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**Poaching and Wildlife Conservation in Africa**

**The 10th multi-disciplinary conference by Kipchumba Foundation; it will be convened online on Thursday 29 November 2018** **from 15.00 GMT to 17.00 GMT**

**Introduction**

Wildlife conservation has been dubbed a very important heritage issue about Africa. However, poaching of the five major rare species such as rhino and elephant that are the pull of tourists that earn Africa foreign exchange has intensified in recent times. Poaching of elephants and rhinos for ivory that is a valuable in international markets for making jewellery and other souvenirs has compounded the challenge. China has been earmarked as a major destination for smuggled ivory from Africa, for example, and Chinese government has enhanced efforts towards curbing the same but has slackened in recent times. There are both bilateral and multilateral efforts towards combating poaching and ivory smuggling. There are also several local and international legislations put in place to combat the menace; however, poaching is continuing and endangering the survival of the indigenous species.

Part of the reason given for continued poaching of rare species especially for ivory has been poverty around wildlife conservation areas, collusion by both Government officials and both local and overseas business people. Poachers have been innovating their tactics in many ways. For example, killing wildlife protection personnel, smuggling through territories with less stringent rules and regulations for ivory trade, dismantling ivory into small pieces that can fit into different small packages and transited as private luggage, using official Government vehicles that are less susceptible to police searches on the road blocks among others.

This conference, therefore, aims at learning on approaches to curbing poaching and enhancing wildlife conservation in Africa.

**Themes**

* Historical development of wildlife conservation
* The challenge of poaching and wildlife conservation
* Wildlife conservation and climate change
* The politics of wildlife conservation
* Economic imperatives of wildlife conservation
* Anti-ivory legislations
* Ivory markets and supply chains
* Poaching and the role of international community
* Can Africa effectively combat poaching?
* What is the damage of poaching so far?
* Are the instituted mechanisms against poaching working?
* Skills and manpower gap in wildlife conservation