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Statement on the Enactment of the Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Act, 2026

African Parks South Sudan welcomes the signing into law of the *Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas Act, 2026* by H.E. President Salva Kiir on 18 February 2026. This landmark legislation represents a historic milestone for conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development in South Sudan.

The Act provides a clear and comprehensive legal framework for the management, conservation, and protection of wildlife and protected areas across the country. Its enactment strengthens governance structures and reinforces South Sudan's commitment to safeguarding its natural heritage for present and future generations.

We particularly welcome the Act's emphasis on the following key areas:

1. **A Strong National Conservation Framework** – Establishing structured guidance for the protection and management of wildlife and protected areas nationwide.
2. **Recognition of Wildlife as National Wealth** – Affirming wildlife as part of South Sudan's natural heritage and national development agenda.
3. **Clear Governance of Protected Areas** – Providing legal clarity on the administration and management of national parks, reserves, and conservation landscapes.
4. **Stronger Controls on Hunting and Wildlife Trade** – Enhancing regulatory measures against poaching, illegal hunting, and illicit wildlife trade.
5. **Community Participation and Benefit Sharing** – Promoting inclusive conservation by ensuring local communities play an active role and benefit from sustainable use and eco-tourism initiatives.
6. **Enhanced Regulatory and Enforcement Powers** – Empowering the designated wildlife authority to issue permits, regulate activities, and enforce compliance effectively.
7. **Professional Conservation Management** – Supporting structured ecosystem preservation, species protection, and responsible environmental management within protected areas.

For African Parks in South Sudan, this legislation provides a strengthened legal foundation to support long-term conservation partnerships, professional park management, and sustainable financing models. It enhances our ability to work alongside government and communities to protect biodiversity, restore ecosystems, combat wildlife crime, and promote responsible tourism that contributes to national economic growth.

This Act sends a strong message nationally and internationally that South Sudan is committed to conserving its extraordinary wildlife and natural landscapes. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Government, local communities, and development partners to implement the Act effectively and ensure lasting conservation impact.

Media Contacts and Resources

For interviews and imagery

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