

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



**Third African elephant meeting
Gigiri, Kenya
1-3 November 2010**

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MIKE IN AFRICA

1. This document has been prepared by the MIKE Central Coordination Unit, and highlights activities and developments of the programme since the 15th Conference of the Parties (CoP15; Doha, March 2010).

Administrative and institutional matters

2. At its 59th meeting (Doha, 12 March 2010), the Standing Committee briefly discussed its MIKE-ETIS Subgroup on the basis of document SC59 Doc. 19, submitted by the Secretariat. The Committee agreed that the Subgroup should meet during CoP15 to discuss the issues in paragraph 3 of document SC59 Doc. 19, and to reconvene the Subgroup with new members at its 60th meeting (SC60; Doha, 25 March 2010).
3. At SC60, the Standing Committee recreated a MIKE-ETIS Subgroup composed of Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Japan, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Although currently an alternate member of the Standing Committee, Mali was proposed by the Democratic Republic of Congo as a seventh member. In response to a request from the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to have better representation from Asian elephant range States, Thailand later agreed to become the eighth member of the Subgroup. Uganda was nominated Chair of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup and Botswana Vice-Chair.
4. As reported at CoP15, and after years of preparation, piloting and investment by donors and range States, MIKE is at present meeting its four objectives contained in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15) (see documents CoP15 Doc. 44.2 (Rev. 1), CoP15 Inf. 40 (Rev. 1) and CoP15 Inf. 41). The programme provided the CITES community with a scientifically robust, objective analysis on trends in the illegal killing of elephants, and elucidated their relationship with CITES decisions; it maintains increasingly sophisticated databases and provides information on factors that are associated with elephant poaching to support the making of decisions on management, protection and enforcement; and it undertakes comprehensive capacity building activities in African elephant range States.
5. Following CoP15 and as agreed by the Parties, the following mandates concerning MIKE need to be considered:
 - a. **Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15):** The Resolution was maintained. This includes the recommendation for the MIKE and ETIS programmes "to continue and be expanded" under the supervision of the Standing Committee and with the same objectives as before. In accordance with the Resolution, the Secretariat has to provide an updated analysis of the data collected under the MIKE programme at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) in 2013.

- b. **Decision 14.78 (Rev. CoP15):** The CITES community decided that, pending the necessary external funding, the Secretariat should produce two additional updated analysis of MIKE data for the 61st and 62nd meetings of the Standing Committee in 2011 and 2012 respectively. The Decision requests similar updates of ETIS data (from TRAFFIC), legal elephant trade data (from UNEP-WCMC), the conservation status of elephants (from IUCN/SSC Elephant Specialists Groups) and the implementation of the *African elephant action plan* (from African elephant range States), pending external funding. In this regard, it should be noted that following the export of 102 tons of legal stocks of raw ivory from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to China and Japan late in 2008, MIKE showed an overall decline in illegal elephant killing in 2009, whereas the findings of MIKE's sister programme ETIS recorded a continuing increase in global illegal ivory trade in 2009. These contrasting findings need further examination and confirmation so that the CITES community can better appreciate any effects of its ivory trade decisions. This can only be achieved through a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics and time lags involved in the illegal ivory supply chain.
- c. **Decision 14.77:** A decision-making mechanism for a process of trade in ivory under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties has to be developed by the Standing Committee by 2013, for which inputs from MIKE and ETIS may be required. Elephant and ivory monitoring schemes with the characteristics of MIKE and ETIS could become part of such a 'mechanism'.
- d. **Decision 15.74:** The Standing Committee, in consultation with elephant range States and the Secretariat, will evaluate the need to revise Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP15). The ensuing recommendations will be presented at CoP16. This review can re-examine or improve the scope, purpose, organizational set-up or technical design of MIKE.
6. Although not directly related to CITES or CoP15, it is worth emphasizing that the guiding principles in the *African elephant action plan*, agreed to by the African elephant range States in the sidelines of CoP15, recognize amongst others "the contribution made by MIKE and ETIS to monitoring illegal killing of elephants and the illegal trade in ivory, and the need to expand these programmes further". The *action plan* contains specific actions calling for the continuation of the MIKE and ETIS programmes, and the effective implementation of these and other CITES provisions concerning elephants.
7. In 2011, the MIKE Phase II (2007-2011) project will continue to be implemented in Africa with support from the European Commission. In addition, emphasis will be placed on meeting the requirements from the CITES community (see paragraph 5 above). Therefore, consideration will be given to ways to ensure that the programme can remain operational and productive until CoP16 or beyond.
8. The following table provides a summary of some facts, figures and accomplishments of the MIKE programme in Africa in the course of Phase II (2007 to the present):

