[Mrs./Mr./Dr. Name, Surname]

Minister for Environment

[Address]

Country

Date

[Dear Name of Minister],

We share solidarity with you in the global efforts to curb the current Covid-19 pandemic. We are writing to introduce you to the work of the African University of Cambridge Conservation Leadership Alumni Network (UCCLAN), and to bring your attention to our attached position statement on “The Influx of Plastic Waste by International Fossil Fuel and Chemicals Companies into Africa”.

The African UCCLAN, a section of the global UCCLAN, comprises over 40 environmental leaders in 18 African nations. We represent a voice for change, provide input into African policy processes and advocate for lasting conservation impact for a better planet.

We feel that you are uniquely positioned to help [name of country] based on the great work you are doing in saving the environment. Based on our position statement, we are of the view that African countries need to be on guard and stand their ground on the refusal of imports of plastic waste into the continent. This is even more urgent since China has banned importation of plastic waste since 2017 displacing an estimated 111 million metric tonnes (Mt) of plastic waste by 2030.

According to our position statement, “if plastic manufacture and use increase, by 2030 greenhouse gas emissions could reach 1.34 gigatons yearly. This is equal to the emissions of over 295 new 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants.” Plastic debris is harming biodiversity on land and in our water bodies and microplastics pose a threat to human health and our food resources.

We advocate for a transition to sustainable alternatives from virgin plastics for single use and novel ways of living and working that do not rely on virgin plastic products.

Considering the foregoing and for more elaboration, we encourage you to read our position statement and we are keen to continue dialogue with your department about how we can help address plastic pollution and transition from plastic dependence in [name of country]. We would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Awoyemi

African Coordinator UCCLAN

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