



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND MUTUAL  
SUPPORT IN CONSERVATION OF WILD FAUNA AND  
FLORA**

BETWEEN

**THE CENTRAL AFRICAN FORESTS COMMISSION (COMIFAC)**

**AND**

**THE TASK FORCE FOR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT  
OPERATIONS DIRECTED AT ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILD FAUNA AND  
FLORA (THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT TASK FORCE)**

## PREAMBLE

The **Central African Forests Commission** (hereinafter referred to as "COMIFAC", represented by its Executive Secretary, **Mr Raymond Mbitikon**, on the one hand,

And

The **Lusaka Agreement Task Force** (hereinafter referred to as "LATF"), represented by its Director, **Mr Bonaventure Ebayi**, on the other hand,

Hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Parties".

**In view of** the 17 March 1999 Declaration signed by the Heads of States of Central African countries, known as the "Yaoundé Declaration", in which the Heads of State officially declared their commitment to working in a concerted way for the conservation and sustainable management of the tropical forest ecosystems in Central Africa;

**In view of** the Treaty on Sustainable Management and Conservation of Central African Forest Ecosystems signed in February 2005 in Brazzaville, Congo, by Heads of States in the sub-region, in accordance of which the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) was established;

**Taking note of** the mandate of COMIFAC as a policy and technical institution charged with steering, harmonizing, decision-making and coordinating sub-regional actions and initiatives in matters of conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa;

**Taking note of** the Lusaka Agreement on Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (Lusaka Final Act) signed in September 1994;

**Further taking note of** the COMIFAC sub-regional Convergence Plan adopted in February 2005 and its three-year Operations Plan 2009-2011, which defines the priority actions to be implemented with a view to achieving conservation and sustainable management objectives;

**Considering** that Article 18 of the above Treaty provides for the signing of collaboration agreements between COMIFAC and other regional and sub-regional organizations in pursuit of its missions;

**Considering** that the Lusaka Agreement provides for the establishment of a regional law-enforcement body, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) charged with facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Agreement;

**Considering further** that the Lusaka Agreement, which is open for accession to all African States, was adopted to promote effective cooperation among Parties in addressing cross border crime in wild fauna and flora in Africa;

**Taking into account** that the Lusaka Agreement Task Force is also a regional inter-governmental organization fighting illegal trade in wild fauna and flora within and across borders in Party States thereby contributing to sustainable management of biodiversity;

**Taking note** of the status of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, both as an executing organ and as a Secretariat;

**Further taking note** of the bilateral Cooperative Agreements and the respective memoranda of understanding to enhance cooperation and networking entered between the Lusaka Agreement Task Force with the Secretariats of ICPO Interpol, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Organization for Conservation of African Wildlife (OCAW-OCFSA).

**Conscious** of the negative impact of illicit exploitation of forest resources on biodiversity, the close connection between poaching and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora and the necessity to reduce and ultimately eliminate illegal trade in wild fauna and flora;

**Recognizing** that to effectively fight wildlife crime, cooperation between the two organizations as well as their respective expertise is necessary, especially in the trans-boundary areas, through information sharing, cooperative actions and the exchange of experiences among African States are essential to reduce, eliminate or eradicate these vices;

**Eager** to promote an effective technical collaboration and cooperation that will permit the two institutions to attain their common objectives, especially in undertaking activities aimed at the fight against poaching and the elimination of illegal trade in wild fauna and flora within the Sub-Saharan region;

**Pursuant** to the mutual desire to collaborate in the field of natural resource and environmental management, the Parties hereby agree as follows

**Article 1: Objective of the Memorandum**

The main objective of this Memorandum is to facilitate and strengthen co-operative efforts between the Parties in fulfilling their respective mandates and achieving goals of common interest.

**Article 2: Collaboration in Technical Areas**

**In order to fulfil the objective of this Memorandum, the Parties will:**

- (a) Collaborate through joint activities aimed at fighting illegal logging, poaching and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora in Africa, notably through dialogue or constant consultation, continuous sharing of information that pertain to illegal activities in wild fauna and flora;
- (b) Develop an effective framework for dialogue and joint activities to enhance their awareness and increase operational capacity respectively;
- (c) Utilize their respective experiences gained from the fight against illegal logging, poaching and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora so as to achieve more effective success on the ground;
- (d) Jointly mobilize resources that will be used to combat illegal logging, poaching and illegal trade in wild fauna and flora;