

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA
MIKE SUB-REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE**

15 January 2004, Skukuza, South Africa

Attendance List

Name	Position	Country
Isaac Theophilus	Director (repr.)	Botswana
Botshabelo Othusitse	National Coordinator	Botswana
Edson Chidziya	National Coordinator	Zimbabwe
L Mungwashu	Delegate	Zimbabwe
Sticks	Delegate	Zimbabwe
Sansao Mahanjane	National Coordinator	Mozambique
Pieter Botha	National Coordinator	South Africa
Sonja Meintjes	Delegate	South Africa
Sandra Snelling	Site Coordinator (repr.)	South Africa
Pauline Lindeque	Director	Namibia
Meed Mbidzo	National Coordinator	Namibia
Louisa Mapotani	Dep. Director	Namibia
Nigel Hunter	MIKE Director	
Flip Stander	SSO	

Chair – P. Lindeque
Minutes – P. Stander

The meeting was opened and everybody welcomed by the Chair, Dr. P Lindeque.

Apologies – Mr A Cuco – Mozambique, Mr J Matlhare – Botswana. Zambian delegates were not present, possibly as a result of communication problems in 2003.

The agenda was accepted.

MIKE Programme Update – N Hunter

Mr Nigel Hunter emphasised that this meeting belongs to the Sub-region and that both he, and the SSO, are there to facilitate and provide support. It is important that the meeting remains open and objective, so that it can achieve its objective of identifying problems and finding solutions. Mr Hunter presented an update on the progress of MIKE in Africa and Asia.

West Africa –

Population surveys of elephants have been done for all savannah sites and all but one forest site. Nigeria is now also up and running. Funding constraints are presently limiting progress as well as civil unrest in Liberia and Ivory Coast. Law Enforcement (LEM) data are not getting through to the SSU but it is believed that the data are available. There is presently little elephant poaching. MIKE is confident that the baseline implementation will be in place by the next CoP.

Central Africa –

Population surveys have been done for all but one savannah site and forest surveys are now underway. The continuous development and improvement of forest survey techniques have delayed and influenced forest survey design, analysis and interpretation. The flow of law enforcement data is still problematic and not all governments are committed to MIKE.

East Africa –

All population surveys have been done, except two forest site that are presently underway. The flow of law enforcement data is generally good, although there are some difficult sites.

Southern Africa – Population surveys are up to date. The flow of law enforcement data is generally good although there are some problem areas. Zambia recently returned good LEM data and it is a pity that they could not attend. Clarity is needed on the lack of LEM data from Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Asia

South Asia –

With good support from India there is a good possibility that population surveys will be completed. The collecting of law enforcement data is in progress.

South-east Asia –

This is a difficult sub-region and there are many problems to overcome (e.g. different languages, no sub-regional loyalty). The appointment of a SSO has been slow and difficult, and as a result the sub-region is far behind. Dave Lawson has now been appointed as the SSO. It is unlikely that the MIKE baseline will be in place before 2005.

Funding –

Funds for Asia are secure for the next two years. For Africa the present EC grant ends in April 2004. Activating the 2nd phase EC funding is a slow process and funds will only be available in 2005. Securing bridging funds has been a problem. Several proposals for minimum required funds to keep the programme going have been submitted.

MIKE Southern Africa Update – P Stander

The Sub-regional Support Unit has focussed extensively on training of personnel involved in the MIKE programme. Training programmes focussed on both field staff and the National and Site Coordinators of all range states. In total 315 field staff were training in MIKE data collecting procedures and GPS technology. MIKE coordinators also received computer training along with the distribution of MIKE computers and MIKE Database to all sites. The continuity of MIKE coordinators is important and it was demonstrated that MIKE has invested an average of US\$5302.42 per year in the training of one MIKE coordinator.

Country Reports

Botswana – B Othusitse

MIKE data collection has been extended to other areas and the Site boundary has been extended. All MIKE data up to November 2003 have been submitted to the SSU. A training workshop, involving the Defence Force, Customs, and other Government Departments, was held on MIKE data collecting procedures.

