

DRAFT
TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS
ON THE CONSERVATION OF ELEPHANTS UNDER THE MOU ON WEST AFRICAN
ELEPHANTS AND ITS STRATEGY

This reporting format is designed such that the implementation of the Strategy associated with the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for West African Populations of the African Elephant can be monitored. Reporting on the implementation of the Strategy will facilitate an information exchange throughout the elephant Range States and assist in the identification of necessary future actions by the Signatories. The questions presented here go beyond the scope of information already requested from CMS Contracting Parties for national reports to the CMS Conference of the Parties.

GENERAL INFORMATION

<p>Country: LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA</p> <p>Which agency or institution is primarily responsible for the preparation of this report?</p> <p>The Forestry Development Authority (FDA)</p>
<p>List any other agencies, institutions or NGOs that have provided input:</p> <p>None</p>
<p>Reports submitted to date:</p> <p>Not sure</p>
<p>Period covered by this report:</p> <p>from <u>2005</u> to <u>2009</u> (dd/mm/yyyy) (dd/mm/yyyy)</p>
<p>Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (2005):</p>
<p>Designated Contact Point (provide full contact details):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John T. Woods, Managing Director, Forestry Development Authority (FDA) P.O. Box 10-3010, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia, WEST AFRICA Mobile phone: (231) 06-564070 e-mail: johnthewoods38@yahoo.com 2. Joseph N. Toah, Manager, Wildlife Management, FDA P.O. Box 10-3010, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia, WEST AFRICA Mobile phone: (231) 077728557 e-mail: josephtoah@yahoo.com
<p>Addresses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Mr Marco Barbieri Agreements Officer UNEP/CMS Secretariat Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10 53113

Bonn, Germany
Email: secretariat@cms.int

2. African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG)
Mr Lamine Sebogo
GSEAf Afrique de l'Ouest
c/o UICN-BRAO
01 BP 1618
Ougadougou 01
Burkina Faso
Email: lamine.sebogo@uicn.org

1. SPECIES AND HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

1.1 Policy and legislation

a) Is the African elephant protected under national legislation in your country?

- Yes, the species is protected and protection level is sufficient
 Yes, the species is protected, but protection level is not sufficient
 No, the species is not protected

b) If Yes, please describe the relevant legislation and the level of protection it provides plus the restrictions and conservation obligations this protection imposes on the State, conservationists and land-users. **The National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 and Draft Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law of 2006 provide the legal basis for protecting certain species of wild animals including the African elephant in Liberia. The elephant is one of Liberia's "Fully Protected Species. Its hunting, capturing and destroying is illegal without a permit or license issued by the Forestry Development Authority.**

c) If the African elephant is not protected or the protection level is not sufficient, please describe what your country is planning to do to ensure adequate protection of the species through new legislation or better implementation of existing legislation/regulations.

d) Is there national legislation in place in your country that ensures effective protection of African elephant habitat and seasonal migration areas, including prevention of potentially detrimental activities (deforestation, mineral extraction, industry, etc.). Please include any collaborative initiative (e.g. an agreement) with neighbouring countries concerning elephant management areas.

- Yes No

If Yes, please provide details. **The National Forestry Policy of Liberia has set aside 1.5 million ha of Liberia's total 4.5 million ha of forest area (or 30%) in a network of protected areas that contain elephant habitats, ranges and corridors.**

e) Please describe any other legislative or policy measures taken to ensure the protection of African elephant habitats. **The Community Rights Bill now before the Legislature for passage into law gives local communities greater involvement in the management of forests; it also ensures the protection of species including the elephants.**

f) Are there any national or international policy incentives to maintain suitable farming practices in areas that are closely associated with elephants in your country?

- Yes No

If yes, please briefly describe the nature of the incentives and whether they are effectively applied or used by farmers and land-managers.

If no, please describe what measures are being taken to introduce such incentives, if any. **The issue of land tenure remains a burning one in Liberia, but is also addressed by the Community Rights Law.**

1.2 Designation of protected areas for elephants

- a) In the table attached (Annex I), please provide details for all regularly occupied African elephant sites in your country and indicate their protection status (*please expand the table if necessary*).
- b) If specific African elephant sites are not fully protected at present, or the protection level is not sufficient, please provide information about the reasons for this and what your country is planning to do to ensure adequate protection of these sites.
Some of the sites are under nominal protection status (National Forests) but are being incorporated into the PA network to receive full protection status.
- c) If Site Management Plans have not been developed for all African elephant sites, please describe what is impeding the development of Site Management Plans and what your country is doing to ensure the development, approval and implementation of Site Management Plans. **Once an area has been formally gazetted, one of the next interventions is the development of a management plan for that area. Unavailability of funds has impeded the gazettement and formulation of management plans for PAs.**
- d) Please advise what assistance you would require to complete or improve existing Site Management Plans. **Liberia would need logistical, consultancy and funding support to develop management plans for already gazetted PAs.**

1.3 *Impacts on elephant populations and their habitats.*

- a) Are new development projects that could potentially have a detrimental effect on current or potential African elephant habitats subject to environmental impact assessment in your country?

