



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING
CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE WEST AFRICAN
POPULATIONS OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT (*Loxodonta africana*)
Accra, Ghana, 30-31 March 2009

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE WEST AFRICAN POPULATIONS OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. In paragraph 6, the Memorandum provides for each Signatory State to nominate a competent authority to act as a contact point for the other signatories. Each Signatory State is required to communicate the name and details of that contact person to the CMS Secretariat.
2. On the other hand, the Memorandum does not enter into details about the role and responsibilities of the contact points. The Secretariat has received several requests for clarification in that regard. It therefore seems appropriate to provide clarification on that point in order to allow the designated contact points to fully carry out their functions and to allow the Signatory States to identify the most appropriate option for any future designation.
3. The CMS Secretariat hereby submits, for the consideration of the First Meeting of the Signatory States, some elements concerning the possible role and responsibilities of these contact points in the context of the implementation of the MoU and the associated Strategy for the Conservation of West African Elephants.

I. Objectives of the assignment

4. To be the competent authority/contact point at a national level means:
 - **Objective 1:** provide ongoing representation of the Signatory State to bodies charged with providing secretariat services and the coordination of the MoU, to provide reports and to participate in the work of the MoU;
 - **Objective 2:** liaise with national and international partners – notably other Signatory States – working in the area of the conservation of elephants and associated ecosystems in order to facilitate the exchange of relevant information and knowledge and to develop any possible synergies;
 - **Objective 3:** Coordinate the implementation of the MoU at a national level in carrying out necessary activities, with particular reference to the list below (see II), in accordance with the needs and opportunities.

II. Activities

5. Specific activities may be identified for each objective. Their achievement is intended to allow the achievement of the objective concerned. The detailed list that follows is indicative only and must be adapted to the individual circumstances of each country, while always taking into account the MoU and the associated strategy.

Objective 1

- Represent the country as a competent authority and contact point at meetings of the Signatory States of the MoU and, if necessary, at associated technical meetings;
- Formulate the Signatory State's positions on the documents and questions submitted for consideration at those meetings;
- Regularly prepare and deliver to the CMS Secretariat the national report on the implementation of the Memorandum requested of competent authorities by paragraph 7 of the MoU;
- Suggest issues to be added to the agendas for meetings held in the context of the MoU;
- Quickly inform the coordinator of the MoU and CMS of any event that may compromise the objectives of the Memorandum and its strategy in one way or another;
- Ensure, in collaboration with other competent national authorities, that there is consistency in the positions taken in other international instruments and, if necessary, alert the coordinator and the CMS Secretariat.

Objective 2

- Create a network of exchange of knowledge by using the MoU website. The site may not be fed with any information that has not been provided and approved by the competent authorities in order to facilitate technical and scientific collaboration.

Objective 3

- Develop a centralisation programme with regular updates of:
 - Knowledge concerning the available data on the evolution of the populations of the elephants;
 - Projects developed that may favourably or unfavourably affect the conservation of the species;
 - Data with respect to human / elephant conflicts and the solutions adopted to resolve them, whether these were successful or not;
 - Ensure the MoU is applied by legislation;
 - Create a network of the principal national partners and provide necessary mediation between the partners and/or groups;
 - Initiate and/or support national projects that provide for the implementation of the MoU and its strategy while ensuring coordination between partners;
 - Seek or support the seeking of the necessary finance for the implementation of those projects;
 - Support the development of trans-boundary projects;
 - Promote awareness raising and training on the African elephant and the issues for the conservation of the species.
6. The achievement of these objectives and these activities requires that the competent authority / designated contact point has the necessary time and means at her / his disposal (telephone, computer, printer, means of travel). Those matters should be provided for by the government of the Signatory State at the time of the official designation of the

competent authority / contact point. The achievement of these objectives also requires that the competent authority is able to participate in relevant meetings or training organised by other bodies dealing with this issue, upon being invited and subject to the means being available.

Action required:

The meeting is requested to consider, amend if appropriate, and adopt the terms of reference.