

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

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Fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 June-1 July 2005

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

African elephant

REPORT OF THE MIKE AND ETIS SUBGROUP

1. This document has been submitted by Chile, as acting Chairman of the MIKE and ETIS subgroup of the Standing Committee.
2. The Standing Committee created a subgroup at its 41st meeting (Geneva, February 1999) to oversee, on its behalf, further development, refinement and implementation of MIKE. At its 49th meeting (Geneva, April 2003) the Committee decided to extend the mandate of the subgroup to include ETIS.
3. The subgroup met on 27 and 28 June 2005. The documents it considered are available on the CITES website on the SC53 page. The following members of the subgroup participated at the meeting: Cameroon, China, Germany, Kenya, Malaysia and Zambia. The subgroup agreed that Kenya would be its chairman at future meetings.
4. The subgroup noted the progress report concerning MIKE from the Director of the CITES/MIKE Central Coordination Unit. It welcomed the news that significant future funding for MIKE in Africa will almost certainly be obtained from the European Commission. However it was concerned that this may not be available until January – March 2006. In the meantime, there is a significant shortfall in funding and this threatens the continuity of the work of MIKE. Consequently, the subgroup urges the Standing Committee to approve the proposed loan from the Trust Fund (see document SC53 Doc. 20.3).
5. The trade in registered raw ivory from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa agreed in principle at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Santiago, 2002) can only take place when certain conditions specified in the footnote to the Appendix-II listing of *Loxodonta africana* have been met. One of these conditions is that:

*the MIKE programme has reported to the Secretariat on the baseline information (e.g. elephant population numbers, incidence of illegal killing)*
6. The Standing Committee agreed on a definition of the baseline information at its 49th meeting. The Director of the CITES/MIKE Central Coordination Unit advised the subgroup that, providing continuing funding is obtained, the baseline information should be available at the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee. On a recommendation from the Director of the CITES/MIKE, the subgroup agreed that the Standing Committee adopt a small clarification to the baseline information so that the number of sites used in Asia is increased from 15 to 18 and the requirement that population surveys at sites not be older than three years be clarified to mean that no population survey should be used if it was carried out before the year 2000. This will bring the definition into line with current practice in the CITES/MIKE Central Coordination Unit as reported at 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2004) and with the intent of the discussion at SC49.
7. The subgroup noted the progress report from TRAFFIC concerning ETIS and the revised terms of reference for the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which are needed to take account of the extension of its mandate to cover ETIS as well as MIKE.

8. The subgroup invites the Standing Committee to note its report and agree the clarification in the definition of baseline information set out in paragraph 6 above.