Yes No

- b) Have there been any potentially detrimental projects implemented in any African elephant habitat in your country since the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding?

Yes No

If Yes, indicate the sites involved, give details and describe the outcome of impact monitoring if available.

- c) Has the implementation of any potentially detrimental project in any African elephant habitat in your country been halted since signing this Memorandum of Understanding?

Yes No

If Yes, please give details.

1.4 *Dissemination of habitat management recommendations to land managers*

- a) Are African elephant habitat management recommendations being disseminated to land managers and other interested parties in your country?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe the methods used for the dissemination of habitat management recommendations to land managers e.g. events, publications, etc. Please give reference to published materials. **Protected area management laws are disseminated through awareness programs on radios, TVs, posters, billboards and brochures. However we are most of the time limited by poor funding allocation. With funding input we could do better.**

If No, then what constraints are limiting the dissemination of habitat management recommendations and what should be done to overcome these constraints?

- b) Please advise if there have been any successful methods adopted from which other Range States could benefit and what assistance your country would require to help share this information.

1.5 *Protection and appropriate management of African elephant migration routes/corridors*

- a) In the table attached (Annex I), please provide details about major African elephant migration routes/corridors in your country (please expand the table if necessary).
- b) Are the primary African elephant migration routes/corridors appropriately managed in your country?
 Fully Partially No
- c) Please list on-going and implemented projects and provide brief information about results achieved. **Ongoing: Wonegizi Reserve is one of our major elephant migration routes between Guinea and Liberia. The former gazettement of this PA is in progress but not yet completed.**
- d) What are the remaining gaps and what is your country planning to do to ensure sufficient protection and management of primary migration routes/corridors? **The area is one of our transboundary PAs and we are holding a series of consultative meetings with Guinea with the view of developing collaboration in different aspects of PA management. Again, budgetary allotment for logistics, and shortage of manpower are among our shortcomings.**

1.6 *Restoration of potential habitat*

- a) Have potential or irregularly occupied African elephant habitats in your country been evaluated?
 Fully Partially No

If Yes, what initiatives aimed at the ecological restoration of the habitats have been undertaken in your country? Which sites are involved and what effects are expected/achieved?

If No, what are the constraints and which actions should be taken in order to overcome these constraints? **The lack of trained staff and logistics are our main problem. We seek funding support in order to overcome some of these problems.**

2. MONITORING AND RESEARCH

2.1 *Methodology for counting African elephants*

- a) Is the methodology for counting African elephants used at a national level *different* to what is recommended by the African Elephant Specialist Group?
 Yes No No methodology is adopted

If Yes, please briefly describe possible differences and amendments.

1989

- b) Does your country have experience applying the methodology recommended by the African Elephant Specialist Group and what can be learned from this experience? **Yes**
- c) What does your country do to distribute and familiarise relevant institutions/specialists with the methodology recommended by the African Elephant Specialist Group? **A number of our staff**

have participated in the MIKE experience, and knowledge gained are passed on to others in the field.

2.2 *National surveys to estimate populations*

- a) Have national (all-country) surveys of African elephant populations been undertaken in your country?

Yes (give years) **_1979 - 1989 (Estimates based on WWF/FDA wildlife survey data from line transect) Source: Douglas- Hamilton 1989**

No

Country is outside of breeding range

If Yes, what were the different methodologies used (full counts, transect counts, dung counts, etc.) and when did this occur. What organization was coordinating the survey? **Line transect**

- b) Please state the size of the national population and any relevant trends.

Year of survey: 1979	Year of survey: 1981	Year of survey: 1985
Population size: 900	Population size: 2,000	Population size: 800
Year of survey : 1987	Year of survey: 1987	Year of Survey: 1989
Population size: 650	Population size: 3,901	Population size: 1,300

- c) To what extent was the territory of your country covered by the survey:

Fully (> 90 % of suitable habitats surveyed)

High (60-90 % of suitable habitats surveyed)

Medium (30-60 % of suitable habitats surveyed)

Low (< 30 % of suitable habitats surveyed) (**Probably**)

- d) When is the next national (all-country) survey of the African elephant planned in your country? **Whenever funding support is secured.**

- e) If no national surveys have been conducted, please indicate existing constraints and what your country is going to do to ensure that national surveys of the African elephant are conducted? **A more detailed survey is still required for the entire country. Again having just come from long years of civil war, we still lack manpower, logistics and funding support for such an exercise. We are soliciting the services of consultants, need funds and equipment.**

2.3 *Data collection at known habitats and migration routes*

- a) Have specific studies at known African elephant habitats been conducted in your country?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe briefly e.g. what monitoring is being conducted (population, habitat parameters, impact assessment, home range, seasonal movements, etc.) and which organizations are involved.

