

LATF/BGC2/9.3



LUSAKA AGREEMENT TASK FORCE

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND BUREAU MEETING OF THE 9TH GOVERNING
COUNCIL OF THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT HELD AT THE LAICO REGENCY
HOTEL
NAIROBI, KENYA – 16TH OCTOBER 2009**

**LUSAKA AGREEMENT ON CO-OPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS DIRECTED
AT ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILD FAUNA AND FLORA**

“FIGHTING WILDLIFE CRIME IN AFRICA”



Delegates of the Second Meeting of the Bureau of the 9th Governing Council, held at the Laico Regency Hotel Nairobi, Kenya -16th October, 2009

LATF/BGC2/9.3

1. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of the 9th Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement held its second meeting at the Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya on 16th October 2009. The Bureau meeting was preceded by a one-day Experts Meeting that reviewed the Task Force reports and proposals as well as other substantive matters for consideration and adoption by the Bureau.

2. ATTENDANCE

Present at the meeting were Bureau Officers from the Republics of Tanzania, Congo and Uganda who are President, Vice- President and Rapporteur of the 9th Governing Council respectively. Also in attendance were experts from these respective Parties.

The list of participants to the Bureau meeting is attached as *Annex LATF/BGC2/9.3.1*

3. OPENING OF THE MEETING, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

(a) Opening Session

The Bureau meeting commenced its proceedings at 1200 hours with remarks by Mr. Bonaventure Ebyai, the Director of the Task Force. In his remarks, he recognized the presence of Hon. Ezekiel Maige (MP) the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism of the United Republic of Tanzania and the representative of the President of the 9th Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement, Honourable Henri Djombo (M.P), the Minister for Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment of the Republic of Congo and Vice President of the 9th Governing Council and Hon. Serapio Rukundo (MP) Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities of the Republic of Uganda and Rapporteur of the 9th Governing Council.

LATF/BGC2/9.3

Mr. Ebayu outlined the achievements of the Task Force since the 9th Governing Council meeting held in October 2008 to 30th September 2009. This included Law enforcement operations, Administrative and financial matters, Capacity building programmes, Development of partnerships and expansion of membership to the Agreement. He stated that despite the success, there were a number of challenges that impeded the effective implementation of its planned programmes which included inadequate funding. He appreciated the funding support received from the Party States and cooperating partners such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), ICPO-Interpol, Global Technical Limited (UK) and the Forest Bureau-Council of Agriculture (COA) of Taiwan. The Director's welcoming remarks are attached as *LATF/BGC2/9.3.2*. He then invited Honourable Ezekiel Maige (MP) the representative of the President of the 9th Governing Council to give his welcoming remarks and to officially open the Meeting.

In his remarks, Honourable Maige (MP) recognized the presence of Honourable Ministers and Technical Experts. He emphasized that wildlife crime had reached unprecedented levels evidenced by the reports of widespread poaching as well as seizure of large quantities of wildlife contraband and reiterated that effective cooperation was a key ingredient in addressing this problem. He commended the Task Force for having successfully conducted its programmes particularly on key international investigations and capacity building despite limited resources available. He also commended the Task Force for continued collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and further recognized the integral role Parties continue to play in the implementation of the Agreement. He noted that inadequate financial resources, a problem that was exacerbated during the global economic crisis, has been a key impediment in the implementation of the Agreement. In this regard, he lauded the partners especially the donor community for having supported the Task Force in realizing some of its planned activities during the previous year and urged them to continue offering their support. He called for concerted efforts in protecting Africa's natural resources which is under serious threat and reiterated the

LATF/BGC2/9.3

need to strengthen cooperation in fighting wildlife crime. He ended by wishing all delegates fruitful deliberations.

Hon. Ezekiel Maige then officially opened the meeting at 1200 hours. His speech is attached as ***LATF/BGC2/9.3.3***

(b) Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting adopted the following Agenda without amendments.

