

Media Contact:  
Edward Phiri  
edward@lusakaagreement.org

## LUSAKA AGREEMENT TASK FORCE CONVENES A MULTI-AGENCY WORKSHOP TO CURTAIL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN UGANDA



*The Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities-Uganda, Honorable Kiwanda Godfrey Ssuubi (fourth from right), shaking hands with Edward Phiri, Director of Lusaka Agreement Task Force*

**Nairobi Kenya – February 5, 2020** – Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) in collaboration with the Grace Farms Foundation (GFF) and Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) convened a three-day multi-agency workshop in Kampala, Uganda this week, to deliberate on modalities for strengthening the newly created National Wildlife Crime Coordination Taskforce (NWCCTF) and train local law enforcement officers on techniques to combat wildlife crime in Uganda. During the workshop, members of the Tanzania National Anti-poaching Task Force espoused on Tanzania's success story in combating poaching and wildlife trafficking and shared valuable lessons with NWCCTF..

Participants included 30 key representatives and law enforcement officers from LATF, NWCCTF-Uganda, Robert Mande, Chairman of the National Anti-poaching Task Force of the United Republic of Tanzania and GFF. Other participants included US Homeland Security Investigations. The workshop is the latest in a series convened by LATF locally and globally to provide expert training to officials with the goal of dismantling transnational organized crime syndicates and combat poaching and illegal trade in wildlife. The 2019 and 2020 multi-agency training programs have engaged a number of member countries of the African Union, including Angola, Botswana, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo-Brazzavile, Democratic Republic of Congo,

Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Godfrey Kiwanda Ssuubi delivered a keynote speech that outlined Uganda's commitment in combating wildlife crime as a priority for wildlife conservation in the country. He highly commended LATF and GFF for convening the workshop aimed at strengthening the National Task Force in combating wildlife crime in Uganda.

"LATF has the mandate to operate across borders working with national law enforcement agencies to combat wildlife crime. We are delighted by Uganda's unwavering resolve to conservation which has been reinforced by the creation of the Task Force that will spearhead prosecution-led investigations in the fight against wildlife crime in the country and beyond," said Edward Phiri, Director LATF.

"By partnering with local leaders, government agencies and law enforcement, we are building capacity that will achieve real and successful outcomes," said GFF's Chief Accountability Officer & Justice Initiative Director Rod Khattabi. "The collaborations we established this week have strengthened the National Wildlife Task Force and will ultimately lead to new transnational investigations and prosecutions that will help end wildlife trafficking".

Wildlife trafficking generates more than \$10 billion a year for transnational organized criminal networks. LATF has collaborated and partnered with governments and task forces in multiple African nations to provide law enforcement training to end this crime. This week's workshop will enhance inter-agency cooperation and buttress efforts by NWCCTF of Uganda to effectively combat wildlife crime in Uganda.

###

#### About Lusaka Agreement Task Force

Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), is a permanent intergovernmental law enforcement organization established to support the efforts by countries in reducing and ultimately eliminating illegal trade in wild fauna and flora. LATF was launched in June 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, a regional multilateral environmental agreement adopted in Lusaka, Zambia on 8 September 1994 under the auspices of UNEP and deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. LATF bridges source, transit and destination countries of contraband wildlife specimens originating from Africa, carries out intelligence and investigations, supports and coordinates intelligence led enforcement operations. It also undertakes capacity building, promotes state cooperation as well as interagency collaboration and synergies in the fight against transnational wildlife and forestry crimes. <https://lusakaagreement.org/>