

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

Elephants

MONITORING OF ILLEGAL HUNTING IN ELEPHANT RANGE STATES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) on Trade in elephant specimens, on progress made since CoP13 in implementing the MIKE programme.
2. Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) calls for the establishment, under the supervision and direction of the Standing Committee, of a comprehensive international system to monitor the illegal killing of elephants. The Resolution is unique in that it provides a long-term mechanism whereby elephant range States, with the assistance of the CITES Secretariat, can develop the skills and technology required to manage their elephant populations effectively.
3. Information on the methodology, structure, preliminary findings, data analysis and funding of the MIKE programme was provided to the Parties at: the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Gigiri, 2000) in document Doc. 11.31.2; the 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002) in document CoP12 Doc. 34.2; and the 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004) in document CoP13 Doc. 29.3. Reports of the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup of the Standing Committee were reviewed at the 45th (document SC45 Doc. 22), 49th (document SC49 Doc. 11.2 (Rev. 1)), 53rd (document SC53 Doc. 20.2) and 54th (document SC54 Doc. 26.4) meetings of the Standing Committee (held in Paris, June 2001; Geneva, April 2003; Geneva, June – July 2005; and Geneva, October 2006, respectively). Other documents relating to the MIKE programme and associated meetings are available on the CITES website at www.cites.org.
4. At CoP12, the Conference of the Parties amended the annotations under which the populations of *Loxodonta africana* of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa are included in Appendix II by allowing trade in a single shipment of registered raw ivory subject to several conditions, including “not before ... the MIKE programme has reported to the Secretariat on the baseline information” and “only after the Standing Committee has agreed that the ... conditions have been met”.
5. At the same meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 12.33 as follows:

By its 49th meeting, the Standing Committee, in consultation with the MIKE Central Coordinating Unit and IUCN should define the geographical scope and the nature of the data that constitute the baseline information from MIKE that must be provided before any exports can be approved.
6. At its 49th meeting, the Standing Committee adopted a baseline definition which was further clarified at its 53rd meeting. The baseline information, in accordance with this definition, was presented to the Standing Committee at its 54th meeting in document SC54 Doc. 26.2 (Rev. 1). The

Committee agreed that the baseline information was not yet complete and requested that the Secretariat present the complete baseline information at its 55th meeting (The Hague, 2 June 2007). At the time of writing, the completed baseline information, for 45 sites in Africa and 18 sites in Asia, is ready to be presented at that meeting for the Committee's acceptance.

MIKE funding

7. The initial funding support for the African part of the MIKE programme has been provided by the European Commission, with matching funds from other donors, over a 30-month period that finished on 30 April 2004. Since the first tranche of European Commission funding ended, MIKE has been able to continue operating thanks to contributions from several Parties, including Austria, Japan, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as a special contribution of USD 145,000 allocated by the Executive Director of UNEP, in accordance with agreed procedures on the utilization of the 13 % support cost accrued from voluntary contributions.
8. On 7 April 2006, the European Commission informed the Secretariat that it had approved a grant of EUR 9,814,000 to support the MIKE programme for Africa, for the next period (2006-2011). The Secretariat refers to this new phase of MIKE funding as MIKE II. The Secretariat wishes to express its thanks to the European Commission for its continued support to the MIKE programme. The Secretariat also wishes to thank Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Japan, the Netherlands, South Africa and the United Kingdom, as well as the International Elephant Foundation and the Japan Federation of Ivory Arts and Crafts Associations, for their support to the first phase of the MIKE programme in Africa (2001-2006), and Australia, India, Japan, the United States, the International Elephant Foundation, the Japan Federation of Ivory Arts and Crafts Associations and the Wildlife Conservation Society for their support to the MIKE programme in Asia.
9. At its 53rd meeting, the Standing Committee authorized the Secretary-General to advance from the CITES Trust Fund, only if necessary, funds to support the MIKE programme up to a maximum of USD 199,000 while the Secretariat secured external funding. The Secretariat reported at the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee that USD 124,827 had been reimbursed to the Trust Fund, with contributions from Botswana, Japan and the United Kingdom. The Secretariat is especially grateful for this support during the critical period between funding tranches.
10. The Secretariat is currently seeking USD 4,000,000 to support MIKE activities in Asia for the period 2007-2011.

MIKE activities

11. During the transitional period between main funding tranches, bridging funds allowed the MIKE programme to continue at a reduced level of activity, with the Central Coordination Unit (CCU) providing the overall supervision and administration of MIKE activities and exercising proper financial control. Activities were largely restricted to the Sub-regional Support Units collecting data from the range States for the establishment of the baseline data, and providing training to site officers. While it was possible for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to meet in Nairobi in 2006, there were no meetings of the Sub-regional Steering Committees in Africa, and one Sub-regional Steering Committee meeting was held for South Asia on 19-20 December 2005.
12. Since 1 October 2006 the MIKE CCU has been located within the offices of UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions in Gigiri, Kenya, while all administrative and financial services are provided by the Division of Administrative Services of UNON. This includes human resources and fund management, accounting, procurement, and other general support services. The MIKE CCU staff comprises the MIKE Coordinator (an L-5 post), a Data Analyst (L-3), and two Programme Assistants (GS-5 posts). At the time of writing, the MIKE Coordinator and Data Analyst positions have been filled, and the CCU has been operational since 1 April 2007. Prior to this date, the functions of the CCU were covered by the Secretariat.
13. In March 2007 an agreement was reached with IUCN Headquarters regarding the placement and logistical support for the MIKE Sub-regional Support Units and the provision of technical services to

the MIKE programme. Subsequent to this, agreements are being reached with IUCN Regional Offices in Africa for the staffing of the Sub-regional Support Units and the support of MIKE activities.

14. Meetings of the Sub-regional Steering Committees for East Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia are scheduled to be held before CoP14. A meeting of the Technical Advisory Group will also be held prior to CoP14.
15. An oral report will be given at CoP14 on: the outcome of the Standing Committee's baseline discussions; the outcome of fundraising for MIKE in Asia and the future of the MIKE programme in Asia; progress with recruitment and the activities of the MIKE CCU; progress with the operation of the Sub-regional Support Units; meetings of the Sub-regional Steering Committees and the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup; and MIKE data collection, population surveys and capacity-building activities in the field.