



Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and Forest Products



Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and Forest Products

We, the national forest agencies of Eastern and Southern Africa, represented by the Republics of Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, and United Republic of Tanzania,

Having met in Zanzibar, from 29 June to 1 July 2015 at the 3rd East Africa Timber Trade Stakeholders' Forum, including representation from East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), civil society and private sector,

Recalling actions agreed at the 2nd East Africa Timber Trade Stakeholders' Forum and the need to broaden the Forum for forging strong regional collaborations across Eastern and Southern Africa,

Noting the increase of illegal trade in timber as a result of imbalance between domestic supply and demand in countries within the region,

Taking note of the increasing inter-regional and intra-regional trade of timber and other forest products flowing across Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),

Taking note of the developments of initiatives across East and Southern Africa including bilateral agreements on reducing illegal timber trade between Tanzania and Mozambique alongside those between Tanzania and Kenya,

Recognizing the need to build synergy on mechanisms to curb illegal trade in timber between members' states in EAC and SADC,

Recalling decision 6.2.5.6 of 3 October 2013 by the SADC Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources approving the SADC Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Programme,

Recalling the decision of the EAC Council of Ministers' commitment by implementing the Regional strategy to combat poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife, wildlife and forest products,

Further recalling Decision EX.CL/ Dec.832 (XXV) of the Executive Council of the African Union on Decision on African Wild Flora and Fauna Conservation and Illegal Trade in Wildlife made at its Twenty-Fifth Ordinary Session 20 – 24 June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, requesting the African Union Commission, with the support of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL, the Taskforce of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations directed at illegal trade in wild fauna and flora, and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and relevant partners, to prepare an African Common Strategy on Combatting Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora to be reported on during the June 2015 Ordinary Session of the Executive Council,



Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and Forest Products

Recalling also the UN General Assembly and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolutions that called on Member States to step up their responses to illicit trafficking of wild fauna and flora, including General Assembly Resolution 68/193 that called for coordinated action to eliminate corruption and disrupt the illicit networks that drive and enable trafficking in wild flora and fauna,

Recalling Decision 15/2 made at the 15th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment AMCEN in Cairo, Egypt, on the African Common Strategy on Combatting Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora that agreed that the process that was embarked upon to develop the draft African Common Strategy on Combatting Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora should continue at The International Conference on Illegal Trade and Exploitation of Wild Flora and Fauna in Africa to be held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, and that the strategy should have a shared understanding of the key issues listed in the decisions,

Recognizing the SADC Protocol on forestry (2002) and the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources (2005),

Taking note of the Brazzaville declaration of October 2013 on combating illegal timber trade in the Congo Basin,

Taking note of the Brazzaville declaration of April 2015 on Illegal Exploitation and Illicit Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa,

Recognizing the bilateral and regional initiatives between Kenya and China on Forestry and Ecological conservation; Tanzania and Zambia on coordinated conservation and management of the Miombo and Mopane woodland ecosystem; China and Mozambique initiatives on cooperation to support sustainable management of forest resources,

Recognizing the need for strong cooperation between forest agencies across Eastern and Southern Africa on efforts to tackle illegal trade in timber and other forest products,



Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and Forest Products

We declare that we need a unifying strategy to help Eastern and Southern Africa countries to curb illegal trade in timber, and we therefore adopt this Declaration as follows:

Recommend the SADC and EAC member states to collaborate and cooperate on regional efforts to curb illegal timber trade,

Urge the member states countries to promote cooperation among their national forest agencies in information and intelligence sharing related to illegal trade across the region,

Recommend member states to promote legal and sustainable timber trade industry,

Encourage member states to share information and data management systems and knowledge-sharing to enhance policy and decision-making,

Support member states and other stakeholders to advocate and lobby for resource allocation and mobilization for initiatives to curb illegal trade in timber,

Request member states to formulate bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements taking on board existing ones across the region,

Urge member states to foster development and implementation of the action plans for existing agreements,

Request member states to formulate monitoring and evaluation plans in all action plans for existing agreements,

Urge the member states to extend invitation to countries that can be part of the solution to curb illegal trade in timber,

Encourage States that have not yet done so to implement progressively the export ban on logs measures, taking into account economic and technical constraints as well as market developments,

Recommend the EAC and SADC and their member states to take leadership at international forums including the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and World Forest Congress, by supporting member states in introducing a resolution on illegal trade in timber with a strong reporting mechanism,

Request the summits of the EAC and SADC to hold a joint conference with the transit and consumer countries with a view to agree on joint actions to be carried out to eliminate supply, demand, and trade in the illegal timber in Africa,

Recommend that the next Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the Africa-China Summit, Africa-Japan Summit, Africa-India Summit, Africa-Arab Summit, and Africa-European Summit, as well as other relevant summits, include the issue of illegal timber as a priority agenda item,



Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and Forest Products

Request the EAC and SADC Summits to urge member states to reconsider the ratification/ accession to existing continental and regional instruments, directed at illegal trade in timber in order to strengthen cooperation in fighting crime in illegal trade in timber,

Request the EAC and SADC to urge their member states to review and amend national legislation to reflect the current and emerging challenges related to illegal trade on timber,

Urge EAC and SADC member states to formally engage in promoting good governance, transparency, and equity in the forest management,

Urge EAC and SADC member states, as well as technical and financial partners, to continue to support the development and implementation of regional actions directed towards curbing illegal trade in timber,

Commit to ensuring that any measures taken to curb illegal trade in timber will comply with the obligations under international laws relating to human rights, international humanitarian law, and the rights of indigenous/marginalized populations,

Encourage member states to recognize the rights and increasing the participation of indigenous populations and local communities in planning, management, and use of forest resources, promoting sustainable and alternative livelihoods, and in building their capacities to fight against illegal trade in timber,

Encourage development partners, United Nations agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, and media, to enhance and strengthen their active and joint collaboration with governments, parliamentarians, and regional economic communities for the implementation of the recommendations of this Declaration,

Request the EAC and SADC to submit this Declaration and actions from the forum to the 2015 councils and summits,

Also request members states within EAC and SADC to establish an ad hoc committee, with at least one representative from each country, EAC and SADC, in order to support implementation of regional action towards curbing illegal trade in timber,

Urge SADC and EAC to include the status of illegal trade in timber in their summit agendas,

Extend our appreciation to the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar for hosting the Forum and development of regional actions,

Agree to further support research in illegal trade in timber to aid on information availability, policy formulation and decision-making across the region,

We, the national forest agencies undersigned below, reaffirm the commitments to strengthen regional cooperation on efforts to curb illegal trade in timber,

Done on the 1st day of July 2015 at Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania





Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and Forest Products

Signed on the 9th day of September 2015 in Durban, South Africa at the XIV World Forestry Congress

1. Republic of Kenya

.....
Emilio N. Mugo
Director,
Kenya Forest Service, Kenya

2. Republic of Madagascar

.....
Fidy José Andriamananoro
General Director of Forest,
General Directorate of Forest, Madagascar

3. Republic of Mozambique

.....
Xavier Sakambuera Sailors
National Director
National Directorate of Forest, Mozambique

4. Republic of Uganda

.....
Michael Mugisa
National Executive Director
Uganda National Forestry Authority, Uganda

5. United Republic of Tanzania

.....
Juma S. Mgoo
Chief Executive
Tanzania Forest Service, Tanzania

.....
Sheha Idrisa Hamdan
Director
Zanzibar Department of Forestry, and Non-
Renewable Resources, Zanzibar



Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and Forest Products