African Wildlife Foundation elects new president

Kaddu Kiwe Sebunya from Uganda has been elected as new president of the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF).

Kaddu Sebunya, president of
African Wildlife Foundation

Sebunya will focus on advancing a clear policy agenda for wildlife as part of Africa's future, ensuring the continent's blueprint for development and growth includes space and protections for Africa's natural heritage.

"I am excited to be stepping into the role of president at a time when Africa's economies are surging, and when important decisions are being made as to how Africa should manage its natural resources responsibly and with accountability," said Sebunya. "The continent is undergoing a profound change, and we must help to guide this change so it benefits Africa's people and wildlife."

Focus on conservation

Sebunya began his career serving as a project manager with WaterAid and as a relief programme officer with Oxfam UK. Beginning with his post as the associate director for the United States Peace Corps in Uganda, Sebunya's career began to focus more on conservation. He later served as a country programme coordinator with the World Conservation Union - now the International Union for Conservation of Nature, or IUCN - and as a senior policy and planning advisor for Conservation International.

In 2006, Sebunya moved to Washington DC and became AWF's director of programmes. He developed and implemented a legislative programme to engage US lawmakers on issues affecting conservation and development in Africa. In 2013, he became chief of party for the USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Programme before transitioning to AWF's president.

Sebunya received his Bachelor's degree in Social and Political Science from Uganda's Makerere University and a Masters

of Science degree in Sustainable Resource Management and Policy from London's Imperial College. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in Law, Policy and Diplomacy from Tufts University's The Fletcher School.