

REPORT OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Report on activities in the SADC Region, submitted by South Africa

1. PARTICIPATION IN CoP12

The efforts in the sub-region have been mainly focussed on the preparation for and participation in the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Santiago, Chile.

At a regional meeting in Gaborone, Botswana in 2001 a decision was taken to establish a SADC Task Team to coordinate preparation for CoP12.

The Task Team under the chairmanship of South Africa met three times prior to CoP12 to coordinate the efforts of the sub-region. The sub-region also met on a daily basis during the course of the CoP to discuss issues relevant to the matters raised and important to the sub-region, these preparatory meetings were also attended by the representatives of various communities in the sub-region.

Outcomes:

- Coordinated sub-regional approach on most of the proposals and discussion documents at CoP12
- Successful participation in CoP12 through the approval of most of the proposals submitted to the CoP
- Issuing of press releases and information documents highlighting the position of the sub-region on various issues

2. SUB-REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE FOR MIKE

The steering committee meeting took place from 19-20 June 2002 in South Africa.

The objective of the meeting was to reflect on implementation of MIKE in the sub-region and COP11 and its implications for the region as well as reflect on preparations for COP12.

Issues addressed were among others the following:

- Country reports on the implementation of MIKE
- Development of a Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee
- Discussion of the practical implementation of the programme and problems encountered with implementation
- Coordination of cross-border surveys.

Outcomes:

- Approval of the sub-regional report to be submitted by the programme director to the regional meeting in Kenya.
- Agreement on the value of the improved communications.
- Acceptance of the Terms of Reference for the sub-regional committee.

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE (EAST AFRICA)

Submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania (March 2002 – February 2003)

1. CITES – MIKE Regional Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya

Parties to CITES in the Eastern-Africa sub-region participated in the MIKE – Implementation meeting that was held in Nairobi – Kenya, from 10 to 11 September 2002. The meeting was organized by the MIKE – Director, in Nairobi.

Outcome

A draft report on the progress of MIKE – Programme was discussed and agreed upon, prior to its presentation at CoP12 in Santiago, Chile.

Common problems for the MIKE – Programme were identified, for the MIKE – Director to take note and necessary follow-up, as appropriate.

2. Implementation of the MIKE Programme

Parties in the East African sub-region have started submitting reports to the MIKE – Director, in Nairobi. The East Africa MIKE – support officer has an arrangement to visit the respective countries for technical support. A few GPSs and recently a set of computers have been availed to range States for the MIKE programme. Nevertheless, the problem of availing adequate equipment/facilities for the MIKE sites; e.g. GPS's, is not yet fully addressed to the requirement.

3. National legislation

Parties in the sub-region were contacted, and reminded to meet their obligation of making national legislations that address national interests and those of CITES.

On its part, Tanzania has embarked on a rigorous exercise, directed at reviewing the entire Wildlife Conservation Act. No. 12 of 1974. The process entails among other strategies, involving various stakeholders including, where appropriate, the civil society through workshops. Already four (4) workshops, country wide, have successfully been held, and the final zonal workshop comes up in mid May 2003. Though, very expensive, the Government of Tanzania is determined to conclude the WCA legislation Review exercise and adopt a new legislation by December 2003.

In tandem to the legislation – Review, in January 2003 Tanzania launched Regulations which aim to operationalise a newly adopted concept of communal wildlife areas, known as Wildlife Management Areas. As opposed to the past, the intention is to, lawfully, enable Communities to fully participate in wildlife conservation activities.

KENYA COUNTRY REPORT

Following elections late 2002, a new government was sworn in peacefully in January 2003. The Kenya Wildlife Service (which is the Management Authority) has moved from the Office of the President, and is now housed in the Ministry of Environment Natural Resources and Wildlife. Other changes include the retirement of the head of the Management Authority, Mr. Joseph Kioko who has been replaced by Mr. Michael Wamithi.

Meetings

Kenya organized and hosted an Elephant Range States Meeting in September 2002, in Nairobi. It was attended by 40 countries from Asia and Africa. The meeting was co-hosted by the CITES Secretariat and it was chaired by the CITES Secretary General. Funds for the meeting were gratefully received from UNEP, IFAW, the HSUS, and the SSN.