INDICATOR	TOTAL
Number of countries implementing MIKE in Africa	29 (+ Ethiopia in 2010)
Number of MIKE sites	58
Area of sites	519,900 km ²
Number of elephants in MIKE sites	277,100
Number of carcasses recorded (up to end of 2009)	6,264
Number of illegally killed elephants recorded (up to end of 2009)	2,479

Number of rangers involved in MIKE	4,513
Number of rangers trained in MIKE methods	742
Number of population surveys conducted with assistance from MIKE	9
Area covered by MIKE population surveys	106,110 km ²
Number of training events held	52
Number of Subregional Steering Committee meetings held	12
Number of site visits by SSOs	98
Number of computers installed and GPS units deployed	90
Number of sites where MIST is being deployed (various stages of progress)	50

Technical and scientific matters

9. On the technical front, the last six months have been devoted to the development of new analytical methods to make the outcomes of MIKE analyses simpler and more reliable. Amongst them are the use of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) scores as indicators of governance at the local level; the use of a multinomial technique for the analysis of PIKE (Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants) data, which will prevent PIKE analyses from being confounded by sudden increases in natural mortality (e.g. due to droughts); weighting PIKE by the numbers of elephants at each site, which should improve PIKE as an indicator of the scale of poaching; and conducting an analysis of MIKE data for a subset of sites for which patrol-level effort data are available, to test whether the PIKE indicator is biased by different levels of effort. Work is also being devoted to simplifying the MIKE data requirements (both carcass and patrol data), and to a review on different options for conducting reliable and cost-effective population surveys in large forested sites.
10. These developments are being presented to the MIKE Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which will hold its Ninth meeting in early December 2010, and should result in a more refined analysis to be presented to the 61st meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, to be held in Geneva in August 2011.

Subregional perspectives

11. Since CoP15, the MIKE Subregional Support Units for Central, East, West and Southern Africa have mainly focused on capacity building and training activities. A summary of these, as well as perspectives of the activities in the coming months, are presented in Annex 1. An additional activity during the next coming months will be data collection for the analysis for the Standing Committee.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE MIKE SUBREGIONAL SUPPORT UNITS IN AFRICA,
AND PERSPECTIVES FOR 2011**

MIKE CENTRAL AFRICA

Principal activities since CoP15

- MIST training at national and site levels (73 people trained):
 - at national level: Chad (6 people), Congo (7 people) and Gabon (3 people)
 - at site level: Zakouma (25 rangers), Dzanga Sangha (14 rangers), Odzala (18 rangers)
- Deployment of 11 new computers and solar kits at Sites (one per site):
 - Central African Republic: Bangassou, Dzanga Sangha and Sangba
 - Chad: Zakouma
 - Congo: Odzala and Nouabale Ndoki
 - D.R. Congo: Okapi, Virunga and Salonga
 - Gabon: Lope and Minkebe
- Contributed to the translation of MIST interface into French
- One Sub regional Steering Committee meeting held in Brazzaville (October 2010)

Perspectives and priorities for 2011

- Hold a subregional MIST workshop in January 2011 to allow MIKE Officers to exchange their experiences in the use of MIST and take this opportunity to get 2010 data for February 2011 analysis
- Organize MIST ranger-based data collection trainings for the remaining sites: Salonga, Minkebe, Nouabale Ndoki and maybe Monte Alen (if MIST language problem is solved)
- Undertake one elephant population survey after consultation with MIKE CCU
- Provide at least 2 GPS data loggers for Linux per site
- Hold the next Subregional Steering Committee meeting in D.R. Congo

MIKE EAST AFRICA

Principal activities since CoP15

Date	Area/Country	Activity/Training Content	No. of participants
March 2010	Tsavo East, Kenya	MIST database	37
March 2010	Murchison, Uganda	Population survey	14
April 2010	Tsavo West, Kenya	MIST database	37
May 2010	Arusha Tanzania	Elephant mgt plan	01
June 2010	Arusha Tanzania	Aerial Survey methods	15
July 2010	Meru, Kenya	MIST database	30
July 2010	Queen Elizabeth, Uganda	Population Survey	06
July 2010	Selous, Tanzania	MIST training	35
September 2010	Samburu, Kenya	MIST training	43

