

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



Fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 14-18 July 2008

Species trade and conservation

Elephants

REPORT OF THE MIKE-ETIS SUBGROUP

This document has been submitted by Zambia, as Chairman of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup of the Standing Committee, following discussion of agenda item 33.5.

The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup convened on 17 July 2008 in Geneva. Those present were China, Japan, Kenya, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Thailand and Zambia, and the European Commission, TRAFFIC and the CITES Secretariat.

Kenya confirmed its intention, first indicated at the last meeting of the subgroup in The Hague in 2007, to relinquish its chairmanship of the MIKE ETIS subgroup. Kenya was thanked for its efforts and Zambia was selected as the new chair of the subgroup.

The Subgroup agreed that its terms of reference needed clarification, that its habitual means of communication (teleconferences) was inadequate due to technical difficulties, and that regular reporting by both MIKE and ETIS to the subgroup would be desirable. It was suggested that the subgroup communicate intersessionally by electronic mail.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate, by early September 2008, draft terms of reference to the subgroup for its review. At the same time, the Secretariat would circulate a proposed programme of work for the Subgroup for the coming months. It was also agreed that the MIKE and ETIS programmes would report quarterly to the subgroup.

The MIKE Coordinator provided a brief overview on the status of the MIKE programme, noting that the programme in Asia is currently not operational in most countries, as funds for programme implementation are unavailable. Members of the Subgroup expressed their concern over the problems of implementation in Asia and in particular Southeast Asia. The MIKE Coordinator explained plans to update the situation of MIKE in Southeast Asia and convene a regional meeting, and that substantial funds for subsequent activities are urgently needed .

The Coordinator also reported that for MIKE in Africa, a contract had finally been signed with IUCN for hosting the subregional support officer in Southern Africa, and that a sub-regional support officer would be recruited soon.

The ETIS Programme reported on progress to date, and presented, for consideration by the members, a data access policy that reflects the way ETIS has been operating since its inception. The policy will be discussed through electronic communication arranged by the MIKE Central Coordination Unit.