

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



Sixty-first meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 August 2011

SECOND JOINT MEETING OF THE CMS-MOU/CITES-MIKE – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
UNDER THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES
FOR THE WEST AFRICAN POPULATIONS OF AFRICAN ELEPHANT AND THE STEERING COMMITTEE
OF THE PROGRAMME FOR MONITORING THE ILLEGAL KILLING OF ELEPHANTS (CITES-MIKE) FOR
WEST AFRICA

This document has been submitted by the CITES Secretariat in agreement with the CMS Secretariat and in relation to agenda item 15.4 (*Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*) at the requests of the participants in the meeting mentioned above.



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)



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

Second Joint Meeting of the CMS-MoU/CITES-MIKE

***Memorandum of Understanding under the Convention on Migratory Species concerning
conservation measures for the West African populations of African Elephant
and
The Steering Committee of the Programme for Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants
(CITES-MIKE) for West Africa***

22 June 2011, Niamey, Niger

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. At the initiative of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Second Joint Meeting of national contact points of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for West African Populations of the African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) (CMS-MoU) and the members of the Steering Committee of the programme Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (CITES-MIKE) for West Africa took place in Niamey, Niger, on 22 June 2011.
2. This Meeting forms part of the joint programme of work of the CITES and CMS Secretariats, as adopted by CITES at the 57th meeting of its Standing Committee (Geneva, July 2008), and by CMS at the 35th Meeting of its Standing Committee (Rome, December 2008).
3. This Joint Meeting was held in Niger in accordance with the wishes expressed in the final declaration of the first Joint Meeting of the national CMS-MoU contact points and members of the Steering Committee of CITES-MIKE for West Africa, held in Accra on 01 April 2009.
4. The thirteen West African Range States of the African Elephant participated in the Meeting (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo), as well as the CMS and CITES Secretariats, and representatives of the IUCN Regional Office for West and Central Africa (IUCN-PACO), the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group (IUCN/AfESG) and the "Enhancing the effectiveness and catalyzing the sustainability of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) protected areas system" Project.
5. The host country, Niger, assumed the role of Chairman of the Joint Meeting. The main objectives of this Second Joint Meeting were to review the collaboration between the West African Elephant Range States to ensure the conservation of elephants in the subregion, and to discuss and advance the progress made in the development of the transboundary projects that had been identified at the first Joint Meeting so that they could be finalized for submission to technical and financial partners with the assistance of CITES and CMS Standing Committees.

6. Presentations, followed by discussions, addressed the joint CITES/CMS programme of work, the actions undertaken by CITES and its MIKE programme, the actions undertaken by CMS, and the results of the Second Meeting of the Signatories of the MoU concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), held in Niamey (Niger) on 20 and 22 June 2011. The participants were strongly in favour of a renewal of the MIKE programme for a third phase from 2012 onwards. They supported the choice of CITES-MIKE for West Africa to ensure the coordination of the CMS-MoU up to March 2012.

7. The participants also examined the status of and progress made with the twelve transboundary projects that had been developed at the first Joint Meeting in Accra on 1 April 2009. This examination showed that the International Work Programme that had been developed to implement the CMS-MoU during 2009-2011 had not advanced and lacked effective subregional coordination. As for the twelve, six had made serious progress.

8. Working groups were then established to update these projects and address outstanding questions on the transboundary issues. These updated projects are:

- 8.1. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana: *Enhancement of knowledge and management of shared elephant populations in the Bia-Goaso-Djambarakro area*
- 8.2. Guinea and Senegal: *Support for the conservation of elephant populations in the Niokolo-Badiar transboundary ecological complex and poverty alleviation of local communities*
- 8.3. Niger and Nigeria: *Baseline study on the status of elephant populations and their habitats and identification of a migration corridor in the transboundary flood plain between the Baban-Rafi (Niger) and the Rounka (Nigeria) areas*
- 8.4. Guinea Bissau and Guinea: *Conservation plan for transboundary elephants in the Corumbal-Dulomi area*
- 8.5. Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo: *Participative management of the corridors and associated ecosystems of Nazinga-Mole-Red Volta-Fosse aux Lions-Doung*
- 8.6. Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia: *Tai-Grebo National Forest*
- 8.7. Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo: *Support for the conservation of elephant populations in W-Arli-Penjari-Oti-Kéran-Oti-Mandouri (WAPOKM)*
- 8.8. Guinea and Sierra Leone: *Monitoring and management of elephant populations in the Ourékaba-Madina Oula-Otamba-Killimi transboundary area*
- 8.9. Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali: *Sustainable management of elephant populations in the Kenedougou-Sikasso-Tengrela transboundary area*
- 8.10. Burkina Faso and Mali: *Conservation of the elephants of the Malian Gourma and Burkinabe Sahel*
- 8.11. Guinea and Liberia: *Strengthening of measures to enhance the conservation of elephants in the Ziama-Wenesigi transboundary area*
- 8.12. Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea: *Support for the conservation and the sustainable management of elephants in the Sankarani-Fié-Odienné transboundary area*

9. Due to the importance in the sub-region of human-wildlife conflicts in general and human-elephant conflicts in particular, elephant Range States in West Africa should endeavour to develop and implement a project for the establishment of a regional strategy for prevention and management of human-elephant conflicts. The experience of IUCN/AfESG could be utilized to this effect.

10. The participants then discussed strategies to be adopted regarding donors, noting that the joint CITES-CMS work programme for 2011-2014 proposes that at least seven transboundary projects be submitted for funding in 2011.

11. The country representatives also pledged to finalize their projects by 31 July 2011 according to appropriate formats, and to search for resources and additional funds for their projects. Finally it was decided that projects that were not sufficiently developed by 31 July 2011 would not be further supported by the CITES and CMS Secretariats in 2011.

12. In the event that several projects would be combined and funded by donors, it was suggested that the management of the funds could be held by an intergovernmental organization (such as the Economic Community of West African States) or a suitable international non-governmental organization (such as IUCN). When proposals and associated funding concerned individual projects, the relevant governments could choose national, transboundary or regional organizations, including IUCN-PACO, to implement the project.

13. The current and future cooperation between CMS-MoU and CITES-MIKE was also briefly discussed. This includes:

- generating and verifying a concordance list of species shared on CITES/CMS Appendices;
- sharing species and other substantive information that may be of mutual interest and identifying priority issues for both Secretariats;
- ensuring close cooperation and coordination on actions concerning priority species and issues; undertaking joint actions for the conservation and sustainable use of shared species; cooperating in administration and fund-raising; and undertaking outreach and capacity building activities.

14. The CMS and CITES Secretariats will communicate the summary minutes of the Joint Meeting to their respective Standing Committees.

15. The Meeting reiterated its satisfaction with the initiatives undertaken and with the Joint Work Programme established between CITES and CMS. The participants expressed a desire for the continuation of these initiatives.

16. The participants at the Joint Meeting considered that the MIKE programme had obtained tangible results and needed to continue, and asked the Standing Committees of CITES and CMS to assist the countries to ensure the financing of the 12 projects for West African elephants that are being finalized, and of the other activities that were proposed at the present meeting.

NIAMEY, 22 June 2011

The participants,

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