1. Opening Session:

- (i) Welcoming Remarks by the Director, Lusaka Agreement Task Force
- (ii) Opening Remarks by the representative of the President LAGC –
Hon. Ezekiel Maige (M.P)

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Presentation of the Experts' Report, Recommendations and Proposals for consideration and approval

4. Remarks by the Governors/Bureau Officials

5. Decisions of the Bureau of the Governing Council

6. Any Other Business (A.O.B)

7. Closure of the Bureau Meeting

(c) Organisation of Work

Rules of Procedures of the meetings of the Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement were used as appropriate to conduct this meeting.

LATF/BGC2/9.3

4. PRESENTATION OF THE EXPERTS' REPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Chairperson of the Experts meeting Mr. Erasmus Tarimo presented the Experts report which had been discussed in detail by the Bureau officials during the Briefing Session held earlier. The report highlighted the deliberations by the Experts, recommendations and proposals which crystallized in the decisions for consideration and adoption by the Bureau of the Governing Council.

The Experts report is attached as *Annex LATF/BGC2/9.3.4*

5. REMARKS BY THE GOVERNORS/BUREAU OFFICIALS

Hon. Henri Djombo (MP), Minister for Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment, of the Republic of Congo and Vice President of the 9th Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement commended the Task Force for splendid work during the period under review. He noted with appreciation the ongoing investigations in Congo which were being coordinated by the Task Force in partnership with the National Bureau. He further applauded the Task Force for the initiatives to develop an MOU with the Secretariat of the Commission of Forests of Central Africa Forests (COMIFAC). He reiterated the need for Parties to continue fulfilling their obligations to the Agreement and supporting the Task Force as it grows from strength to strength. He indicated that issues related to funding need to be urgently addressed and that Congo has put in place a plan to settle the arrears and the outstanding contributions in the near future. He fully supported the proposal to undertake the 15th anniversary celebrations of the Lusaka Agreement and offered that Congo hosts and co-facilitates the event. He finally thanked the President for successfully presiding over the meeting.

LATF/BGC2/9.3

Hon. Serapio Rukundo (MP), Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities of the Republic of Uganda and Rapporteur of the 9th Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement in his remarks reaffirmed Republic of Uganda's commitment to continue supporting the Agreement. He urged the Task Force to continue promoting the Agreement for purposes of attracting other African countries to enlist as members as well as continue to be more innovative in sourcing for funding avenues to support its operations.

Hon. Ezekiel Maige (MP), Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism of The United Republic of Tanzania and the representative of the President of the 9th Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement stated that the United Republic of Tanzania is fully committed to supporting the Lusaka Agreement. He confirmed that Tanzania had indeed fully met its financial obligations to the Agreement and reiterated that it will continue doing so. Hon. Maige urged the Task Force to take advantage of the current move on global funding for Environmental initiatives such as Climate Change to secure long term financial support.

6. DECISIONS OF THE BUREAU OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

The representative of the President of the 9th Governing Council at the Bureau Experts Meeting Mr. Erasmus Tarimo presented the Decisions for consideration by the Bureau of the Governing Council. After discussions and clarifications made by the Bureau, four decisions were adopted. The four Decisions on Programme of Work and Budget of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, Proposals comprising settlement of unpaid dues to the staff of the Task Force and review of the Task Force travel allowances as well as their corresponding supplementary budget, Celebrations of the 15th Anniversary of the Lusaka Agreement and Disposal of the 6.5 tonnes contraband ivory seized in Singapore in June 2002 are appended to this Report in *Annex LATF/BGC2/9.3.5* as **Decisions BGC2/IX/1, IX/2, IX/3 and IX/4** respectively.

LATF/BGC2/9.3

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items discussed under this agenda.

8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The representative of the President Hon. Ezekiel Maige gave his closing remarks by expressing his gratitude to all for the achievements made at the meeting and called for concerted measures to ensure that the decisions made are implemented expeditiously. He further directed the Task Force to continue following up on settlement of contribution arrears with the affected Parties and reconfirmed that the Bureau will play its cardinal role in this respect. He assured the meeting of the Bureau's full support to the Task Force and other organs of the Agreement in fulfilling the goals of the Agreement. He congratulated all for a job well done and wished them safe journeys back to their destinations. After the usual exchange of courtesies and compliments, the Bureau Meeting was officially closed on 16th October 2008 at 1430hours.

His closing remarks are attached as *Annex LATF/BGC2/9.3.6*
