1. Welcome speech by the chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed all the participants and wished them a wonderful stay and a constructive meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with amendments as follows:

- Items ‘MIKE Programme update and MIKE global priorities’ were to be combined;
- Items ‘Preparation of MIKE report to CoP 15 and Evaluation of status of MIKE implementation in the Sub-region’ were to be presented after country presentations.

3. Terms of reference for the Sub-regional Steering Committee (SSC) Meetings (MIKE Coordinator)

An overview of the Terms of Reference as adopted by the CITES Standing Committee was provided by the MIKE Coordinator. Given the mandate of the Committee to oversee the implementation of the programme, it was emphasized that the main objective of the meeting was therefore to launch MIKE Phase II in the sub-region.

The meeting agreed to the Terms of Reference and further agreed to the following:

- Range states to nominate members to the committee;
- Range states to notify the Sub-regional Support Unit (SSU) about changes in the MIKE personnel i.e. the National and Site Officers;
- The regional Technical Advisory Group (TAG) member to be invited to future SSC meetings;
- The non participating Range states in the region i.e. Angola, Malawi and Swaziland may be invited to participate as observers in future meetings;
- The next country chair and host of the next meeting in 2010 to be selected at the end of the meeting.

4. The role the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to MIKE
Dr C Craig explained the relationship between range States and TAG. He emphasized that as a representative for Southern African, he represents technical issues pertaining to implementing MIKE in the Sub-region and not the interests of range States. The southern African range States nominated him based on his knowledge on matters related to MIKE design and implementation. He also pointed out that TAG members do not and must not have vested interests.

Deliberations on this matter were structured as follows:
- Country presentations based on the questionnaire that was circulated in advance of the meeting;
- Presentation from MIKE Data analyst on data requirements for report for CoP 15 and presentation of the results of analysis of carcass data submitted by some range states up to mid 2008;
- Presentation by Sub-regional Support Officer on the rational of evaluation of MIKE implementation and its linkage to the strategy for 2009 and beyond.

The issues, gaps and challenges identified from country presentations were summarized as follows:
- High staff turnover at both site and national levels in most countries. In some countries, such as Zimbabwe, the problem is acute at Ranger level;
- Site boundary definitions in Mozambique for the Zambezi site are not clear;
- Lack of feedback to range States on MIKE data use and analysis;
- Insufficient national and regional communication;
- Poorly performing MIKE sites within the sub-region;
- Lack of technical and operational support;
- Insufficient equipment (computers; GPS; printers; batteries; power);
- Poor MIKE software (database crashes);
- Need for more capacity and regular MIKE training;
- MIKE structures poorly operating (CITES/MIKE arrangements in Mozambique; no MIKE Site Officers).

Suggested measures to address the gaps and challenges that came out from discussions included the following:

- Provision of continuous support for MIKE implementation by SSU and CCU;
- For the beginning of 2009, MIKE work programme to concentrate on collecting all individual carcass records for analysis by MIKE and presentation to CoP 15. The deadline for submission to MIKE Central Coordination Unit was set at 15 April 2009);
- SSU to provide resource support (hardware and software) to national and site offices within the limits of the national and site support budgets;
- Communication between MIKE Site and National Officers to be improved with (within the financial and practical limits) assistance from the SSU;

Range States were requested to:
  - assist work with the new MIKE Sub-regional Support Unit for Southern Africa and its SSO;
  - promote/foster/encourage/ inter-and intra-regional cooperation and mutual support in implementing MIKE;
  - help identify training and capacity building needs;
- collaborate with SSU in delivery of capacity building and training related to MIST, law enforcement monitoring and elephant population surveys;
- rationalize institutional arrangements related to MIKE implementing and CITES administration at national level;
- ensure that MIKE staff is complete at all times;
- encourage/promote/conduct/exchange visits of Site officers as a training tool;
- collaborate and cooperate in conducting country and site evaluations; and;
- advise the SSU of the elephant survey priorities for 2009;
- provide full evaluation questionnaires as soon as possible;
- foster political support for the MIKE programme;

- The Committee to bring the importance of the MIKE programme (and CITES) to the attention of SADC April Ministerial meeting; and
- Zambia and Mozambique to supply results of 2008 elephant surveys a soon as possible.

Regarding the possibility of rolling out MIST, which was adopted by most range States at the first elephant meeting in June 2008, the meting agreed to the following actions:

- SSU to convene a MIST needs assessment workshop with regional managers in May 2009. Range States will decide in this meeting whether or not to adopt MIST to replace the current MIKE monitoring protocol and database or the current systems being used in place of MIKE;
- National needs assessment to be conducted in June and July 2009 after range States have decided on course of action. The assessment to look at the structure and content of patrol data collection forms, adoption of paper or computerised database, linkages of existing data collection system and management systems with MIST;
- SSO to provide MIST implementation plan or outline to assist all stakeholders to plan and mobilize resource;
- Range States to be assisted in developing and configuring required databases to suit site band country needs in MIST implementation;
- MIST training for Rangers in key countries (including Botswana) to be conducted in 4\textsuperscript{th} quarter of 2009;
- SSU to link up Range states (South Africa and Namibia) who are not likely to use MIST to ensure compliance with MIKE. These range States have developed their own Ranger Based Data Collection Systems that are operational.

6. Other CITES Matters

6.1. Second African Elephant meeting

The MIKE Coordinator presented an outline of the structure and expected outcomes of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} African elephant meeting. The structure of the meeting was presented as:
- approval of the strategic framework developed in Mombasa (June, 2008);
- development of African elephant strategic framework from the approved strategic framework;
- progress towards establishment of the African elephant fund,
- MIKE implementation.

The range States highlighted the following during discussion after the presentation:
- The need for range States to be very clear about the basic objectives of the African Elephant Plan and the Elephant Fund; and
- The need to ensure that the process of developing the plan was clear and especially ensuring that the plan was finalized at the March meeting or have a clear process for finalizing the plan after the meeting.

6.2. African Elephant Fund

Marcel van Nijnatten from CITES Secretariat presented the progress report towards donations for the African elephant Fund.

The major challenge highlighted was that all Donors wanted the African Elephant Plan established and approved before they can commit themselves. The Committee agreed that they will push for the finalization of the African Elephant Plan at the next meeting of the range States in March 2009.
7. Closing remarks
The chair concluded the meeting by thanking all participants for their active contribution. The CCU and SSU also thanked the South Africa for hosting the meeting, including paying for the venue, conference facilities and lunches. The excellent leadership in steering a very successful meeting was also underscored. The effort by the Chair and all range States underscores the commitment towards successful implementation of MIKE and CITES in general.

Botswana was chosen as the next host country and chair for the next meeting in 2010.