- b) Is your country undertaking regular surveys of the habitats used by the elephants? Which organizations are involved? **No.**

- c) What are the main findings and what conservation implications do they have? **None**

- d) What are the gaps and what is your country doing to address them?

Lack of trained manpower, logistics and funds. We are soliciting the inputs of partners and friendly organizations in order to meet these needs.

2.4 *Identification of major migration routes and habitats*

a) Have studies aimed at identifying African elephant seasonal migration routes and habitats been conducted in your country?

Yes No Country is outside of seasonal range

If Yes, what were the methodologies used and what were the main findings and conservation implications? If available, please refer to published reports.

If Yes, to what extent was the territory of your country covered by the survey of seasonal migration routes and habitats?

- Fully (> 90 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
- High (60-90 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
- Medium (30-60 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
- Low (< 30 % of suitable habitats surveyed)

b) If seasonal migration routes habitats have been identified, to what extent are these sites being monitored during migration?

- Fully (> 90% of known sites)
- High (60-90 % of known sites)
- Medium (30-60 % of known sites)
- Low (< 30 % of known sites)
- No monitoring is conducted

c) If seasonal migration routes have been identified, what indicators of a decrease or increase in migration have been found and for what reasons has this occurred (if known)? **Not yet known.**

d) If your country is outside of African elephant seasonal migration routes and habitats, which international initiatives aimed at identification of these has your country been involved in? What have been the main findings?

e) What are the gaps and what needs to be done to help address them?

2.5 *Research on exchange of African elephant subpopulations*

a) Has research on African elephant movements been conducted in your country?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe which territories were covered, what methods were used and the main findings. Please provide references to published materials if available.

If Yes, was the research coordinated with researchers working on other subpopulations and/or from neighbouring Range States?

Yes No

If the research hasn't been conducted, what is your country planning to do to initiate such research and cooperation? **We will solicit funding and material support from donor agencies to pay for research program and consultancy.**

2.6 *Development and implementation of international monitoring programmes*

- a) Is your country participating in development and/or implementation of international African elephant monitoring programmes?

Yes No

If Yes, please list on-going and completed projects and indicate which areas they focus on and which other countries are involved. Please provide reference to published results if available. **We participate in MIKE programs, African elephant trust fund, participate in meetings to design and develop national and regional elephant action plan.**

2.7 *Comparative studies on population ecology in different habitats*

- a) Have studies on breeding success and population recruitment in different habitats been conducted in your country?

- Yes, in collaboration with other Range States
 Yes, on a national scale
 No comparative studies have been conducted
 Country is outside of breeding range

- b) If available, please list on-going and completed studies and give reference to published reports.

- c) If applicable, please describe the main findings of these studies?

- d) Is your country able to initiate any comparative studies? What would be needed to do this? **No**

- e) If no comparative studies are being implemented, what is your country planning to do to stimulate this research and what assistance would be required? **We want to do/be a part of anything necessary to conserve our elephants and other species. What we lack are trained personnel, logistical support, and funding. At best we will solicit the input of conservation-based organizations to come to our aid.**

2.8 *Collaborative research and monitoring programmes between range-states*

- a) Is your country involved in international collaboration and monitoring programmes on the African elephant?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide brief details about on-going and completed projects. Which African elephant Range States are involved?

- b) What are the main findings and conservation implications?

- c) What are the gaps and what is needed to address them?

3. **TRAINING**

3.1 *Training of people involved in African elephant conservation*

- a) Has any training of personnel been undertaken (e.g. wardens or local community members) regarding research and/or monitoring of African elephants?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide brief details about any targeted training undertaken.

- b) Which organisations are providing this training in your country? **Five of our staff participated in elephant census training program in Ghana in 2006 sponsored by Conservation International.**
- c) If training has been undertaken, was it held in conjunction with any other African elephant Range States? Please describe briefly. If no, are there any plans to undertake training in the near future? Please describe briefly. **Yes, Ghana.**
- d) If applicable, please briefly describe the results of the training and any successes that were recorded regarding the application of the training in the field.
- e) What are the gaps and what it needs to address them? **Though the training was conducted, we still lack funds and logistics to implement in the field what was learnt by our staff.**

3.2 *Facilitate training of personnel involved in human-elephant conflict management*

- a) Has any training of personnel involved in human-elephant conflict management been undertaken?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide brief details about any targeted training undertaken.

