

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



Fifty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
The Hague (Netherlands), 2 June 2007

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

Elephants

REPORT OF THE MIKE-ETIS SUBGROUP

1. This document has been submitted by Kenya, as Chairman of the MIKE--ETIS Subgroup of the Standing Committee.
2. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup convened on 1 June 2007 in The Hague. Members of the Subgroup present were Cameroon, China, Germany, Kenya (Chair), Malaysia, and Zambia. The Secretariat was present and acted as secretary.

Adoption of agenda..... SC MESG14 Doc. 1

3. With the clarification to Zambia that the matter of the Chairmanship of the Subgroup would be addressed under agenda item 4.a), the draft agenda was adopted.

Minutes Teleconference, 21 May 2007..... SC MESG Teleconf May 07 Doc. 2

4. The Chairman thanked the participants of the teleconference of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, held on 21 May 2007. Only three members of the Subgroup had taken part in the teleconference (Germany, Kenya and Zambia), as it had not been possible to contact China and Malaysia while the delegate from Cameroon was travelling at the time. Technical difficulties prevented the meeting from addressing the full agenda, but minutes of the teleconference meeting had been circulated to the entire Subgroup shortly thereafter. The Chairman requested that "Kenya" be replaced by "Chairman" in these minutes.
5. It was clarified that the section on MIKE-South Africa referred to the status and development of the programme in Southern Africa, including the plans to re-establish a Sub-regional Support Unit (SSU) in the sub-region, possibly in Pretoria, hosted by IUCN. The members noted the funding difficulties that appeared to afflict the MIKE programme in the two Asian sub-regions, and the important role of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup in encouraging members of the Standing Committee and Parties to assist in sourcing and securing the necessary resources.
6. The MIKE Coordinator summarized the proceedings contained in document SC MESG Teleconf May 07 Doc. 2. He planned to visit India soon after the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14) to seek collaboration and support for the continued implementation of MIKE in the sub-region. With regard to Southeast Asia, he explained that funding was available to cover operations until the end of 2007, and that initial contacts had been made with interested donors about further support for MIKE in the sub-region. He recognized this to be a priority for the successful further development of the programme. He indicated that he would consult elephant Range States for the

further strengthening and development of MIKE, and reiterated the need of cooperation amongst range States to make MIKE a more self-sustaining programme.

7. The Chairman stressed the need of commitment towards making MIKE a vibrant and successful monitoring programme, and the need to hold frequent meetings of the Subgroup in its support. He further stated that the Subgroup should look into the institutional arrangements and sustainability of MIKE, emphasizing in this regard the importance of having full operational SSUs and Sub-regional Support Officers (SSOs).

MIKE Baseline information

8. In connection with the MIKE Baseline information and the general operation of the MIKE programme, the Chairman questioned data flow and data quality control in instances where SSOs were absent for prolonged periods, such as had been the case for Southern Africa. It was explained that the SSO for Eastern Africa had taken over the role of the Southern Africa SSO after the departure of the latter, and had liaised with the wildlife authorities and National MIKE Officers in the sub-region to obtain the data required for the baseline. Zambia confirmed that the data flow had not suffered from these circumstances. In the case of Asia, the baseline information had largely been collected prior to the recent resignation of the SSOs, with the remainder having been obtained by the Central Coordination Unit (CCU) through direct collaboration with national MIKE officers. The MIKE CCU maintained a database of all relevant MIKE National Officers and Steering committee members to this effect. The Chairman reiterated the need to have the institutional arrangements for all SSUs and data verification processes put in place.
9. The MIKE Coordinator indicated that the necessary data and preliminary analysis thereof to meet the Standing Committee's definition of the MIKE Baseline information had now been achieved for 51 sites in Africa and 20 in Asia, including all sites that had originally been selected for the Baseline definition.
10. The Chairman noted that the MIKE Technical Advisory Group (TAG) needed to guide the entire analytical process of the MIKE Baseline information because the members of the Subgroup were not necessarily technical experts. The MIKE Coordinator confirmed that the role of the TAG with regard to the Baseline information was contained in their Terms of Reference in Notification No. 2006/040 and the data handling, access and release policy and protocols agreed to by the MIKE programme in 2002. These requested the MIKE TAG to oversee the design, testing, modifications and improvements to the analytical framework and the analytical process. The approaches for undertaking the preliminary analysis had been reviewed at a TAG meeting in July 2006, and the MIKE TAG had received copies of the Baseline report for their comments prior to the 55th meeting of the Standing Committee.
11. Cameroon stated that the main concern of the Standing Committee at its previous meeting had been the lack of data in certain Asian and African sites, and not the role of the TAG or the temporary lack of SSOs in certain sub-regions. Cameroon noted that a new MIKE team was in place, that the missing information had been collected and analyzed using standard statistical techniques, and the definition of the Baseline information as agreed by the Standing Committee had therefore been met. It encouraged the MIKE monitoring programme to move forward. China supported the statements of Cameroon, congratulating those participating in the MIKE programme for having collated the necessary information and for their implementation of such a complex programme.
12. While acknowledging that the majority of the Subgroup considered that the MIKE Baseline information had been completed, Kenya expressed concern about the lack of full review by the members of the TAG of document SC55 Doc. 10.2 (Rev. 1). It insisted that the role of the TAG in further analysis and data collection needed to be maintained and strengthened.

Next meeting of the Standing Committee MIKE-ETIS Subgroup

13. The Chairman expressed his intention to convene the Subgroup on 15 June immediately after SC56 in order to discuss the running of the Subgroup between SC56 and SC57.

Membership of the Standing Committee MIKE-ETIS Subgroup

14. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup should be re-constituted by the Standing Committee after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties. At SC56, the Standing Committee could simply confirm its desire to maintain the Subgroup with the replacement of Cameroon, Germany and Malaysia, as their term as members of the subgroup has ended. At a later date, it could then agree on the new membership of the Subgroup. The next full meeting of the Subgroup could therefore be held in conjunction with SC57 in 2008.
15. The Chairman informed the meeting that Cameroon, Germany and Malaysia would no longer be members of the Standing Committee after CoP14 and thanked them for their contributions during their term as members of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup. They were invited to attend the Subgroup meeting to be held directly following SC56 on 15 June. The Chairman indicated his desire to hand over the chairmanship in the reconstituted Subgroup. The MIKE Coordinator emphasized the importance of maintaining a balanced membership in the constitution of the next MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, which should select a chairman from its membership.
16. The Chairman noted finally that in his view, the Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee MIKE-ETIS Subgroup needed strengthening, and emphasized the urgent need to fill the vacancies in the MIKE programme at sub-regional level. He also emphasized the need for the Secretariat to consult with the Subgroup on the refinement of the programme.