

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

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Eleventh session: 11 October 2004: 11h05-12h10

Chairman: H. Dublin

Secretariat: W. Wijnstekers
T. De Meulenaer
D. Morgan
M. Schmidt

UNEP: N. Rotich

Rapporteurs: J. Gray
M. Jenkins

Strategic and administrative matters

15. Report of the African elephant dialogue meeting

The Chairman of the dialogue meeting of African elephant range States (Mali) held from 28 to 30 September 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand, introduced the report of the meeting in document CoP13 Doc. 15. He thanked the Government of Thailand for hosting the meeting, and those who had provided logistical and financial support. He stated that the meeting had been constructive and fruitful. The report of the meeting was noted by the Committee.

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

29. Elephants

29.2. Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens

The observer from TRAFFIC introduced document CoP13 Doc. 29.2 and its Annex, containing the report on the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS). In response to the report's conclusion that, of the six countries most heavily implicated in the illicit ivory trade, only China had shown recent improvements in enforcement, the delegation of Ghana called for capacity-building workshops for elephant range States. The delegations of China and Ethiopia regretted that recent positive developments in their control of illicit ivory trade did not stand out in the report. The observer from TRAFFIC acknowledged these improvements and stated that they would be reflected in subsequent reports. The delegation of China also requested that future ETIS reports be submitted at least three months before meetings of the Conference of the Parties, that relevant countries be more closely consulted over their preparation, and that future analysis cover a longer period of time, such as that between two consecutive meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The observer from TRAFFIC noted that the report had been submitted in accordance with the timing required in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) and stressed that the great majority of the information in ETIS came from government sources. The delegation of Mali believed it would have been preferable to use the word "confiscation" instead of "seizure" in the reports and asked, if this was not possible, that both words be used together.

29.3. Monitoring of illegal hunting in elephant range States

The director of the MIKE programme (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) introduced document CoP13 Doc. 29.3 and its Annexes, drawing attention to progress made since CoP12. In response to a question from the delegation of Ghana concerning MIKE in West Africa, he noted that there were as yet few data from that region; in particular, there were currently no operational sites in Côte d'Ivoire or Liberia. The delegation of Côte d'Ivoire stressed the importance of MIKE and ETIS and the delegation of Kenya, supported by the delegation of Mali, called for harmonization of MIKE and ETIS. The observer from TRAFFIC stressed that there was nothing in the MIKE report that contradicted the findings of the ETIS report.

The session was closed at 12h10.