



**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**  
**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL**



Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015

TO: INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, UN AGENCIES, EMBASSIES AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS, NGOS AND PRIVATE COMPANIES

Subject: Call to Observe and Respect the Wildlife Laws of South Sudan

This circular serves to draw your attention to the conservation challenges facing South Sudan's wildlife resources, amidst the ongoing political crisis, as we continue with our partners to develop effective management systems and build foundations to ensure future realization of twin objectives of sustainable economic development and conservation of biodiversity in the country through ensuring protection of the natural heritage for the current and future generations.

South Sudan is faced with new challenges in its endeavor to conserve and manage its wildlife resources. In addition to the challenges of the ongoing conflict, the spread of unlicensed firearms amongst different warring parties and rural populations continue to threaten and decimate the remaining wildlife populations within a short period of time given the current increase in the level of commercial poaching, trafficking and trade in wildlife products, posing one of the biggest threats to our wildlife populations.

As a measure to reduce further decline in wildlife populations and work towards their recovery, an important management decision was undertaken by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to place a moratorium **on hunting, trade in wildlife products and capture of/trade in live wild animals**. The National Wildlife Service of the Ministry of Interior and Wildlife Conservation is hereby reiterating this position, enforcing a complete ban on commercial hunting and trade in wildlife products. This ban makes commercial hunting, trade, or consumption of wildlife products (including eating bushmeat and purchasing/selling of ivory) illegal and a violation of the laws of the Government of South Sudan. Such unlawful practices conducted by any party carry legal implications and may result in arrest of suspect, prosecution, seizure and confiscation of any means of asset, equipment or conduit used to commit such an offence; including vehicles found transporting the wildlife products.

Over the years, commercial bushmeat hunting and trade offenses have been committed in South Sudan not only by private citizens and vehicles, but also by certain international NGO and UN personnel and infrastructure. It is our collective duty to ensure that these types of activities are halted. We ask for your cooperation to ensure that the wildlife laws of the Government of South Sudan are respected and upheld within your respective organizations by both national and international staff.

Thank you in advance for your immeasurable material and moral support in creating conditions necessary for the development of wildlife conservation and management in South Sudan.

Yours sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Philip Chol  
Director General, South Sudan National Wildlife Service,  
Ministry of Interior and Wildlife Conservation  
Government of South Sudan, Juba



CC: Hon. Minister, Ministry of Interior and Wildlife Conservation, GoSS, Juba  
CC: Hon. Deputy Minister, MIWC  
CC: All International Agencies, UN Agencies, NGOs and Diplomatic Corps