19th December 2012

HRH The Duke Edinburgh

Dear Sir,

CHRISTIAN FAITH STATEMENT ON WILDLIFE TRADE
FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN FAITH LEADERS.

We know from the Bible and from our belief in God as Creator (Genesis, Chapters 1, 2, 9) that all life on Earth has been created in love and that God values and delights in every aspect of His Creation (Job, Chapters 38-40). We also know that Adam was given responsibility to name all the creatures (Genesis, Chapter 2: 18-20) and therefore to have a special protective relationship with them. In the covenant with Noah and all human descendants, God promised not only to protect humanity but also "everything that flies in the sky, crawls or walks upon the Earth and swims in the seas". We therefore believe and know that it is part of our divine responsibility to ensure that our side of the covenant is kept and that all creatures are protected.

When we look with eyes of faith at the wonders of all that God has created: at the strength of the lion, the beauty of the gazelle, the swirling patterns of the birds of the air and the fish in the waters. When we see the flowers of the field greater in their beauty than even Solomon in all his