

FOREWORD

By Eugene Lapointe, Former CITES Secretary General (1982-1992)

Western propagandists have provided a distorted view of African conservation challenges to audiences around the globe. So, I welcome the fact that Emmanuel Koro's Western Celebration of African Poverty sets the record straight. Western Celebration of African Poverty is a courageous defence of the sovereign rights of all nations and the sustainable management of wildlife in Africa. It is also well written and persuasive.

The book delves deeply into the complexities of conservation decisions that impact mostly poor, powerless people in rural communities. Unlike Mr Koro's opponents, who view African wildlife through the prism of naïve, romanticized aesthetics, he argues for scientifically justifiable hunting quotas and for policies that support the sustainable use of the land for the benefit of humanity.

Animal rights organizations have, argues Mr Koro, committed violations against human rights in Southern African nations. The influence of well-funded animal rights activists in NGOs, he says, also does nothing to enhance the conservation of endangered species in Africa. He suggests that the animal rights lobby is actually harming conservation efforts and undermining economic development in Africa.

This book explains and supports, as do I, the conservation policies favoured by Southern African governments. Mr Koro's spells out how their recommendations are rooted in practical experience and insight into the real-life realities in Africa. In this regard, *Western Celebration of African Poverty* questions the legitimacy of Western NGOs and their allied governments to interfere in wildlife management issues in the underdeveloped world. Perhaps a tad unwisely, I, along with many others, had thought that we would soon abandon the morally repugnant colonial mentality.

But Mr Koro dismisses such complacency. He notes that, in some cases, racism played a more than trivial role in the development of major international conservation policies. It also resulted in the prohibitions on wildlife trade that have been imposed on unwilling African states.

Western Celebration of African Poverty has something for everyone who cares about wildlife, wild places and human dignity in the developing world. I cannot recommend this book highly enough. Kudos Mr Koro.

Eugene Lapointe

Lausanne, 16 December 2019 Eugene Lapointe is the Switzerland-based IWMC-World Conservation Trust President

HOW TO ORDER THE BOOK

Copies will be available for sale in January 2020.

The book will initially be sold as a hard copy (paper back)

The electronic version will be available in February 2020.

Book price: US\$10 each, excluding shipping Autographed copies US\$15 each, excluding shipping

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