



**An overview of the Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora**

**A Presentation to Timber Enforcement Meeting**

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# Background

- The Lusaka Agreement was adopted in 1994 and became operational in 1996
- The Task Force was launched on 1st June, 1999
- Six Party States (Congo(Braz), Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia)
- Three signatories to the Agreement (Ethiopia, S. Africa & Swaziland)

# Objectives of Lusaka Agreement

- ❖ To reduce and ultimately eliminate illegal trade in wild Fauna and Flora
- ❖ To establish a permanent Task Force for the purpose



# Obligations of the Task Force

- Facilitate cross-border co-operation
- Exchange of information and intelligence
- Enhancement of Wildlife law enforcement capacities
- Investigations of crime with approval of Parties
- Development and maintaining of database

# Previous situation

- Illegal Trade was rampant and on large commercial scale – caused great losses to the economies and presented a serious threat to survival or conservation of many endangered species
- No structure in which such matters could be handled except through Interpol-ICPO
- Cross-border operations were difficult to undertake and accomplish



# Achievements

- A number of capacity building programmes organized by LATF have been undertaken in the Party States
- Party states have partially equipped their law enforcement units
- Enhanced joint cross-border operations; For example: Singapore seizure and the arrest of a notorious reptile trafficker in Kenya in the year 2002.
- The Task Force has recommended that the Forest legislations in most of the Party States to be reviewed with a view to include local community participation in the management and utilization of the forest resource
- Co-operation among other law enforcement agencies

# Challenges

- Excessive demands from the consumers – available markets, good money
- Wildlife crime not taken seriously by legislators and judiciary
- Low penalties as incentive (risks vs successes)
- Corruption
- Abuse of power and authority
- Forgery of documents
- Inadequate investment in law enforcement (financial and human resources)

# Challenges (Cont.....)

- Lack of co-operation and coordination between and among law enforcement agencies (national, regional and international level)
- Increased traffic of goods and people across international boundaries
- Civil wars and influx of refugees
- Commercial exploitation of forests for timber
- Other socio-economic factors: poverty and failure for alternatives

# Way Forward

- Exchange and sharing of information
- Adopt and support modern technology (forensic technology)
- Review outdated legislation
- State and International community to co-operate through regional and International agreements/conventions
- Efforts on training, general environmental awareness, crime control, exchange of information/knowledge and technical support

# Eliminate Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

