

REGIONAL TRAINING/REVIEW WORKSHOP ON WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT MONITORING SYSTEM – WEMS

(NAIROBI, 13th - 14th OCTOBER 2011)

Introduction

LATF in collaboration with UNU-Japan and the ITC – University – Twente (the Netherlands) held the first training workshop on WEMS in May 2011 as a first step in implementation of the WEMS at the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the Lusaka Agreement Member States.

The objective of the workshop organized by LATF at the seat of the Task Force on 13th and 14th October 2011 was to review as well as share experiences in implementation of WEMS and to train new officers nominated by the Member States.

The workshop was opened by the Director LATF Mr. Bonaventure Ebayi. Present at the opening session was UNEP Director's representative Dr. Margaret M. Oduk who in her few remarks recognized the importance of the WEMS initiative.

Participants and Resource Persons

The WEMS training/review workshop had 11 participants (list attached) from three LA Parties (Republics of Congo, Kenya and Tanzania). Two LATF staff were also among the participants. Mr. Khoi Nguyen, the software engineer was the resource person.

Actual Training/Review

The participants had a chance to go through the WEMS review presented by the resource person through a PowerPoint presentation, during which the participants were given time to comment, ask or clarify any issues.

In order to familiarize new nominees with the system, the resource person took participants through the system which included keying in actual data provided by LATF. This proved to be of importance especially to the new participants and also helped in refreshing the already trained officers.

The 2nd Regional Training Workshop on Wildlife Enforcement Monitoring System (WEMS) involving 4 pilot countries in East Africa will be held in Nairobi from 13th to 14th October 2011. The purpose of the workshop is to evaluate and assess the strength and capacity of national focal persons involved in wildlife enforcement, information compilation and analysis. The meeting will be presided by Mr. Bonaventure Ebayi the Director of Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), and Mr. Bakery Kante, Director of Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, United Nations Environmental Programme.

Conclusion

LATF highly appreciates all parties that contributed to the success attained during the workshop and encourages the Member States to make use of the system, work with it to achieve the best results and identify any challenges that may need specific attention. LATF appreciates the UNEP for the requisite financial support that facilitated the training, KWS for providing the venue and all the participants for taking part in this important workshop.