



FUTA NEWS

STOP WILDLIFE CRIME -EXPERT

Greed, corruption and lack of enforcement of wildlife laws have been given as reasons for the perpetuation of wildlife crime. This was articulated in a seminar presented by Mr. Alade Adeleke, a wildlife expert and former Director, Nigeria Conservation Foundation, during the Wildlife Day Celebration held at Theodore Idibiye Francis auditorium, Federal University of Technology, Akure.

Speaking on the topic: Wildlife in the scheme of global trade: The implication of wildlife crime, Adeleke said that the world wildlife day is an annual reflection on the importance of wildlife and biodiversity to the welfare and knowledge development of mankind. The wildlife expert decried the exploitation of vulnerable animals and plants to extinction for monetary profit. Citing Nigeria as a transit country he noted that wildlife products are basically fashion items such as crocodile skin shoes, turtle shell and ivory jewelries giving the crash in population of Nigerian elephants and the open display of ivory products in the Nigerian market.

Speaking further, Mr. Adeleke attributed the contributing factors of wildlife crime to the weak enforcement of wildlife legislation as perpetrators are organized and operate in syndicates. He stressed the need to raise public awareness to condemn poaching and raise issues in trade of endangered species. He also called on the government to enact penalties that would constitute credible deterrents and the fortification of law enforcement both at Federal and State levels. He urged graduates to focus on the enterprise component of biodiversity, noting that wildlife was becoming economically viable.

In a welcome address, the Head, Department of Ecotourism and Wildlife Management, FUTA,

Professor Adebisi Adeyemo said “Crime against wildlife is more severe in the developing than in the advanced countries. Poverty, ignorance and bad government policies have greatly contributed to crimes against wildlife in the developing countries;” In view of this, he called on all and sundry to fight it to a standstill.

In his address the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Academic) Professor Adedayo Fasakin said wildlife crime is facilitated by corruption and called for the enlightenment of all sections in the society involved in the consumption of wildlife. He called for the preservation of the endangered species and opposed their indiscriminate killing because of their importance to human existence.