If No, are there any plans to undertake training in the near future. Please describe briefly. **We have just prepared a 3-year HEC resolution plan (2009 – 2011) and training of personnel is a component of the plan.**

- b) If training has been undertaken, was it held in conjunction with any other African elephant Range States? Please describe briefly.

4. PUBLIC AWARENESS

4.1 *Networks of organisations and individuals*

- a) Does a network of organisations/individuals committed to the conservation of the African elephant exist in your country?

Yes No

- b) If Yes, how broad is this network and what organisations/individuals are taking the lead in facilitation and coordination of its development?

- c) What actions does your country undertake to broaden the circle of organisations and individuals committed to conservation of African elephants? **Public awareness about the status of elephants, factors affecting their survival and the need to conserve the species and soliciting the involvement of people and organizations in the process.**

- d) What successful experiences could benefit other Range States?
Regional consultations and collaboration in management.

- e) What would be needed to establish a network (if it does not already exist) or to improve an existing one? **Same as (d) above.**

4.2 *Use of the African elephant as a flagship species*

- a) Has the African elephant been used as a flagship species in your country for the inventory and

protection of habitats?

Yes No

If Yes, please briefly describe how and provide examples if available.

The elephant and pygmy hippopotamus are among Liberia's flagship and charismatic species.

If No, what is limiting the promotion and use of the African elephant as a flagship species and how does your country plan to address this?

4.3 *Educational materials and information*

a) Have any educational and promotional materials about African elephants been developed in your country?

Yes, specifically devoted to the African elephant.

Yes, the African elephant is included in materials covering a broader context.

No, the African elephant is not covered in educational and promotional materials.

If Yes, please describe the nature of such materials and how they were disseminated. Please give reference to published materials if available. **Posters and brochures promoting elephant and other species conservation are developed and printed through NGO partners' funding support and freely disseminated to members of the public.**

If No, please describe what is limiting the development of such materials and give details about what your country is planning to do to promote the African elephant and its conservation.

5. FINANCIAL ISSUES

5.1 *Financial help*

- a) Have you received any external financial support (excluding governmental support) to undertake the actions described above since signing the MoU?

If Yes, please indicate the institutions or bodies (private, public) that have given your country financial help for the conservation and management of elephant populations. Please specify these different institutions' main interests (research, capacity building, field management, public awareness, trans-boundary cooperation). **Holiday. IFAW, MIKE. Interests have been in capacity building, field management and public awareness.**

- b) What are the gaps and what is needed to address them?

Our need in the area of wildlife conservation is mammoth, especially following the war, and nothing seems to be enough at the moment. We need more capacity building of staff in terms of training and logistics, consultancy, etc. We will continue to solicit the assistance of friendly organizations to help us out till we fully recover from the effect of war.

5.2 *Costs of national programmes on African elephants*

- a) Please quantify the costs of your elephant programmes.

It is hard to say, but our 3-year human-elephant conflict resolution plan alone will cost about \$230,000 USD.

6. OTHER ACTIONS

Please report on any other activities or initiatives supporting the implementation of the MoU and the associated strategy in your country that are not already covered by your answers above. Please describe not only the measures taken but also their impact on elephants and their habitats in the context of the objectives of the MoU and the strategy. **The Liberian Government is just about to formally gazette three additional protected areas, two of which contain major elephant ranges and corridors. This will boost our elephant conservation effort.**

Annex I

Name of the site, geographical coordinates	Protection status	Number of African elephants	Year of survey	Total area of the site	Area of the site under protection	Type of protection	Does protection level fully reject possible detrimental developments? [Yes/No]	Site Management Plan (D – developed, A - approved, I – implemented)
Sapo	A National Park	About 400	2006	180,000 hs	Entire park	Full protection	Absolutely	1 st plan in 1986
Grebo	National Forest	2,604 sqkm	In 1950's	2,604 sq.km	As shown	Partial protection	Yes	none
Gbi	National Forest	610 sqkm	In 1950's	610 sqkm	As shown	Partial protection	Yes	none
Kpelleh/Belleh	National Forest	1,749 sqkm	In 1950's	1,749 sqkm	As shown	partial	Yes	none
Gola	National Forest	2,071 sqkm	In 1950's	Not sure	Not sure	partial	Yes	none