

الشيخ الدكتور/قريب الله الشيخ محمد النا صر كبير (مالم كبر)

شيخ الطريقة القادرية فى النيجيريا وغرب افريقية

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FAITH STATEMENTS ON WILDLIFE TRADE FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN FAITH LEADERS

Allah has made known through the Qur'an and via the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) in the Hadith that He is the creator of all life on Earth and indeed in the Universe (Sura 4:171; 21:19). We also know from the Qur'an that Allah has placed humanity in the role of Khalifa - Vice regent on Earth (Sura 2:30; 6:165). We know that on the Day of Judgement we will have to answer before Allah as to how well we conducted ourselves as *Khalifas* for life on Earth (Sura 6:73). We know also from the Qur'an that all creatures live in community (Sura 6:38) and we know from the Hadith, where the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) stopped people tormenting a mother bird by taking her young that Allah forbids the infliction of unnecessary pain and suffering on other living creatures. As *Khalifas* we have the right to use nature but not to abuse it.

When we look with eyes of faith at the wonders of all that Allah 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 colours and smell the sweet scents flowers of the field we should rejoice that Allah has placed us in the midst of such a glorious world. Therefore, when we see this glory diminished by our sin, greed and foolishness, we should be horrified and speak out against this wanton destruction of the wonder that Allah has created. We should both repent and seek to do all in our power to protect all that Allah has created and placed within our care.

In the light shed by the Qur'an and by the Hadith we call upon all the *Umma* of the faithful to remember that on the Dreadful Day of Judgement, we must answer for any wasteful use of creation, any destruction of a part of nature that was not necessary.

We therefore ask all the faithful to protect those species in our own lands that are most threatened, such as the elephant, gorilla and rhinoceros, and to assist in the prevention of poaching and the illegal wildlife trade in order that on the Dreadful Day of Judgement, when the community of creatures stand before Allah, we will not be condemned by their words.

The richness of this world is a gift and a blessing from Allah. May we in turn be a blessing to all that Allah has made and given to our care.

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