by Ambassador Zheng Zhuqiang at the Wildlife Protection Workshop (28<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, Serena Hotel)**

Representatives of Government of Uganda,  
Members of China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Uganda,  
Members of Wildlife Conservation Society,  
All invited distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Uganda and Wildlife Conservation Society for convening this important workshop and for your engagement in wildlife protection.

Wildlife protection is about our common future. It features prominently in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides for the protection and restoration of ecosystem and its sustainable use in order to cover the loss of bio-diversity.

As wild flora and fauna directly bear on the health and security of global ecosystem and our common homeland, their protection is critical to human civilizations and sustainable economic and social development. The international community should give priority to concerted efforts in the following areas:

First, stepping up law enforcement to combat illegal trade in wildlife. The entire process from production to trafficking, to selling should be covered by laws and subjected to law enforcement.

Second, taking a comprehensive and integrated approach to socioeconomic development. Development strategies and policies should ensure a synergy of development and ecological environment and focus on green development and green life style.

Third, deepening international cooperation in wildlife protection. All countries must act together to fully implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and honor their obligations in this regard.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Chinese government attaches great importance to wildlife protection. China has built-up a nationwide wildlife protection regime based on a combination of practical laws, policies and measures. First, we have designated Nature Reserves and Natural Forest Protected Areas subject to special regulations and requirements. This has greatly improved the habitat of wildlife. Second, we have been improving legislation and law enforcement to ensure that there is no blind spot in regulatory measures and wildlife protection. Third, we have set up an effective inter-agency coordination mechanism to review and update our wildlife protection regime. These efforts have produced good results.

At the macro policy level, China's 13th Five-Year Economic and Social Development Strategy is centered on pursuing innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development. This provides overall guidance for bio-diversity protection projects, wildlife related import and export controls and combating illegal trade of wildlife such as ivory tusks. Effective from 2015, China has prohibited the import of ivory



and products, hunting mementos as well as ivory, antique. By the end of this year, China will close down the legal domestic commercial processing and sale of ivory tusks and products.

The vast African continent is home to rich wildlife resources. Cooperation with Africa is essential for wildlife protection. China is closely cooperating with African countries in this regard. In 2015, at the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, President Xi Jinping proposed Ten Cooperation Plans with Africa, including a Green Development Plan to bolster Africa's capacity for green, low-carbon and sustainable development. 100 projects were launched to support Africa in developing clean energy, protecting wildlife and improving its ecological environment. China has been working with South Africa, Kenya and others based on cooperation agreements to protect wildlife. To countries with rich diversity in wildlife species such as Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Botswana, China has provided container monitoring and wildlife protection equipment and personnel training. These efforts have greatly improved Africa's capacity building and law enforcement in wildlife protection.

As you may have noticed, recently there were media reports on H.E. President Museveni ordering investigation into Ugandan wildlife protection officials colluding with two Chinese diplomats in Uganda to smuggle ivories. The Foreign Ministry of Uganda put up a statement on June 12 saying that thorough investigation revealed that the two Chinese involved were not diplomats and expressing regret for the possible negative consequences this incident might have caused to the Chinese Embassy in Uganda. The Ugandan government reaffirmed its commitment to deepening bilateral friendship. The Chinese government commends the positive remarks made by the Ugandan side on clarifying the situation and reaffirming its commitment to strengthening bilateral friendship. We resolutely support Uganda and other African countries in handling relevant cases in strict accordance with law.

I want to stress again that the Chinese government officials, including officials working at China's diplomatic missions overseas, and visiting delegations for public affairs are under strict discipline requirements and regulations enacted by the Chinese government. They are strictly prohibited from buying, conducting transactions on, or carrying any endangered wildlife or their products. Once found, such violations will be dealt with firmly in accordance with law.

The same requirements apply to the personnel of Chinese enterprises in Uganda as well. I want to take this opportunity to call upon all Chinese enterprises staff to spontaneously boycott relevant illegal conducts in any forms and to make positive contributions to wildlife protection in Uganda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As eco-civilization bears on the well-being and future of mankind, we must foster a paradigm of every country, everyone belonging to the same community of a shared destiny and work together for our common eco-security and green development.

Thank you!