Perspectives and priorities for 2011

Location/Country	Activity	Target group	Time Frame
Babile, Ethiopia	MIKE inception	20 rangers	November 2010
Kefta Shiraro, Ethiopia	MIKE inception	20 rangers	December 2010
Selous, Tanzania	MIST database training	30 scouts	November 2010
Tarangire Tanzania	MIST database training	20 rangers	January 2011
Mt Elgon, Kenya	MIST database training	30 rangers	December 2010
Ethiopia	MIST training	30 rangers	January 2011
Nairobi	Subregional steering meeting	SSC members (12)	February 2011
Mt. Elgon Kenya	Faecal DNA survey	Involve experts	March 2011
Akagera	MIST refresher training	20 rangers	April 2011
Kigali, ORTPN	Meet new Director general	02	November 2010
All countries, EASSU	Distribute GPS/data loggers		May 2011
Tsavo, Kenya	Population survey	20 KWS staff	June 2011
Nairobi, Kenya	MIST advanced training	14 site officers	July 2011

MIKE WEST AFRICA

Principal activities since CoP15

- May 2010: 10 rangers of Nazinga (BF) trained on GPS manipulation and MIST derived form for patrol data collection.
- May 2010: 30 rangers of Tai (CI) trained on MIST derived form for patrol data collection.
- June 2010: MIST training for 20 persons from Benin (4), Burkina (4), Côte d'Ivoire (1), Ghana (1), Niger (6) and Togo (4) held in Niamey, Niger.
- September 2010: MIST training for 19 persons from Ghana (10), Liberia (4), Nigeria (4), and WASSU Admin Assistant (1) held in Accra, Ghana.

- October 2010: 26 rangers of Yankari (NG) trained on GPS manipulation and MIST derived form for patrol data collection;
- Computers installed: 21; GPS deployed: 33

To come in 2010

- Training of 10 rangers in W Burkina in November
- Meeting on the financing of WAP survey in November

Perspectives and priorities for 2011

- Subregional MIST training for 25 persons in Mali (from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali and Senegal)
- MIST trainings at national levels
- WAP complex aerial survey; Yankari aerial survey
- Continue installing computers; Continue deploying GPS
- Subregional Steering Committee meeting and MIKE-CMS meeting in Niamey (April-May)

MIKE SOUTHERN AFRICA

Principal activities since CoP15

1 Aerial survey design training workshop (17-21 May 2010)

The objective of the training workshop was to assist 11 ecologists from five of the MIKE participating range States (Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to plan and design sample aerial surveys that were likely to be executed at specific MIKE sites during the 2010 dry season. The same group attended a basic aerial survey course in October 2009. All range States, with the exception of Namibia which funded an extra delegate, provided two ecologists. South Africa did not participate in this training programme because it does not use sample surveys to monitor its elephant populations.

At the end of the workshop, ecologists from each country had produced budgets and survey designs for the areas listed below:

- Cabora Bassa, Mozambique: the MIKE funded the survey as agreed to by the Subregional Steering Committee.
- Chewore, Zimbabwe: the MIKE funded the survey as agreed to by the Subregional Steering Committee.
- Chobe NP, Botswana: the Wildlife Management Authority has resources to fund the survey. Survey will take place in November.
- Etosha NP, Namibia: the Wildlife Management Authority can fund the survey
- South Luangwa NP, Zambia: at the time of the workshop there was prospect for NORAD funding.
- Kafue NP, Zambia: not a MIKE site but chosen for practical training as donor funding to support survey was available.

2 Aerial survey of Cabora Bassa (Mozambique) and Chewore (Zimbabwe) MIKE sites and *in-situ* training of ecologists

MIKE funded an aerial sample survey of elephants in Cabora Bassa and Chewore during the dry season (July and August 2010).

The ecologists that received training in planning and designing surveys were further provided with practical training in survey administration (i.e. securing suitable planes and experienced pilots, mobilize recorders and observers, procuring and deploying avgas) and practical aspects of executing the survey such as calibration, recording and/or observing, briefing the pilot and observers on important sample survey design and safety aspects. Ecologists from other countries were also expected to participate in practical aspects of survey administration and execution for the survey that were funded by their governments or NGOs. Technical support in executing surveys planned at the workshop was also available for any country that needed it.

