



CITES-MIKE PROGRAMME, WEST AFRICA MEETING OF THE SUB REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Ouagadougou, BURKINA FASO, 29-30 May 2013

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACP: Afrique Caraïbe Pacifique

PA: Protected Area

CEDEAO: Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

ETIS: Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)

FED : Fonds Européen pour le Développement

MIKE: Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants

MIKES: Mitigating the Illegal Killing of Endangered Species

MIST: Management Information SysTem

PACO: Programme Afrique Centrale et Occidentale

PAPE : Programme d'Appui aux Parcs de l'Entente

EU: European Union

UEMOA: Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

WAP : W, Arly, Pendjari

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

The organizers express their gratefulness to all those who have contributed to organizing and holding this meeting of the MIKE Steering Committee. They particularly thank the Direction Générale des Forêts et de la Chasse of Burkina Faso and the people of Burkina Faso for the warm welcome and the hospitality all along the meeting.

Thanks are extended to all actors involved in the conservation of elephants attending this meeting, whose active participation allowed meeting this session's objectives.

I- BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The Sub-Regional Steering Committee of the MIKE West Africa held its steering committee meeting at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on the 29th -30th May 2013. The programme was attended by the Program Director for MIKE for Africa and Asia, the Programme Director for ETIS and TRAFFIC, Coordinators for the MIKE Central and West Africa, Executive Directors in charge of Wildlife for all elephant range states of West Africa,(members of the steering committee) , experts from the IUCN, Technical Director of Program d'Appui aux Parcs de l'Entente (PAPE), and National Coordinators of MIKE for West Africa range states.

This meeting is placed in the framework of the implementation of the Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants program. It aims at presenting country reports of MIKE II implementation, the status of elephants and poaching, the issues related to ivory traffic, the organizational structure of MIKE III as well as the work plan for 2013.

II- OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was chaired by M. Georges Lambert Ouedraogo, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Burkina Faso, representing the Minister.

It was marked by three addresses:

- The welcome remarks by the Regional Director of IUCN -PACO

Dr Sebastian Regnaut, representing the Regional Director of IUCN-PACO, recalled the role of IUCN as a facilitator of the MIKE Programme implementation, following the Agreements that the headquarters of the Union signs with the General Secretariat of CITES, at every new phase of MIKE. He further stated that to him, this meeting is an opportunity to exchange experiences on the fight against poaching and illicit trade in ivory. Dr Regnaut urged the participants to consider the measures to be taken at both country and regional levels towards enhanced conservation of nature in general and the elephant more particularly.

- Address by the Director of MIKE, Africa and Asia

In his address, Mr. Julian Blanc noted that only two sites out of fifteen that are supposed to have elephants have sent data on carcasses. He also emphasized that the estimated proportions of

elephant populations that were illegally killed in West Africa rank this region second after Central Africa where proportions have sharply increased. To conclude, he wished that this meeting enables reflection on the priority actions to be undertaken in order to reverse the current trend that may lead to the disappearance of the elephant.

- Opening address by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

Representing the Minister, Mr. Georges Lambert Ouedraogo first welcomed participants. He then expressed the wish that this meeting allows fruitful discussions in view of finding appropriate solutions to elephant conservation issue. Despite the erratic climate and heavy population pressure, Burkina Faso has a relatively stable network of protected areas that host abundant and diverse wildlife. Recalling the objectives of this session of the CITES-MIKE Programme steering committee, he expressed the appreciation and gratitude of the entire Government of Burkina Faso, to IUCN and to the CITES-MIKE Programme which is working relentlessly towards safeguarding and managing Africa's natural resources and wildlife.

III- PROCEEDINGS

After the opening ceremony there was self-introduction of participants, followed by the putting in place of the executive office for this steering committee meeting. The following were the offices appointed:

- Chair: **M. Tiendega Valentin**, Director General of Wildlife of Burkina Faso, Steering Committee Member
- Reporter 1 : **Mme Félicité Mangang**, communication officer, IUCN-PACO
- Reporter 2 : **M Agbodji Kossi**, Wildlife Division, Togo
- **Reporter 3: M Ali Mahama**, Wildlife Division, Ghana

The deliberations proper of the steering committee were marked by the presentation of country reports followed by discussions.