Kenya also actively participated in the Africa Range States Dialogue meeting in Santiago days before the 12th CITES Conference. Only 24 of 37 African Range states attended. Kenya expressed regret that despite the fact that the Kenya elephant proposal was co-sponsored by India, Asian countries could not attend this meeting.

Kenya attended the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. Mr. Joseph Kioko headed the delegation. Kenya submitted four proposals for consideration at that meeting and two additional decisions were submitted at the meeting.

Kenya hosted a National CoP12 CITES meeting to inform the public of the outcome of the meeting.

Enforcement

Kenya has made several seizures of ivory this year and several cases are currently pending in court, other investigations are still ongoing. Poaching levels are increasing in one site, Samburu District where over 15 elephant carcasses have been located since the start of the year. Poaching is also significant in the Nasolot National Park. Tsavo East and West remain vulnerable as elephants move out of the protected areas during dry season months in search of water. Enforcement effort has been increased in the area since CoP 12.

The KWS continues to deploy ivory scent dogs at the Nairobi International Airport on targeted flights, and in the field during investigations. We intend to expand our dog unit to cover other airports and the sea port of Mombasa.

A number of seizures involving products from Kenya have taken place in other countries in recent months due to issuance of export permits from other Kenyan agencies. The KWS has initiated discussions with the relevant agencies to harmonise the implementation of CITES. Agreements on procedures have been developed to ensure that exports of CITES listed species without CITES permits are avoided.

Several inspections of production systems for CITES listed animals and plants have been undertaken in an effort to maintain standards and monitor activities. Policy papers on reptile husbandry are being developed.

MIKE Kenya

The Kenya Government is committed to the MIKE process and three MIKE sites in Kenya are gathering and submitting data. New computers were received and deployed in the field for data entry and preliminary analysis in April 2003. MIKE site officers are undergoing training.

Legislation Project

The Kenya legislation is inadequate for CITES implementation. A team including the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Attorney Generals office, and independent lawyers has developed draft amendments to the Wildlife Act including increased penalties to wildlife crimes. Elections late last year prevented any amendments from being submitted before the end of 2002. However, it is now hoped that these amendments will be enacted within the next six months. Funding constraints, and personnel limitations have slowed the process down considerably.

Training/Capacity Building

The KWS acknowledges with gratitude a generous donation of 21 computers from the British Government (DEFRA) for CITES implementation. The Kenyan Minister for Environment received the computers from the Deputy British High Commissioner. These computers have significantly improved capacity for CITES implementation and are being used for data gathering, communications, Security and intelligence, training, field reporting, research, licensing, and public awareness. We intend additional deployment at customs with identification software (Green parrot) in the near future.

A one week training workshop on CITES implementation is being planned for later this year. The workshop will target individuals from relevant agencies involved in the trade of wildlife including CITES listed species. The workshop will create a CITES manual for Kenya. Kenya seeks to purchase the Green Parrot software for use in the training workshop, and for distribution to relevant customs offices.

Support for this workshop in the form of training manuals, and funds would be much appreciated.

Public Awareness

Kenya has distributed CITES posters in all major airports and land ports. Efforts to raise awareness through the media are also proposed.

Species Specific Issues

Prunus africana: Kenya Wildlife Service is currently undertaking a non detriment study for this species in the Baringo District. Meanwhile a moratorium on further collection is in place and permits for export are restricted to verified stocks already in a warehouse.

Export of bird feathers for fish flies: In cooperation with courier companies, the KWS is conducting an investigation to determine whether the recent growth in fish flies production and exports from Kenya are in anyway threatening Kenyan birds. The collection of wild bird feathers is an offence in Kenya unless under permit.

Trade in aloes: A moratorium on aloe export from Kenya is currently in place. A team of scientists and land owners in the Laikipia District associated with the Laikipia Wildlife Forum, are working with KWS to develop aloe propagation and production system. The intention is to develop a certification system to allow the export of propagated specimens or derivatives. The first report on findings to date is expected by July.