

**SPEECH BY HON MORRIS DZORO, MINISTER FOR TOURISM & WILDLIFE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE RECEIVING OF THE DRAFT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY AND BILL FROM THE NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE AT KWS HEADQUARTERS, NAIROBI SAFARI WALK**

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**Honourable Assistant Ministers  
Members of the National Advisory Board  
The Kenya Wildlife Service Board of Trustees  
Director, Kenya Wildlife Service, Mr. Julius Kipng'etich  
The representative of USAID  
The National Steering Committee  
Distinguished members of the media  
Ladies and gentlemen**

On the 6th of July 2006, My Ministry officially launched a process to review the Wildlife Conservation and Management Policy and Legislation as contained in the Sessional Paper Number 3 of 1975, and the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, CAP 376 that was enacted in the year 1976, and amended in the year 1989. We are therefore assembled here today to receive the draft Wildlife Conservation and Management Policy and Bill from the National Steering Committee

Before we receive the draft documents, please allow me to thank:

- you all for attending this official handover ceremony
- the National Advisory Board which was chaired by My Permanent Secretary
- the National Steering Committee, who have worked harmoniously under the able leadership of Maj. Rtd William Kamunge
- the review consultants for their timely expertise and experiences and

- the over 5000 Wildlife stakeholders in Kenya and worldwide, who gave their valuable views on how Kenya should conserve and manage wildlife for the benefit of the present and future generations

I also want to take the earliest opportunity to thank USAID and the United States of America People for their support in the review process. American people have also supported our growing tourism sector by visiting our country in numbers. We urge USAID, other development partners and the Non-governmental Organisations to further support this review process to its logical conclusion.

In addition, I want to acknowledge that many of you in your own capacities and while representing your various organizations and constituencies have supported this review process directly and indirectly. For the many challenges we have faced and tackled together, please accept my sincerest appreciation.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Despite the numerous challenges, which the review process has encountered, we are pleased to note that:

- the National Steering Committee and the Review Secretariat have adhered to the road map I issued to them during the inauguration last year
- you have operated within the stipulated Terms of Reference
- you have managed to represent your stakeholders well in this review process so far and
- you have managed to work as a team despite your divergent views on most issues, which we believe you have captured in the draft wildlife policy and bill

Please receive my sincere congratulations for managing to agree to disagree agreeably on several issues, which form the basis of your daily endeavors. We further urge you to

prepare and support us when called upon in future and to specifically urge your constituents to support My Ministry as we move forward the draft wildlife policy and the bill.

We have been informed that various National and International Organizations including some Governments and individual members of the Review teams may have been portrayed in bad light in some media publications as a result of their participation in this review process. If this unfortunate incident happened, please accept our sincere apologies.

We believe that this may have occurred because of misinformation and the normal misunderstandings common in policy and legislation review processes as stakeholders jostle to air pertinent views. My Ministry and the review teams have tried as much as possible to make this review process as participatory as possible. The door is still open for views as the review process moves forward.

We encourage genuine, meaningful participation in wildlife issues by a cross-section of citizens because we believe that this is the best way to guarantee sustainability of wildlife in this country. Public support and appreciation of wildlife as a natural resource, will engineer proper citizen participation in the processes designed to guide conservation and management of our wildlife resources.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We therefore need a wildlife policy and law that will be owned and respected by all stakeholders and that will guide conservation and management of wildlife for the benefit of the present and future generations.

We believe the Review Teams have formulated workable policies and strategic options, and proposed the necessary legislation for the proper implementation of the policy statements. We believe you have tapped into your diverse expertise, experiences and commitments including those of consultants and well-wishers to enable us achieve the desired policy and legislation.

Once My Ministry receives the draft wildlife policy and legislation from the review teams today, we will:

quickly review the documents and put in place the necessary additional processes required for change of the current Wildlife Conservation and Management Act  
publish the government approved policy and bill in the daily newspapers for the wider public to review

prepare a sessional paper and forward the draft bill to the Attorney General for finalization once the government approves the policy and bill  
then table the sessional paper and bill in parliament

We urge the public to patiently wait and review the draft wildlife policy and bill once we publish in the media and then forward their views through their area members of

parliament who will debate and pass the policy and bill in parliament

I pledge to do everything possible to ensure that the current parliament debates and passes the wildlife sessional paper and bill. We urge you all to support and lobby for the acceptance of the policy and bill by all stakeholders

Immediately after the government gives the initial approval, My Ministry will put in place the necessary mechanisms for the development of an implementation plan for the new policy and bill. We also urge you to prepare to support implementation plans when called upon

### **In Conclusion**

I would like to encourage all of you here today to continue to make individual and collective contribution to conservation and management of wildlife. It is good to see that you have become friends and acquaintances despite your diverse backgrounds. We all know the importance of wildlife resources and specifically biological diversity, but we also have a growing appreciation of the value of diversity within our professional ranks.

To the Review teams, My Ministry, Kenyan's and indeed mankind the world over were sure and confident that you will deliver a useful draft wildlife policy and bill on time despite the numerous challenges. You have made us proud as a Ministry and indeed as mankind. We shall be proud to associate with you in future whenever an opportunity arises. I urge other Government policy makers to emulate what you have done in order to expedite the development of the necessary policy and legislation in this country.

May I now on behave of My Ministry, the Government and Citizens in general receive the draft wildlife policy and bill.

**THANK YOU**