1- Country reports on MIKE implementation

These communications dealt with presenting MIKE sites, the strong points and the weak points of MIKE II in each country as well as recommendations.

Generally, it came out from presentations that each country has benefited from capacity building in various areas which strongly improved the implementation of the program's phase II. These communications also showed that most countries are aware of the importance of the MIST software and this is one success of the MIKE program.

The reports also revealed that countries have been confronted with similar issues in MIKE II implementation. These are mainly the inadequate funds for carrying out activities in the field (data collection, incentives for staff, anti-poaching fight, etc.), human-elephant conflicts, high turnover of field staff (monitoring staff), insufficient equipment, as well as problems of communication between the sites within a same country and between sites and the national coordination. The perspectives that were highlighted in this reports were that MIKE phase 3 should build up on its strengths while making improvements in the weaknesses of the phase II programme.

The presentation of country reports were followed by six general exposés.

2- General exposés

2.1- Presentation of the principles of appropriate management of protected areas in Sudan-Guinean savannahs, case of Nazinga (by Clark Lungren)

In his presentation he stated that West Africa has the highest human population densities and the lowest number of protected areas and that wildlife is almost exclusively in PAs. The last vestiges of natural areas in Burkina Faso coincide with areas in neighboring countries. It was stated that satellite maps shows the patterns well, said it was possible to see hybrid species of buffalo are forest/savannah mixed; elephants sometimes looked like forest elephants,.

Game Ranching he said allows protection of wildlife and provides resources for local communities. It was emphasized that water in the dry season is the limiting factor to wildlife management not poaching, he made emphasis on producing water points in protected areas. He compared Nazinga results achieved so far to l'écosystème faunique d'Arly (Arly Complex), Parc W, Niokola Koba and other places. To increase populations and stabilize boundaries inside the PAs, he said we need water, fire management and also need champions or strong people with visions and quoted the bible 'Where there is no vision, the people perish' Isiah to buttress his point.

He said five years plan in wildlife management was short and would get you to square one, he said one need a 12 year plan initially. Short time frames of projects and management plans, are not working, wildlife management is sustainable in the long term and said modern challenges today are

not the same as they were fifty years ago. To successfully manage wildlife he said we must consider that the ecosystem includes the fringe villages, he said if you well manage 1,000 sq km it can generate millions for local villages.

2.2 Mike analysis and elephant population status of West African sites (by Julian Blanc, MIKE Director for Africa and Asia)

Julian Blanc in his presentation said Burkina Faso has the largest elephant population and West Africa has less than 2% of the total elephant population in Africa, between 8,000 – 12,000 with MIKE sites (18) hold between 30-45% of the sub-regional pop.

The reporting rates of carcass were mentioned as – Central: expected 150, received 135, reporting rate 90%, East Africa: 143, 109, 76%, Southern: 99, 89, 90%, West Africa: 193, 88, 46%.

Subregion	Expected reports	Received reports	Reporting Rate
Central	150	135	90%
Eastern	143	109	76%
Southern	99	89	90%
West	193	88	46%



Populations of elephants at sites were, % of MIKE reports: W Burkina – 740, Nazinga – 600; Mole – 401, 73%; Pendjari - 355, 73%; Yankari – 348, 64%; Gourma – 344, 82%, Tai 189, 8%, etc.

For Elephant poaching trends by sub-regions he said Central Africa has the highest PIKE (proportion of illegally killed elephants) level, East Africa since 2010 levels were unsustainable, Southern Africa was the lowest level of poaching but may be going up, West Africa he said the data was small but poaching levels are increasing and it seems is unsustainably high. Overall there has been increasing rates of poaching since 2006, and 2010 onwards these has been unsustainable. A paper by WCS reports that Central Africa has lost 62% of its elephant population. Site-level factors that correlate with the decline in population were mentioned as poaching, Poverty, Law Enforcement capacity and adequacy and finally demand from consumer countries.

Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea expressed the need for MIKE countries to collaborate by sharing information in order to detect and counter the exportation of ivory.

On what was done to ivory seized, the response was that very soon all countries would be made to account for their seized ivory.

Finally, it was also agreed that MIKE range states need to work with countries like China to help detect those involved in the illegal trade of ivory.

2.3 Report on the results of ETIS ivory trafficking data analyses (by Mr. Tom Milliken, Director of the ETIS Program)

This presentation dealt with three main parts:

- ✓ Monitoring the illegal trade in ivory; he noted the functional relationships between ETIS and MIKE, the process and cycle of data collection by ETIS and their online services sending to CITES;
- ✓ ETIS data developing ivory seizures within and outside CITES party countries between 1996 and 2012; ETIS data between 1996 and 2011 and adjustments of ETIS data bias;
- ✓ Results of CoP 16 analyses of ETIS data;
- ✓ CITES and elephants; various ivory-made items were presented.

2.4 Report on the evaluation of data bases in the West Africa MIKE site (by Mr. Sébastien Luhunu, Coordinator, MIKE Central and West Africa)

Mr Luhunu said to implement MIKE, Central Africa and West African have been amalgamated at the Subregion Support Office (SSO) level. There was a situation analysis in order to transition smoothly and so site visits in West Africa were made by a consultant and the key issues looked at were

-why MIST has not been implemented at most sites, Cote D'Ivoire

-why the data not transmitted as required (only 2 sites out of 18 sent data on carcass data why?)

In Pendjari, database not operational but was fixed on 25 Oct 2012. In Burkina Faso Park W the database was made operational on 7 Nov 2012. In Cote d'Ivoire, Comoe was not visited, Marahoue was made operational in December 2012 and Tai database was operational, but some problems were also were fixed. In Ghana Kakum was operational in Dec. 2012 and Mole had no problem, in Guinea, Ziama was operational in Dec 2012, but could not work due to structural problems. In Liberia Sapo database was not operation, their computer was broken , couldn't fix it. In Mali Gourma not visited because of security issues. In Niger, Baban Rafi the computer was broken down

and Niger W electricity problems not fixed. Yankari in Nigeria MIST is not being used, but the Cybertracker . Senegal Niokola Koba was not visited. Fazao in Togo 20 Oct 2012 database made functional however Keran was not visited the elephant situation not clear.

Analysis of the quality of the data that was collected in West Africa about 90% of the data fields remained blank or simply noted as ‘not collected’.

Recommendations made by the consultant were that there was need for a workshop to scale up database usage and data collection protocols. There was also the need for sites that have no access to internet but have access to GSM to be provided with internet modems so they can use telephone connections for connectivity to the internet.

On the innovations that SMART could bring on board Julian Blanc recounted that SMART was collectively developed by a consortium of six conservation organizations with field based programmes, which evaluated all of the strengths and weakness of various database systems and then developed SMART, drawing on lessons learned.

MIST was said to be good at getting data in but not very good at getting data out, SMART is an open-source, not dependent on a single developer who, in the case MIST, decided not to do further development can lead to obsolescence. SMART has a much better designed data model, i.e. data is stored in a manner that makes it easy to query. Believe that SMART will have a longer life and will be maintained collaboratively.

Other concerns raised by participants were whether MIST computers must be replaced and also whether the data entry officers should be compensated for the work they do.

In his response, all MIKE sites that do not have computers will be supplied. Motivation he said was not the reason why some MIST officers could not function but that they are loaded with a lot of work at the site level.

And it will provide quality work as compared to MIST because it had much better designs made.