3 MIKE Ranger Training Curriculum Development Workshop (17-19 August 2010)

This workshop followed from an initial workshop held in Tsavo East (Kenya) in November 2009 involving MIKE staff and the Kenya Wildlife Service. The objectives of the workshop were:

- To review training needs for law enforcement field staff at the MIKE sites with ranger training experts and field law enforcement practitioners;
- To identify existing training curricular, and gaps in coverage of important training modules; and
- To formulate generalized MIKE law enforcement monitoring training curriculum for use at all MIKE sites, and seek written contributions from experts for the development of the curriculum.

Participants included representatives from elephant range States (Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe), independent experts (African Field Ranger Training Services, CAMPFIRE Association, Game Ranger Association of Africa, IUCN, and Southern African Wildlife College) and MIKE staff.

The workshop produced an outline of range of core skills that can form the basis of a generalized ranger training curriculum for use at MIKE sites in Africa and Asia.

Follow-up activities include: (a) Conducting study to establish gaps in the coverage of the established general ranger training curriculum; (b) Collating existing training materials and establish gaps in coverage against the established standard ranger training curriculum and gaps in quality of materials against the MIKE standards; and (c) Developing identified training materials. The aim is to have some standard materials by mid-2011.

4 Setting up Law Enforcement Monitoring databases

MIST databases for Chobe (Botswana), South Luangwa (Zambia), Chewore and Nyaminyami (Zimbabwe) were set up in September 2010 after almost a year of consultations which started at regional level and then at national and site levels. The three range States opted to deploy MIST to replace the original MIKE data recording system and the associated MIKE database.

Namibia was assisted in identifying processes to ensure that the recording of MIKE data and the subsequent storage and management are efficiently integrated in the home-grown Event and Incident Book monitoring systems and databases. An action plan has been produced detailing activities to be undertaken and funded by MIKE and those to be undertaken and funded by the range State.

The request from South Africa to set-up a site MIST database that manages data from field-based patrols and other law enforcement activities such as investigations was discussed. The MIKE Data Analyst is looking at the possibility of setting up an offender module within MIST database. The other option presented to improve management of field data collected through Cyber-Tracker is to develop a process that will enable downloading data directly into the MIST database.

Perspectives and priorities for 2011

1 Senior management meeting on MIKE/ETIS implementation in Mozambique (November 2010)

The objective of the meeting is to assist Mozambique in formulating a strategy that will ensure effective delivery of MIKE/ETIS obligations to CITES. Mozambique has failed to meet its obligations despite previous national visits and directives from the Subregional Steering Committee. This meeting will be attended by the Vice-Minister (from Environment or Tourism), senior officials at national and provincial (Tete, Niassa, and CaboDelgado) levels and two Site Officers. Officials will be from the Ministries of Agriculture, of Environment and of Tourism.

2 Field ranger training in Law Enforcement Monitoring techniques (Chobe, Botswana December 2010)

This is the first training session for field rangers for the range States that are deploying MIST. The training is targeting 10 patrol leaders from Chobe. MIKE site officers from Zambia and Zimbabwe will also participate. To ensure common standards, this training event will be facilitated by the MIKE SSO from Southeast Asia who has vast experience in teaching field rangers in law enforcement monitoring techniques. Training of field rangers from Chewore, Nyaminyami and South Luangwa will be conducted during the first quarter of 2011.

3 Basic MIST training and advanced MIST training

Basic MIST training for site database managers (Chobe, Chewore, Nyaminyami and South Luangwa) is planned for the second quarter of 2011. IT specialists from the three countries will also be invited to the training. The advanced training for systems administrators is planned for the third quarter of 2011.

4 Support to Namibia to integrate recording and management of MIKE data into the Event and Incident Book systems

MIKE will fund the following activities:

- Data needs assessment workshop for Etosha
- Training of field rangers from Etosha after finalization of the new Incident Book system
- Developing systems for ensuring that the Event and Incident Databases talk to each other
- Developing a way to transfer/sync data from Etosha and Caprivi databases to HQ
- Developing a procedure for exporting data from Incident database and for migrating old digital data to the new Incident database.

5 Population Surveys

Planned capacity building activities include: training workshop (Maputo, 24-28 January 2011) to assist ecologists from 5 range States (Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to analyse survey flying data from the surveys conducted on MIKE sites during 2010; train observers and recorders in all the 5 range States during the second quarter of 2011; continue to provide technical support (where it is needed) to range States that have resources to support surveys on their MIKE sites in 2011.