

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

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

CONSERVATION OF AFRICAN AND ASIAN ELEPHANTS

This document has been submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland\* in relation to agenda item 44 on *Elephants*.

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\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

## Conservation of African and Asian elephants

In the light of the continued concerns about the ongoing high levels of poaching of elephants and illegal ivory trade the priority should be for range states, transit states and market states to strictly implement the “Action plan for the control of trade in ivory” and the relevant resolutions on ivory trade, in particular Res. Conf. 10.10.

However, the issues and actions being undertaken under CITES to review and propose action for elephant conservation and the ivory trade are many, varied and complex. To provide greater clarity, continuity and drive the EU believes that there is merit in establishing an African and Asian elephant working group to oversee actions being undertaken in connection with elephant Resolutions and Decisions.

The terms of reference for the African elephant working group shall include those of the MIKE-ETIS subgroup as well as additional functions

The Elephant working group will:

- a Insofar as measures to take forward actions under related elephant Resolutions and Decisions;
  - i. Assist the Secretariat in facilitating transparent and timely workshops, meetings, data collection and reports, in particular in relation to Decisions 13.26 (Rev. CoP15) & 14.76 to 14.79 (Rev. CoP15), and 15.74; and,
  - ii. maintain an overview of elephant conservation initiatives and developments in range States;
  - iii. act as a conduit for the communication and exchange of information;
  - iv. offer comment and advice where requested;
  - v. aid communication and development of collaboration where appropriate;
  - vi. identify obvious gaps in enforcement or capacity capability;
  - vii. liaise with and support the steering committee governing the African Elephant Fund and to support and cooperate with African elephant range States on the implementation of the Action Plan;
  - viii. provide support and guidance, as necessary, to the consultant employed further to SC61 Doc 44.4 in considering the ivory decision making mechanism.
- b Insofar as the work of the MIKE and ETIS programmes:
  - i. regularly review the institutional and administrative arrangements and the effectiveness of ETIS and MIKE, and provide advice and formulate recommendations as appropriate;
  - ii. review policies regarding the collection, compilation, use and publication of MIKE and ETIS data, analysis and findings;
  - iii. examine and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate on proposals from MIKE and ETIS concerning:
    - the financial and operational sustainability of the programmes;
    - the participation of elephant range States and Parties in the implementation of MIKE and ETIS; and
    - other matters which may arise in conjunction with meetings of the former MIKE-ETIS Subgroup.

- iv. when requested by the Standing Committee provide an examination of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, including the framework outlined in its Annex 1 for ETIS and in Annex 2 for MIKE
- v. be kept informed about the technical and scientific oversight provided to MIKE and ETIS through the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group;
- vi. Encourage the submission of MIKE and ETIS data efficiently and on time;
- vii. consider documents regarding MIKE and ETIS that are submitted to the Standing Committee;
- c The working group will encourage more synergies between MIKE and ETIS, as well as between MIKE and the IUCN/SSC African elephant specialist Group,
- d The working group shall meet in the sidelines of the meetings of the Standing Committee, shall review progress made under each of the elephant initiatives, Resolutions and Decisions , and appraise any intercessional reporting.
- e The working group composition will be based on that previously adopted for the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, and will normally consist of six members of the Standing Committee: two from Anglophone Africa, one from Francophone Africa, two from Asia and one from Europe or North America, together with and additional 6 members drawn from range states, consumer countries and experts from international organisations and NGOs. .
- f The members of the working group should be a) involved in the on-the-ground implementation of the elephant programmes; b) funding or otherwise actively supporting such programmes; or c) showing a particular interest in the implementation and developments of such programmes.
- g Once constituted, the working group should elect a chairman amongst its membership.