



LUSAKA AGREEMENT

REQUIREMENTS TO BE A PARTY AND ACCESSION PROCESS

.....

The Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora –“the Lusaka Agreement” was adopted by African governments on 8th September 1994. In accordance with Article 13(1), it came into force on 10th December 1996. The Lusaka Agreement is open for accession to all African states and the Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession are deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is Africa’s first regional intergovernmental wildlife law enforcement operational framework fostering cooperation among states to reduce and ultimately eliminate illegal trade in wild fauna and flora and to assist in enforcing national laws and fulfilling obligations under CITES and other biodiversity related agreements at regional level in Africa.

To facilitate the implementation of the Agreement, each party is required under the provisions of the Agreement (Article 4 and 6) to undertake various activities and obligations including: to designate or establish a government entity to play a lead role in its enforcement; co-operate with one another and with the LATF to ensure its effective implementation; accord relevant privileges and immunities to LATF members. Parties are also called upon to protect information; encourage public awareness; adopt and enforce necessary legislative and administrative measures; adhere to agreed regulations on returning any confiscated specimens to the country of original export or country of re-export; and report to the Governing Council on the implementation of the Agreement including fulfillment of their obligations. Parties are also required to pay their annual assessed contribution to the LATF as determined by the Governing Council.

The Minister responsible for the implementation of the Agreement in a Party becomes a member of the Governing Council of the Parties to Lusaka Agreement, which is the decision and policy making body.

ACCESSION TO THE LUSAKA AGREEMENT

The process for enlisting as a member of the Lusaka Agreement is similar to other international conventions and multilateral agreements even though it may vary to a limited extent from one state to another depending on national regulations on the subject or specific provisions of each Agreement/ Treaty/Convention.



Membership to the Lusaka Agreement is open to all African states and the accession process is as follows:

1. The Ministry responsible for Wildlife and /or Forestry/Environment submits a request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/ or International Cooperation recommending the country's accession to the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal trade in Wild Fauna and flora.
2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and / or International Cooperation, after review and approval of the request, processes legal documents to be signed by the President of the Republic or any other relevant authority, on accession and membership of the country to the Lusaka Agreement. These texts constitute/are the instruments of accession of that State to the Agreement.
3. The Ministry of Foreign and / or International Cooperation submits/deposits the instruments of accession with the Secretary General of the United Nations which is the depository of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade fauna and flora. The contact address of the UN SG is as follows:

The UN Secretariat
760 United Nations Plaza
Manhattan, NY 10017, USA
Tel : (212) 963-8687
Email : inquiries@un.org / Web : www.un.org/sg

4. The depository takes note and directly and/or through its official website notifies other Lusaka Agreement Parties of the deposit of the accession instruments by the new member state with the Secretary General of the United Nations.
5. After the accession process is concluded, the Party shall designate or establish a national institution in the capacity of the National Bureau to execute and coordinate with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (Secretariat of the Agreement) the activities and programs relating to the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement.



6. The Secretariat of the Lusaka Agreement (Lusaka Agreement Task Force - LATF) shall report to the Governing Council of the Member States to the Agreement on the accession of the new party to the Lusaka Agreement and the National Bureau designated/established by the joining State.
7. The Minister responsible for the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement in the new member state becomes a member of the Governing Council of the Agreement with the privilege of being elected to the Bureau of the Governing Council (President, Vice-President and Rapporteur), designating experts to the Lusaka Agreement implementing Committee and seconding a Field Officer to the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF).
8. The new party is then included in the programs as well as the budgeting process and actively participates in the Lusaka Agreement activities together with other Parties.
9. All member states have similar obligations, responsibilities and enjoy same benefits and privileges under the Agreement for as long as they comply with provisions of the Agreement.

Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF-Secretariat) remains at the disposal of African States in guiding and providing further information on the accession process, as we look forward to welcoming you to the Lusaka Agreement fraternity.

.....

Mr. Edward Phiri
Director

LUSAKA AGREEMENT TASK FORCE - LATF

P. O. Box 3533-00506

Lang'ata Nairobi, KENYA

Tel : +254 722 204008/9

Fax : +254 (20)2331655

Mobile : +254 710 360 674

Email: administrator@lusakaagreement.org; edward@lusakaagreement.org

Website: www.lusakaagreement.org

.....