SECOND MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING
CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE WEST AFRICAN
POPULATIONS OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT (*Loxodonta africana*)
Niamey, Niger, 20-21 March 2011

DRAFT NATIONAL REPORT FORMAT

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

1.   Paragraph 7 of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) (the "MoU") refers to reporting. Each Signatory to the MoU should provide the CMS Secretariat with a report on their implementation of the MoU at least every two years after its entry into effect.

2.   The Secretariat has developed a comprehensive draft national report format to be considered by the meeting and, if approved, used as the basis for future reporting under the MoU. The report format is based on the MoU and the associated Strategy. The questions presented go beyond the scope of information already requested from CMS Contracting Parties for national reports to the CMS Conference of the Parties.

3.   It is intended that the report format will provide a basis to make reports from the Signatory States more consistent, while making the information provided amenable to synthesis and analysis for the Secretariat's Report.

4.   It is also hoped that the report format will facilitate the input of information generated from the MoU into the CMS Information Management System (IMS), available on the CMS website, which was provided for in the CMS Information Management Plan set out in Resolution 6.5 of the Sixth Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties.

5.   In order to focus the national reporting on the implementation of the priorities identified in the Medium-Term International Work Programme, the meeting may wish to consider linking the development and/or re-designing of the national reporting format to the specific activities outlined in the Work Programme.

Action requested:

a)   Consider, amend as appropriate and adopt the draft national report format.
b)   Consider the desirability of creating a working group during the meeting to develop an appropriate reporting format based on the requirements of the Work Programme, so that national reporting would focus on the implementation of these priorities.

DRAFT REPORTING FORMAT FOR THE WEST AFRICAN ELEPHANTS MOU 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

Country: Which agency or institution is primarily responsible for the preparation of this report?
List any other agencies, institutions or NGOs that have provided input:
Reports submitted to date:
Period covered by this report: from _____ to _____   (dd/mm/yyyy)   (dd/mm/yyyy)
Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (dd/mm/yyyy):
Designated Contact Point (provide full contact details):

Addresses:
 	
    1.   Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
        Ms Melanie Virtue
        Acting Agreements Officer
        UNEP/CMS Secretariat
        Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10
        53113
        Bonn, Germany
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    2.   African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG)

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.

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.

e)   Please describe any other legislative or policy measures taken to ensure the protection of African elephant habitats.

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.

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.

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.

d) Please advise what assistance you would require to complete or improve existing Site Management Plans.

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.

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.

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?

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?

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.

b)   Does your country have experience applying the methodology recommended by the African Elephant Specialist Group and what can be learned from this experience?

c)   What does your country do to distribute and familiarise relevant institutions/specialists with the methodology recommended by the African Elephant Specialist Group?

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) _____
☐   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?

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

Year of survey:	Year of survey:	Year of survey:
Population size:	Population size:	Population size:

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)

d) When is the next national (all-country) survey of the African elephant planned in your country?

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?

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?

c) What are the main findings and what conservation implications do they have?

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

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 extend 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)?

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?

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.

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?

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?

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?

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.

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?

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.

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?

d) What successful experiences could benefit other Range States?

e) What would be needed to establish a network (if it does not already exist) or to improve an existing one?

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.

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.

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).

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

5.2   Costs of national programmes on African elephants

a)   Please quantify the costs of your elephant programmes.

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.

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)