2.5- Objectives and organizational structure of MIKE 3.0 (January 2013 to December 2014) (by Mr. Julian Blanc, Director of MIKE Africa and Asia)

Mr Blanc said one important lesson from MIKE phase 2.0 was the bottom up approach; another important lesson was that good monitoring is no substitute for good management. MIKE also learnt that establishing common systems promotes international cooperation and understanding and also delivering evidence-based information that catalyses international action. MIKE 3.0 he said was a bridging funds grant and it was two years grant thus January 2013 – December 2014. He said the funding was less and therefore causing a restructuring of the MIKE programme. At the Central

office the Director and data analyst have been merged. For the subregions there are now just two unlike four in the last phase. The South Africa and East Africa subregions have been merged, and also Central Africa and West Africa. Overall there was a loss of 5 staff, reduced capacity for on-site training and support; there was no funding for population surveys or to add new sites and only 4 Steering Committee Meetings in entire period.

MIKE Phase III he said had the following objectives that are to enhance the conservation status of elephants and other African flagship species threatened by poaching and illicit trade. Specific objective is to further strengthen and institutionalize practical, field-based monitoring and analysis in order to inform and drive site and national adaptive management processes

Expected outputs for MIKE phase 3 were:

1. Management oriented ranger-based biodiversity and threat monitoring systems are adopted and implemented;
2. Capacity for provision of training in field based biodiversity monitoring and analysis application is developed in appropriate African training institutions;
3. Conservation area and biodiversity monitoring systems are relevant to and integrated with national and regional polices, systems, and structures;
4. Information effectively analyzed and applied to form and influence international interventions.

In replying to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire on the budget Julian said for MIKE phase 3.0 the budget is half of what we had in Phase II, that is from 2 million a year to 1 million a year. In response to a question raised by the representative of Niger on how the budget was allocated, Julian said vast majority of the money went to training and things that took place in countries. The representative of Nigeria raised issues about the none consultations of the member countries in budgeting for phase 3.0, the response given was that the phase three, project was presented at the 3rd African Elephant Meeting where the views of range states were solicited. On the exit strategy of MIKE asked by Mali, it was said that devolving training to local institutions is one of the innovations, SMART introduction is another. For Liberia not chairing of Sub-regional Steering Committee, Julian apologized to Liberia and emphasis that transition from Phase II to Phase III has not been smooth and that there was need to capitalize on the fact that IUCN is based in Ouagadougou so had to have the meeting here. That was why Regional rotation principle for the Chair could not be implemented.

2-6 Annual Work plan of MIKE 3.0 (January 2013 to December 2014) (by Mr. Sébastien Luhunu, Coordinator, MIKE Central and West Africa)

In his presentation, the SubRegional support officer for MIKE West and central Africa said Funding of MIKE 3.0 started late, amount of funds released is 1 million instead of 2 million in previous years. He said within the period the programme would rationalize MIST/SMART training in the region, reinforce capacity to use these tools, identify institutions in the region that could offer training as part of their general curriculum. Undertake planned site visits in 2013 to selective sights namely Fazao, Pendjari (BJ), Ziama (GN), and possibly Marahoue and Tai (CI). It was hoped that countries will invest in communication, batteries for GPS, paper, and other consumables as their contribution to MIKE. The presenter however hinted of a larger MIKE 4 .0 project that might be possible in 2015.

Benin wondered if SMART was now available to replace MIST. He also suggested to MIKE to select a site everyone else could go with their computers for training eg Benin, Togo and Niger to come together. Cote d'Ivoire did not understand why Tai and Marahoue are slated for attention but NOT Comoe? Niger/Senegal representative did not understand why development of work plan was not an interactive process. Niger reiterated the need for a measure of 'confidence building', open to each other so we can achieve much more going forward. Also training of trainers at national level, Nigeria suggested the school of Wildlife Management in Nugusa and lobbied for it to be selected to train SMART in the school since Nigeria could serve this purpose. Niger suggested the need to sensitize our countries about MIKE at higher levels. Mali was concerned about MIST/SMART capacity building and training, and wants to be trained in SMART. IUCN representative believes that the countries should take ownership of the major achievements and, once training is offered, the countries should move things forward at the national level, and that it has some funds to support training. PAPE called for regional institution to support protected areas in West Africa and move beyond the notion of direct involvement in the workplan development but find ways to engage constructively. PAPE expressed willingness to help find supplementary means to support MIKE style meetings if this is what countries ask for.

