



**LAUNCH OF THE REPORT ON OUTCOMES OF COURT TRIALS UNDER THE WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT, 2013
REMARKS BY WILDLIFEDIRECT CHAIRMAN- MR. PHILIP MURGOR**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honor to share this platform with the Director General of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Mr. Kitili Mbathi who has recently taken on the helm of KWS. WildlifeDirect has worked towards achieving conservation outcomes in Kenya with a great focus on public awareness most notably through our Television series with KWS and NTV called NTV Wild, and in the area of justice through our Eyes in the Courtroom Project which is generously funded by Save the Elephants.

When WildlifeDirect started Eyes in the Courtroom project in 2012, we had no idea how much our findings would contribute to reforms in the criminal justice system in Kenya. Our first report released in January of 2014 which many of you have seen, revealed that 70% of case files in our courts were missing or lost, and that fewer than 4% of convicted wildlife criminals were finding themselves in jail. This finding concluded that it was our habit of treating wildlife crimes as petty offences that made Kenya a safe haven for wildlife criminals. Not a single trafficker of ivory had been arrested despite the fact that Kenya was named as the country through which most ivory passed.

The findings were so shocking that in a press conference almost exactly 2 years ago, we were accused of many unkind things, but much has changed since then. Reforms have been implemented in courts and the prosecutions, and most importantly, a focus on rebuilding the KWS as the prime institution responsible for wildlife conservation

We are proud to present to you our second report, but before we do this I would like to introduce you to our team which includes our CEO Paula Kahumbu and young lawyers led by Liz Gitari – Liz will be taking you through the report shortly. This I should add is the only independent assessment of wildlife trials in Kenya and is based on actual records in 50 courts in the country over the past two years.

Before we get to those findings, we invite some of our partners and donors to say a few words about the war that we are facing on the frontline in the field, in courts, at ports, and in airports.

We recognize that it will take effective partnerships for us to eliminate the kind of wildlife crime in Kenya and we acknowledge the good work that is being done by many other partners in this field of wildlife crime. At WildlifeDirect we believe in Justice for Wildlife and we are proud to share with you the findings of the brave team that dares take on the work of bringing to justice, those who seek to destroy our wildlife heritage through crime.

Philip Murgor.