

CONSERVATION STATUS OF AND TRADE IN ELEPHANTS

UNEP-WCMC May 2009

1. Pursuant to Decision 14.78 and recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting in 2008, the Secretariat concluded a contract with UNEP-WCMC in May 2009 to produce an overview report summarizing relevant information on the conservation status of and trade in elephants. The report will be submitted to the Standing Committee at its 58th meeting.
2. The report will include an assessment of the conservation status of African and Asian elephants summarizing the best available recent scientific information (both published and unpublished) to include species occurrence, distribution, population estimates, trends, conservation status category as assessed by different authors (e.g. national red lists), threats, management, relevant national/regional legislation, enforcement, local management and monitoring.
3. Specific sources of information will be consulted, including specialists and literature from IUCN (its Elephant Specialist Groups), TRAFFIC and the Secretariat, through its MIKE Central Coordination Unit. A summary of status information on African elephants compiled by IUCN/SSC African elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) in the African Elephant Database (2007), information presented by the AfESG at the first and second African elephant meetings (June 2008, March 2009), and in the Framework of an *Action Plan for African elephants* will be provided. For Asian elephant, information from the IUCN/SSC Asia Elephant Specialist Group will be summarized.
4. An analysis of trade data in elephant specimens as indicated in the annual reports of Parties will be conducted. Legal trade in elephants is limited to:
 - certain specimens of the Appendix-II listed populations of *Loxodonta africana* from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe;
 - trade in raw ivory and worked ivory of elephants in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14), which applies to elephant populations in Appendices I and II; and
 - trade in other specimens of *Elephas maximus* and Appendix-I listed populations of *Loxodonta africana* in compliance with Article III of the Convention.

Summary trade tables will be produced over a minimum five-year period. An analytical commentary on the trade data and patterns, including whether any export quotas have been exceeded will be provided.

5. The report will summarize an analysis of Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) carcass data for the African continent (up to 2008), undertaken by the MIKE Central Coordinating Unit (January 2009).
6. Finally, it will provide a synopsis of the levels and trends in illegal trade in elephant products by summarizing seizures data extracted from the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), submitted to the CITES Secretariat by TRAFFIC.
7. The final report will be available by mid-June 2009.