Mozambique – S Mahanjane

Aerial surveys were done last year in both Niassa and Cahorra Bassa. Poaching of elephants has gone down. Elephant populations appear to have increased and elephant/human conflicts are rising. There was an extensive discussion on the boundaries of the Cahorra Bassa site.

➤ *Action* – Define the boundaries of Cahorra Bassa MIKE Site (9 Feb 04, Sansao & Flip)

Namibia – M Mbidzo

Problems have been experienced with data collection since the Site Coordinator falls under a different section. Progress has been made with establishing a second MIKE site in the Caprivi communal conservancy area. Law enforcement data procedures have been linked to other data collecting systems (e.g. rhinos).

South Africa – P Botha

The decision to expand MIKE to several other sites were met with varied responses and limited commitment. Extensive LEM data have been collected in Kruger but there are some communication problems that influence the flow of data to the SSU. A separate meeting was held with South African delegates to address the highlighted problems. There is little illegal activity in Kruger NP.

Zimbabwe – E Chidzyia

Collection of LEM data is ongoing. Computer problems and staff changes have caused delays in data flow, but a data capturer has now been appointed. Population surveys are up to date. Recent aerial surveys (2003) in both sites showed no fresh elephant carcasses, and there appears to be little poaching.

Site Log and data flow to SSU

A detailed list was circulated summarising the status and availability of MIKE data for each site. The data are confidential and therefore not included in these minutes.

- *Action* – It was agreed that all non-site elephant carcass forms be sent to the SSU (all National Coordinators).
- *Action* – Non-site carcass data must be added to Site Log (Flip).
- *Action* – Site and national Coordinators must bring outstanding raw data (Patrol and Carcass forms) to Module 5 training, to remove X and S's of the Site Log.

Computers

Module 5 training will take place in Windhoek on 9 – 13 February 2004.

Nigel hunter requested feedback from Kruger NP on their experiences with CyberTrackers, especially in relation to reliability and long-term continuity.

Data Analyses Structure – N Hunter

N Hunter gave a summary of the background and progress of the Data Analyses Structure.

- *Action* – The Sub-region should identify a regional institution that could host future MIKE analytical developments and routine training of personnel.

Human/elephant conflict monitoring form was developed based on the African Elephant Specialist Group form, and developed into a database. This is purely voluntary and aimed at assisting the Sub-region. Namibia welcomed the addition.

Population Surveys

Report back was given on the surveys conducted and those planned for the next three years.

MIKE Site	Done		Planned		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cahorra Bassa		✓	✓		✓
Caprivi Conservancy	✓		✓		✓
Chewore		✓	✓		
Chobe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Etosha	✓		✓		✓
Kruger	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Niassa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nyami Nyami		✓	✓		
South Luangwa	✓		✓		✓

Spatial Data

- *Action* – All National Coordinators must bring digital mapping data to Module 5 training.
- *Action* – P Stander will hunt down any missing data.

New MIKE Sites

Establishing the Caprivi Conservancy MIKE Site in Namibia and getting it up and running has been agreed as a priority.

Malawi has requested urgent involvement and participation in MIKE. It is believed that they are loosing elephants through poaching. N Hunter and P Stander will visit Malawi soon.

Angola also needs to be brought on board. Namibia will advise on contact people.

Institutional Matters

- *Action* – N Hunter and P Stander will visit Mozambique to meet with senior officials and raise the profile of MIKE.
- *Action* – N Hunter will develop a TOR for the SSC during the next few months. The following points were agreed to in principal: a) the Chair will be rotational, b) rotation will follow the CoP cycle, c) the Meeting requested that Namibia continue as the Chair for the next cycle.

There will be a Range State Dialogue meeting in July/August 2004 in preparation of the CoP in October 2004.

The next Sub-region Steering Committee Meeting will be in February 2005