Mr Sebastian Luhunu maintained that some of the concerns were already answered above and assured members who wished to see the workplan they would be given copies. He maintained that it was difficult to bring large numbers of people together in the process of drawing up workplans. He said the MIST training is not going to be on a sub-regional basis. The conclusion of the consultant he said was that we need to focus on ranger-based training at the site level. That does not lend itself to broader sub-regional engagement but rather is a national-level exercise.

OPEN DISCUSSION ON POACHING:

Guinea raised concern on the need to form a coalition of African Elephants to protect the elephants, this he said was one of the issues addressed when he chaired the recent meeting in Nairobi prior to CoP16.

Senegal stated that poaching is the result of poverty in surrounding communities, and there was need to find benefits for local people, there was also the need to sensitize the higher-level decision makers for support.

Benin made strong point that poaching was increasing and West Africa should try to learn from Central Africa and find ways to contain the phenomenon, he also suggested the need to look for sociological or anthropological factors behind poaching, he said he did not see these people as “poachers”. He said community game hunting was abused and big trucks filled with people come to hunt, this he said was not right.

Niger informed members of the Cotonou Council of Ministers where two recommendations to develop an emergency action plan and a second for the Ministers to convey this message to their Heads of State and linkages with international terrorism to help counter illegal trafficking of ivory.

Ghana raised the need for corridors between parks to be well protected as most elephants are poached whiles they are migrating from one protected area to another.

IV- MAIN LESSONS LEARNT FROM GENERAL EXPOSES

The lessons drawn from these presentations are among others:

- ✓ Protected areas remain the best places for protecting and managing wildlife though there is need to secure them ;
- ✓ A well-managed protected area can meet the needs of running costs, staff salaries and development of bordering communities;
- ✓ The bordering populations have a bad perception of protected areas when they don't benefit from their management returns; therefore, poverty should be eradicated by developing agriculture and other money-making activities;
- ✓ West Africa has the lowest elephants populations and also provides the less information on elephants in comparison with the other sub-regions;
- ✓ Poaching levels have hugely risen from 2012 in Africa (more than (21,845 ivories corresponding to 2,375 elephants) and this is due to positive correlation with global ivory demand.

- ✓ Ivory seizure in Malaysia in 2012 was evaluated as the biggest of the decade;
- ✓ Countries have a major responsibility in the implementation of MIKE.

V- FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of these presentations, participants made the following recommendations:

- That countries further engage in resource management and share their experiences through exchange visits and regular communication;
- That communication among MIKE, the States, ACP focal points through directors in charge of protected area management, be improved and maintained;
- That every national coordinator get in touch with the country ACP Focal Point for the inclusion of elephants in the list of priorities to be submitted to the European Union within the framework of the European Development Fund (EDF);
- That synergy among ETIS, MIKE, CITES and countries in the elephant distribution area be enhanced for exchange of information;
- That advocacy actions towards States be developed for the financing of MIKE activities;
- That surveillance teams be provided with adequate materials based on the needs and specificities of the sites;
- That support to the MIST training / retraining be continued and training sessions on the use of SMART should be planned;
- That the managers of other protected areas be involved in the training sessions on the use of the data management software and that training costs be paid by applicants;
- That training of trainers at the country level be promoted in collaboration with MIKE;

- That site managers be appointed in such a way to facilitate the sending of site data to the national coordination (Example of Guinea) ;
- That sub regional training institutions that can mainstream protected area management tools in their curricula be identified;
- That ivory consumer countries (China, Japan, Thailand, etc.) be sensitized in view of establishing collaboration for improved conservation of our natural resources, notably elephants;
- That sub regional institutions (UEMOA, ECOWAS) be approached for them to coordinate anti-poaching actions;
- That public private partnership be promoted to curb the pressure exerted by poaching;
- That the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Burkina Faso contact the Presidents of UEMOA and ECOWAS Commissions for the organization of the next session of the MIKE Steering Committee;
- That the rotational chairmanship system be restored as soon as this can be afforded.

