

DECISIONS OF THE 6TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

DECISION VI/1 - DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONISATION OF WILDLIFE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Reiterating its earlier decision (IV/1) urges the Parties on the need to harmonize national wildlife enforcement management laws and regulations,

Appreciating that some Parties have started the processes of developing or strengthening wildlife laws and regulations,

1. Calls upon the Director of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, in cooperation with the National Bureaus, to conduct annual surveys of illegal trade in wild fauna and flora to establish levels and extent of the problem which will be the basis for determining classification of Endangered Species;
2. Calls also upon the Parties to speed up the processes of review, developing and strengthening wildlife laws and regulations to incorporate the provisions for the operations of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force;
3. Further calls upon the Parties to undertake measures to harmonize wildlife laws and regulations with those of the other Parties to the Lusaka Agreement to ensure comparable punishment for similar violations and listing of wildlife offences as extraditionable offences;
4. Requests the Director of the Task Force, to collaborate with the Executive Director of UNEP and other Partners, to assist the Lusaka Agreement in developing, harmonizing and strengthening of wildlife laws and regulations of the member states;
5. Further requests the Director of the Task Force, to collaborate with the Executive Director of UNEP to convene expert wildlife law workshop(s) to follow up on the strengthening and harmonisation of the wildlife laws of member states;
6. Calls upon the Director of the Task Force to report on the process of implementation of this decision at the seventh Governing Council Meeting.

DECISION VI/2 - INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING

Commending those Parties that have fully established or designated operational National Bureaux,

Appreciating the commitment of the Task Force in providing relevant wildlife data and information, including technical expertise to the National Bureaux and contributions to the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement,

Appreciating further the capacity building activities, in particular, training programmes undertaken by the Task Force for the National Bureaux and Task Force Officers,

Appreciating similarly that some Parties have already established independent wildlife protection funds,

Taking note that one Party State, the Kingdom of Lesotho, is yet to nominate its Law Enforcement Officer to be seconded to the Task Force and that efforts towards that nomination are under way,

Acknowledging the need and importance of capacity building, including training in wildlife law enforcement for the effective implementation of the Lusaka Agreement,

Appreciating the generous contributions made by donors and partners to enhance the capacity of Enforcement Officers and in the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement,

1. Calls upon the Director of the Task Force to continue assisting and facilitating the establishment and strengthening of National Bureaux;
2. Reiterates the earlier request (Decision IV/2(2)) to the Parties to undertake necessary measures at national level to develop an independent wildlife protection fund to enable the Parties to adequately fund operations of the National Bureaux and contribute to the running of the Task Force;
3. Requests the Director of the Task Force, to collaborate with the Executive Director of UNEP and other partners, to undertake concerted measures to continue assisting and supporting the Task Force in its capacity building programmes, including national institutional building capacity;
4. Further requests the Director of the Task Force to continue undertaking periodic law enforcement awareness training programs for other relevant agencies;
5. Further requests the Director of the Task Force to initiate concerted outreach programme(s) to publicise the work of the Task Force;
6. Calls upon the Director of the Task Force and the Parties to report on the implementation of this decision at the Seventh Governing Council meeting.

DECISION VI/3 - BUDGET AND PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR LUSAKA AGREEMENT TASK FORCE 2003/2004

Noting that the present financial results are based on an eleven-months' operation, it is desirable that the annual Governing Council Meeting be held at the end of a complete financial year,

Noting with appreciation the Director's Report on Task Force activities for the year 2002/2003, the Programme of Work for Task Force for the year 2003/2004, and acknowledging the support by some of the Parties and donors,

1. Approves the proposed work budget for the year 2003/2004 at US\$ 900,823;
2. Further approves assessed contributions by each Party to the Task Force's budget for the period at US\$ 150,137;
3. Expresses gratitude to the Parties that have, on a timely basis, paid their dues and calls upon Parties that have not paid to do so soon, as a matter of urgency;
4. Commends donors and partners for the invaluable financial, material and moral support, given to the Task Force, for the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement;
5. Expresses special appreciation to the Executive Director of UNEP for financial and material support and urges the organization to continue in the same spirit;
6. Directs the Director of the Task Force to intensify fundraising efforts from partners and potential donors.

DECISION VI/4 - NATIONAL BUREAUS AND NOMINATION OF FIELD OFFICERS

Having considered the reports of the Parties on the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement at national level and commending the Parties that have fully established or designated operational bureaux,

Taking note that the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia need to nominate a Field Officer each,

1. Requests the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia to nominate respective Field Officers who shall be deployed as determined by the Bureau of the Governing Council;
2. Calls upon the Kingdom of Lesotho to establish and designate a National Bureau and notify the Director of the Task Force as soon as possible.

DECISION VI/5 - CO-OPERATION WITH PARTNERS

Noting that the Lusaka Agreement is open to all African States, it is now desirable that more eligible states become parties,

Observing that some difficulties exist when Parties seek full collaboration with non-party states on matters related to enforcement of wildlife law,

Appreciating efforts made by the Director of the Task Force to continue sensitising other African States, especially through collaboration in training and law enforcement operations,

Further noting that some African non –Party States have shown interest in becoming parties to the Lusaka Agreement,

Noting that bringing other states on board is a matter of concerted effort of current Parties,

1. Calls upon the Ministers responsible for the implementation of Lusaka Agreement to continue undertaking, individually and jointly, efforts aimed at encouraging other African Governments to join the Lusaka Agreement;
2. Further calls upon the Parties and the Task Force, to collaborate with non-party states, on common enforcement cross-border matters;
3. Further calls upon the President of the Governing Council to undertake specific efforts towards expanding the membership of the Lusaka Agreement;
4. Calls upon Parties and the Director of the Task Force to report on implementation of this decision at the Seventh Governing Council Meeting.

DECISION VI/6 - EVALUATION OF THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT.

Noting that the Lusaka Agreement is about ten years old and should be evaluated,

Appreciating the kind offer of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate the funding of this independent evaluation through the Task Force,

Realizing the need for the long term planning of the work of the Task Force and implementation of the Lusaka Agreement,

1. Requests the Executive Director of UNEP, in co-operation with the Director of Task Force, to initiate the process of carrying out an independent review of the work of the Task Force and the impact of the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, since its adoption in September 1994, and to make recommendations for the enhancement of the Task Force and the Lusaka Agreement;
2. Requests the Director of the Task Force to develop a strategic plan of action for the implementation and enforcement of the Lusaka Agreement at regional and national level in the short, medium and long term;
3. Requests the Director of the Task Force to report on the implementation of these decisions at the Seventh Governing Council meeting.