



**REMARKS BY HON. WILSON SOSSION,
THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE - KENYA
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE REGIONAL TRAINING ON
CONTROLLED DELIVERY**

17TH JUNE, 2023

SERENA BEACH RESORT & SPA, MOMBASA

Mr. Edward Phiri, Director, Lusaka Agreement Task Force

Mr. Rod Khattabi, The Chief Accountability and Justice Initiative Director of the Grace Farms Foundation and Ret. Special Agent, US Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

Other key Officials from the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage of the Republic of Kenya

Our instructors and resource persons:

- o Hamad Khamis Hamad, Commissioner of Police, Tanzania Police Force
- o Dr. Moses Otiende, Head of Forensics and Genetics Laboratory, Wildlife Research and Training Institute- Kenya
- o Eric Caron Ret. Special Agent, US Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

**Wesley Gold, CEO of Okoa Maliasili – Tanzania and Ret. British Army,
Royal Regiment of Scotland**

Participants from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda

Members of the Fourth Estate

Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon,

I am delighted to address you all at this important training on Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife Between Africa and Asia - controlled delivery module.

In the past one week, you have covered lots of ground on various investigative techniques ranging from controlled delivery, undercover surveillance, DNA analysis and forensic examinations, and I believe we have gained valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities in this field.

We have heard from experts that have shared their experiences and perspectives on the use of controlled delivery to combat illegal wildlife trade. We have learned that this approach can be highly effective in identifying and arresting perpetrators, disrupting criminal networks, and protecting wildlife populations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have also discussed the many dynamics and challenges involved in controlled delivery, including the need for international cooperation and collaboration, the difficulty of infiltrating criminal networks, and the risks involved in undercover operations.

However, despite these challenges, it is clear that controlled delivery is an integral tool in the fight against wildlife crime. We should continue to support and encourage its use, and to develop new strategies and technologies that can enhance its effectiveness.

In the same breadth, we have heard about the importance of sustainable solutions in addressing wildlife crime. We must also concertedly work to address the root causes of illegal wildlife trade, including poverty, lack of education, and greed. We should also raise public awareness and support for sustainable wildlife conservation.

We can conclusively attest that the effective fight against wildlife and forest crime can better be won with enhanced capacity and collaboration among agencies and states.

To this end, the Republic of Kenya reaffirms its commitment to the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora and will continue supporting its operational

arm, Lusaka Agreement Task Force, on such important capacity building initiatives.

This training, which provided an excellent opportunity to you, will be futile if you do not continue collaborating and fostering synergies towards stamping out the wildlife and forest crime in this region.

I am elated to learn that the Lusaka Agreement Task Force is working closely with partners to provide specialized training in digital forensics and analysis, including the provision of digital investigation tools and equipment to effectively investigate and curtail transnational wildlife trafficking. This exciting venture is a game changer in our collective strive to deploy technology and innovative solutions to addressing wildlife crime.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to profoundly thank the Governments of the three participating countries Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya for nominating and releasing your participants to attend this training.

I would also like to thank our instructors and participants for their valuable contributions to this training.

We are indebted to our partners Lusaka Agreement Task Force, Grace Farms Foundation, Tanzania Police Force, Wildlife Research and Training Institute-Kenya, Okoa Maliasili – Tanzania and ODPP Kenya for the technical support in organizing and providing resource persons for this training.

We salute our sponsors namely Global Wildlife Program, Global Environmental Facility, USAID and UNDP for their generous financial support in facilitating a series of these capacity building programs.

I congratulate you all for a job well done and urge you to continue lending support to such crucial programs.

Let us continue to work together to safeguard our natural heritage and the many species that depend on it for survival for the current generations and posterity.

I invite you to continue enjoying the warm hospitality of the Kenyan people and the many interesting things that Mombasa can offer during your stay.

I wish you all safe travel to your respective destinations.

It is now my pleasure to declare this training officially closed.

Thank you all and have a good evening.