The next meeting of the steering committee will be chaired by Liberia.

VI- PERSPECTIVES

- A major project named Mitigating the Illegal Killing of Endangered Species (MIKES) will take over MIKE in 2015. The implementation of this project will depend on the countries that should submit their needs to the European Commission. Though the need for each country to get in touch with their ACP focal point for them to include elephant conservation in their priorities to be submitted to the European Union within the framework of de European Development Fund (FED) 11.
- In order to better control ivory traffic, ETIS will create online database so that each country will regularly consult their data and also share information on ivory traffic and seizure;
- MIKE III plans to transfer activity coordination to AP institutions.

Annexes

Attendance list

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE MEETING OF MIKE WEST AFRICA STEERING COMMITTEE 29 AND 30 MAY 2013 IN OUAGADOUGOU				
	Name and surname	Countries	Position	Address
1	TONI O. Emmanuel	Bénin	DPCEF/DGFRN Directeur par interim des Politiques, du Suivi et du Contrôle de l'exploitation forestière	Direction Générale des Forêts et des Ressources Naturelles, BP 393, Cotonou (Bénin) tonitome@yahoo.fr
2	Claude Ferdinand Kidjo	Bénin	Directeur Technique CENAGREF	fkidjo@yahoo.fr
3	TIENDEGA Valentin	Burkina Faso	Directeur Général Forêts et Faune	(+226) 70 23 07 40 tvalentinp@yahoo.fr
4	Pierre KAFANDO	Burkina Faso	MNO Directeur de la Faune et de la Chasse	Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable 03 BP 7044 Ouagadougou 03 Tél: (+226) 50 35 69 23 pierre_kafando@yahoo.fr
5	MAILLY ZOUZOU Elvire Joëlle	Côte d'Ivoire	MNO Directeur de la Faune et des Ressources Cynégétiques	maillyzouzouelvirejoelle@yahoo.fr
6	Monsieur GROGA-BADA Dago Camille Frédéric	Côte d'Ivoire	Suivi-évaluation à la Direction à la Direction de la Faune et des Ressources Cynégétiques	grogabadacamille@yahoo.fr +225 20 21 07 00
7	Nana Kofi ADU-NSIAH	Ghana	SCM Executive Director	Wildlife Division P.O Box MB 239 Accra, Ghana adunsiah@yahoo.com
8	Ali Mahama	Ghana	Site Officer Mole National Park	Wildlife Division, Ghana maliba2013@gmail.com
9	Namory KEITA	Guinée	Directeur National des Eaux et Forêts Membre du Comité de Pilotage	DNEF BP 624 Tél: 00224 628 19 92 08 Email: namary54@yahoo.fr
10	Mamadou DIA	Guinée	MNO Chef Division Faune et Protection de la Nature	DNEF BP 624 Tél: 00224 622 40 77 53 diamdou@gamil.com
11	Harrison S. Karnwea, Sr.	Liberia	Managing Director- Forestry Development Authority	Wheim Town, Mt Barclay Montserrado County, Liberia
12	Theo Freeman	Liberia	MNO	Forestry Development Authority (FDA) PoB 10-3010 1000 Monrovia 10 theo.freeman@yahoo.com
13	Alassane Boncana MAIGA	Mali	SCM Directeur National des Eaux et Forêts	BP 275 Bamako, Mali Tél: 66 85 34 20 albonmaiga@yahoo.fr
14	Bourama Niagate	Mali	MNO Directeur Parc National et Réserve de Biosphère de la Boucle du Baoulé	BP 275 Bamako, Mali Tél: 76 46 14 98 niagate@yahoo.fr

