

Lusaka Agreement Task Force on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (LATF)



Region and countries of the network

Member states: Congo Brazzaville, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia
Signatories: Ethiopia, South Africa and Swaziland

Authorities involved

Wildlife Authorities, Forestry Authorities, Customs, CITES, Police and Public prosecutions authorities

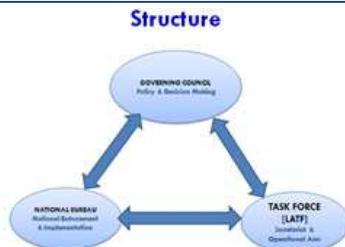
*Formal network
Intergovernmental
Agency*

Brief description

LATF is an intergovernmental law enforcement Agency established in 1999 headquartered in Nairobi Kenya. It is the Secretariat and operational arm of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Lusaka Final Act 1994. The Agreement was adopted in Lusaka, Zambia in 1994 and is open for accession to all African states. LATF is mandated to combat transnational illegal trade in wild fauna and flora mainly through fostering inter-state cooperation and collaboration among agencies. It has achieved significant milestones in bridging source, transit and destination countries of wildlife contraband through executing and coordinating national, regional and multi-regional enforcement operations, undertaking capacity building programmes, gathering and sharing of relevant intelligence, carrying out investigations into violations of wildlife and forestry laws, and facilitating compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and biodiversity related conventions.

(Reporting) structure / decision-making process

LATF establishes a three tier institutional structure: Governing Council, National Bureau and the Task Force



Key activities

LATF's key function is to deliver specific support to strengthen the capacity of Member States to prevent, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate crimes involving species of wild fauna and flora . It aims to create stronger regional approaches and collaborative platforms to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking within it's member states and African region as a whole. LATF's activities involve the following:

- Gather, analyze and disseminate intelligence about wildlife security to member states and partners;
- Execution of enforcement operations to dismantle poaching and wildlife trafficking syndicates regionally and globally;
- Investigating into violations of national laws;
- Promoting compliance with MEAs and other internationally agreed protocols/regulations on exploitation and trade in wild fauna and flora.
- Promoting trans-national and multi-regional wildlife law enforcement mechanisms as well as international cooperation among enforcement agencies
- Implement capacity development initiatives in member states such as provision of specialized enforcement training and equipment, promoting inter agency collaboration through inter agency workshops, holding of cross border wildlife security meetings

Key partners in the region

CITES Secretariat, WCO, ICPO INTERPOL Secretariat, UNODC, Regional Centre for Small Arms (RECSA), COMIFAC secretariat, OCFSA, ASEANWEN, India Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, China NICECG, FAW and Freeland Foundation, AFF, EIA, TRAFFIC, AWF etc.

Website and other useful links

lusakaagreement.org, www.kws.go.ke, www.ugandawildlife.org, www.mota.gov.zm

Network focal points

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