

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
THE TASK FORCE FOR CO-OPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT  
OPERATIONS DIRECTED AT ILLEGAL TRADE IN  
WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (LUSAKA AGREEMENT TASK FORCE)  
AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

RECOGNIZING that offences against criminal legislation, particularly the unlawful taking of and trading in specimens of species included in the CITES appendices, are prejudicial to the planet's natural heritage and to the economic interests of States;

RECOGNIZING also that international and regional co-operation is essential to protect endangered species of wild fauna and flora;

TAKING account of Resolution Conf. 9.8 (Rev.), adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Fort Lauderdale, United States of America) and amended at the tenth meeting (Harare, Zimbabwe, June 1997), which directs the CITES Secretariat to pursue closer international liaison between the Convention's institutions, national enforcement agencies, and existing intergovernmental bodies, particularly the World Customs Organization and ICPO-Interpol;

TAKING account also that Resolution Conf. 9.8 (Rev.) directs the CITES Secretariat to assist in the development and implementation of regional law enforcement agreements;

BELIEVING that increased co-operation between nature conservation authorities and law enforcement authorities will increase the effectiveness of implementation and enforcement of the Convention;

THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT TASK FORCE AND THE CITES SECRETARIAT have agreed as follows:

1. In order to strengthen the co-operation between them, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the CITES Secretariat will send each other general information of common interest.
2. The Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the CITES Secretariat will invite each other as observers to meetings of common interest that they organize.
3. To combat the illicit trafficking in and taking of species listed in the CITES appendices, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the CITES Secretariat will jointly draft and implement, each in its own field of competence, measures to improve collaboration, co-operation and information exchange between law enforcement authorities and CITES Management Authorities.
4. The CITES Secretariat will provide the Lusaka Agreement Task Force with information to help its member States better understand the importance of

issues related to the trade in specimens of fauna and flora and the implementation of the Convention.

5. The Lusaka Agreement Task Force will provide the CITES Secretariat with information to give nature conservation authorities a better understanding of the Task Force's role.
6. The Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the CITES Secretariat may jointly devise publications and other promotional material to raise the awareness of and inform the authorities responsible for combating wildlife crime.
7. The Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the CITES Secretariat may jointly devise training materials on combating wildlife crime and will, within the limits of their respective resources, organize joint training activities for Police and other enforcement officers, or participate in relevant training seminars for enforcement personnel.
8. The Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the CITES Secretariat will exchange details of training programmes for Lusaka Agreement member States and, provided that there is sufficient interest and there are adequate resources, will endeavour to ensure that Task Force issues are tackled in CITES training, and that CITES issues are tackled in Task Force training. Subject to the resources available, and where appropriate, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the CITES Secretariat will do their utmost to ensure that trainers from each organization participate in, or contributed to, the training activities of the other.
9. The CITES Secretariat will send the Lusaka Agreement Task Force all the information and intelligence relating to infractions against the Convention in its possession that it considers appropriate to send. The CITES Secretariat reserves the right to communicate information solely for the use of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force that must not be released to other agencies without the prior approval of the Secretariat.
10. The Lusaka Agreement Task Force will **work** in close co-operation with the CITES Secretariat to disseminate to the relevant enforcement authorities and CITES Management Authorities general information on the taking of and trafficking in specimens of CITES-listed species of wild fauna and flora and, with the prior approval of the authorities concerned, may communicate to the CITES Secretariat information on violations of national laws for the implementation of the Convention, including any final results of investigations into such violations.
11. Any information received by the CITES Secretariat from the Lusaka Agreement Task Force will be processed and stored by its Enforcement Assistance Unit and will be treated as strictly confidential. Such information will not be released to any person or organization without the prior approval of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force.
12. The Lusaka Agreement Task Force may seek information from the intelligence database maintained by the CITES Secretariat's Enforcement Assistance Unit but may not release any information obtained without the consent of the CITES Secretariat.

13. The Lusaka Agreement Task Force and CITES Secretariat will co-operate in the collection of data relating to specific areas of wildlife crime, to enable better targeting of enforcement efforts and the dissemination of intelligence.
14. The Lusaka Agreement Task Force and CITES Secretariat recognize the vital role of CITES Management Authorities in implementation of the Convention and, wherever possible and appropriate, will seek their co-operation in the joint activities of the two organizations.
15. Each organisation will nominate a contact person who will be responsible for liaison between the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the CITES Secretariat and who will assure implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the CITES Secretariat undertake that nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding removes the obligation for each organization to maintain current lines of communication with member States and Parties. This Memorandum will take effect on the date of signing and may thereafter be cancelled by either signatory organization by giving notice to the other in writing at any time.

Signed:.....

Signed: .....

Willem W. Wijnstekers  
Secretary General  
CITES Secretariat

Adan Dullo  
Director  
Lusaka Agreement Task Force

Date: 11 April 2000