15	HAMADOU Mamoudou	Niger	SCM Directeur Général de l'Environnement et des Eaux et Forêts	Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Environnement du Niger BP 578 Niamey- Niger tinni0607@yahoo.fr
16	Ibrahim Zeinabou	Niger	MNO Chargée de Programme Zones Humides	hzeinabou@yahoo.fr Tél: 00227 96 73 49 49/ 90 31 70 57
17	Mr. Fidelis O. Omeni	Nigeria	Deputy Director, Wildlife Management Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja	Federal Ministry of Environment Department of Forestry Plot 393/394 Augustus Aikhomu Way, Utato District, Abuja
18	John Mshelbwala	Nigeria	MNO Federal Ministry of Environment	Plot 393/394, Augustus Aikhomu Way, Utato District Abuja Tél: +234 80 33 28 70 39 johnmshelbwala2@yahoo.com
19	Mbaye Moustapha	Sénégal	Directeur Adjoint des Parcs Nationaux Membre du Comité de Pilotage	Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Parc Zoologique et Forestier de Hann Dakar BP 5137 Tél: +221 77 641 92 15 aichayacine56@gmail.com/ dpm@orange.com
20	Abba Sonko	Sénégal	Chef Division Gestion de la Faune Membre du Comité de Pilotage	Direction des Eaux et Forêts et chasses BP 1831 Dakar Hann, Sénégal abbasonko@hotmail.com
21	Aboudou Mensa	Togo	MNO	mensaaboudou@yahoo.fr Tél: 00228 90 02 46 54
22	Agbodji Kossi	Togo	Chargé d'étude à la DFC	kossithomas@yahoo.fr +228 90 92 98 52/ 99 47 02 88
23	Sébastien LUHUNU	CITES-MIKE	Coordonnateur Afrique centrale et occidentale	sebastienluhunu@citesmike.org
24	BECHEM Martha	CITES-MIKE	Coordonnatrice adjointe Afrique centrale et occidentale	marthabechem@citesmike.org
25	Edith SAWADOGO	CITES-MIKE	Assistante Afrique centrale et occidentale	edithlombo@citesmike.org
26	Julian BLANC	CITES-MIKE	Directeur Afrique et Asie	julian.blanc@citesmike.org
27	Tom Milliken	TRAFFIC/ETIS	Directeur TRAFFIC	PO BOX CY 909 Causeway Harare Zimbabwe Tel: 263-4-252532/3/4 tom.milliken@traffic.org
28	Clark Lungren	CDDF	Directeur du Centre pour le Développement de la Production Faunique	BP 5570 Ouagadougou 01 Tél: +226 78 83 65 77 cdpfwedbila@yahoo.com
29	Philippe Bouché	PAPE		philippe.bouche@undp.org
30	Félicité MANGANG	UICN-PACO Bureau Régional	Chargée de communication	felicite.mangang@iucn.org
31	Sébastien REGNAUT	UICN-PACO Bureau Régional	Coordonnateur du Programme Thématique Régional Aires Protégées du Programme Afrique Centrale et Occidentale (PACO)- Ouagadougou	sebastien.regnaut@iucn.org
32	Cheikh Tididane Kane	PAPE	Coordonnateur Régional du BCG/PAPE	Commission de l'UEMOA, Ouaga? Burkina Faso ctkane@uemoa.int Tél: +226 73 60 42 78
33	Jan De Winter	PAPE	Conseiller BCG/PAPE	jdwinter@uemoa.int

MIKE NATIONAL OFFICERS

- M. **Ferdinand Claude Kidjo** du Benin
- M. **Mamadou Dia** de Guinée
- M. **Theo Freeman** du Libéria
- M. **Bourama Niagaté** du Mali
- Mme **Ibrahim Zeinabou** du Niger
- M. **John Mshelbwala** du Nigéria
- M. **Mbaye Moustapha** du Sénégal
- M. **Aboudou Mensa** du Togo
- M. **Pierre Kafando** du Burkina Faso
- Mme **Maily Zouzou Elvire Joëlle** de Côte d'Ivoire
- M. **Ali Mahama**, Officier de site, Parc national de Mole, Ghana