

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Species trade and conservation

Elephants

REPORT OF THE MIKE-ETIS SUBGROUP

This document has been submitted by Zambia, as Chairman of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup of the Standing Committee, following discussion of agenda item 36.6.

The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup convened on 09 July 2009 in Geneva. Those present were China, Japan, Kenya, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia; a member of the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG); and TRAFFIC and the CITES Secretariat.

1. The Subgroup agreed that its meeting could be attended by members of the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group. It decided that its Terms of Reference (in Annex 1 of document SC58 Doc. 36.6) be modified accordingly by adding the following sentence to paragraph b) under *Modus operandi*: "TAG members are encouraged to attend meetings of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup."
2. The items on the agenda, as proposed in paragraph 8 of document SC58 Doc. 36.6, were agreed to.

Tasks of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup

3. Amongst the tasks presented in its Terms of Reference, the Subgroup agreed that those mentioned in paragraphs c), e), f) and g) should be addressed at its current meeting and that the remainder could be handled intersessionally via electronic communication.
4. However, in view of the significance of the agenda, it was not possible to fully treat all items. The Subgroup advised that in future, it wished to convene on the first or second day of meetings of the Standing Committee, with additional sessions thereafter as necessary or as instructed by the Committee.

Progress in the development and implementation of MIKE and ETIS

5. The Subcommittee noted the progress report provided by the MIKE Coordinator for the second quarter of 2009 (April-June 2009), focusing on the implementation of MIKE in Asia and on MIKE data collection and analysis for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15).
6. At recent meetings of the MIKE Sub-regional Steering Committees of South Asia (Bhutan, 2-3 June 2009) and Southeast Asia (Cambodia, 8-9 June 2009), Asian elephant range States had expressed strong commitment to MIKE, calling for a robust MIKE programme that can regularly deliver reliable information and provide the necessary technical and scientific capacity to guide their elephant conservation efforts. Both meetings recognized that fully operational MIKE Sub-regional Support Units were of vital importance in this regard. They provided tangible suggestions for ensuring longer-

term support for MIKE in Asia that will be pursued by the MIKE Central Coordination Unit. The Subcommittee endorsed these initiatives.

7. The Subgroup commended the considerable MIKE data collection effort that was being undertaken and the ongoing work in preparing a comprehensive analysis of this information by October 2009, taking account of the deadline for the submission of documents to CoP15. It suggested that preferably, the analysis should pertain to data collected up to June 2009, and that the MIKE CCU should envisage an additional analysis in February 2010, just before CoP15, to include the most up-to-date data sets. The MIKE CCU was urged requested to ensure data verification with the range States before undertaken analysis.
8. The MIKE Coordinator mentioned a meeting between the MIKE Sub-regional Steering Committee for West Africa and Signatories of the MoU of CMS on the measures of conservation for the West African elephant populations, resulting in 12 relevant filed conservation projects which will however require further active input from the range States concerned for finalization and submission to donors.
9. The ETIS data collection efforts for analysis for CoP15 were ongoing, with an envisaged cut-off date for submission of 14 August 2009 in order to meet the 14 October deadline for submission of a comprehensive analysis to the CITES Secretariat. Pending the availability of sufficient financial resources, an additional analysis that includes data received subsequently in the course of 2009 will be undertaken in February 2010, just prior to CoP15.
10. While recognizing that TRAFFIC had been successful in securing a grant from the UK's Darwin Initiative for making long-term technical and institutional improvements to the ETIS system, the Subgroup recognized and supported the call for funding from the ETIS Director to pursue activities related to the immediate collection and analysis of ETIS data until CoP15. Currently, the operation and management of ETIS is facing a budgetary shortfall of USD 79,000, a situation that could seriously compromise the delivery of the current work programme.
11. The Subgroup agreed that similar to MIKE, ETIS should be able to receive support from any of the donors mentioned in Decision 14.76 (i.e. Parties, trading countries, the ivory carving industry, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other donors) as long as the funding was provided and accounted for in a structured, transparent manner, and preferably channelled through the CITES Secretariat.
12. The Subgroup agreed that it should review the existing policies regarding the compilation, use and publication of MIKE and ETIS data and findings, distinguishing between raw data, analytical processes and outputs of these analyses. Such review should take account of the views of data suppliers (in the case of MIKE data the elephant range States). The Subgroup advised that MIKE and ETIS data policies should be as aligned and compatible as possible.
13. The Subgroup requested that it be consulted by the CITES Secretariat in case it proposes revisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14) for consideration at CoP15 as indicated in document SC58 Doc. 17.

Seventh meeting of the MIKE Technical Advisory Group and second meeting of the ETIS Technical Advisory Group (Nairobi, January 2009)

14. The Subgroup had received the minutes of the seventh meeting of the MIKE Technical Advisory Group, which are also available for the CITES website, and expressed its general support to the activities and developments described therein. The ETIS Director agreed to circulate the minutes of the second meeting of the ETIS Technical Advisory Group to the members of the Subgroup and ensured that they would be posted on the CITES website.

Terms of Reference for the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group

15. The Subgroups took note of the new Terms of Reference of the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group, presented in Annex 2 of document SC58 Doc. 36.6.

MIKE and ETIS reporting for CoP15

16. The Subgroup noted that MIKE and ETIS data will be subject of separate analysis and reporting to CoP15 in March 2010, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14). It supported the outline of these reports as presented by the MIKE Coordinator and ETIS Director. It also encouraged ongoing efforts to investigate the further integration of MIKE and ETIS data and to prepare a case study of joint MIKE/ETIS analysis for presentation at CoP15.

The work of the Subgroup until CoP15

17. The Subgroup agreed that at its next meeting in the sidelines of the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee on 13 March 2010, it will address the following issues:

- A MIKE gap-analysis and needs assessment, based on research conducted by the MIKE programme for reporting to CoP15
- The future of the MIKE programme beyond mid-2011
- The financial status of the MIKE and ETIS programmes, including information on budget allocations during Phase II (2007-2011)
- MIKE and ETIS data handling policies
- Potential revisions concerning MIKE and ETIS in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14)

18. The Subgroup requested the MIKE Coordinator and the ETIS Director to engage in intersessional discussions with the members of the Subgroup on the topics indicated in the paragraph above. It recommended that the submission of quarterly MIKE and ETIS progress reports to the Subgroup be continued.