



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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Concluding Statement

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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 Month 2009

CONCLUDING STATEMENT BY SIGNATORIES

1. On the instigation of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the First Meeting of Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant took place in the conference room of the Crystal Palm Hotel in Accra, Ghana on 30-31 March 2009.
2. The thirteen Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) took part in the meeting, namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and the Secretariats of CMS and CITES, the UICN/AFESG and the IFAW.
3. The meeting was chaired by the host country Ghana and had the following objectives:
 - 3.1 Provide an update on the status of the activities carried out by each Signatory States through national reports; and
 - 3.2 The introduction of agreed measures linked to the 2009-2011 Work Programme.
4. Two opening addresses were given:
 - 4.1 An opening address by the Executive Secretary of CMS, who gave an account of the large support provided by the Range States of African Elephants that are signatories to the MoU.
 - 4.2 An opening address was provided by the representative of the Government of Ghana, Mr. Nana Kofi Adu-Nsiah, Executive Director of the Forestry Commission (Wildlife Division) of Ghana, who welcomed the delegates.
5. Following those addresses he proceeded to the adoption of the agenda which had the following aims:
 - 5.1 Adoption of the rules of procedure;
 - 5.2 Election of meeting officers;
 - 5.3 Adoption of the agenda and the Work Programme;
 - 5.4 Presentation of the Secretariat's Report;
 - 5.5 Presentation of national reports;
 - 5.6 Continuation of the implementation of the MoU and organisation of intersessional work;

- 5.7 Presentation and discussion of the terms of reference for the national contact points;
 - 5.8 Discussion of budgetary matters;
 - 5.9 Cooperation with other partners;
 - 5.10 Miscellaneous issues;
 - 5.11 Date and place of the next meeting of the Signatory States; and
 - 5.12 Closure of the meeting.
6. Following the debates cited above, the meeting arrived at the following conclusions:
- 6.1 An agreed 2009-2011 Work Programme centred around ten key objectives, namely:
 - 6.1.1 Information necessary for management
 - 6.1.2 Enhanced institutional capacity for management
 - 6.1.3 Reduction of the rate of loss of elephant habitat
 - 6.1.4 Reduction of conflict between humans and elephants
 - 6.1.5 Better understanding and effective control of the ivory trade
 - 6.1.6 Illegal killing of elephants contained
 - 6.1.7 Elephant conservation issues better understood at all levels
 - 6.1.8 Strengthening of cooperation between Range States
 - 6.1.9 Mobilisation of the necessary financial and human resources for the implementation of the Work Programme
 - 6.1.10 Implementation and evaluation of the Work Programme
 - 6.2 The presentation of national reports by the thirteen Signatory States was followed with much interest from the delegates at this meeting of the MoU;
 - 6.3 The adoption of the role assigned to the national contact points and the terms of reference concerning coordination;
 - 6.4 The updating of the list of trans-boundary sites where joint action is necessary in order to strengthen the conservation of the elephant;
 - 6.5 Support for the seeking of financial resources in order to implement the work programme, including projects concerning trans-boundary sites;
 - 6.6 The allocation of €30,000 from the CMS trust fund for the administrative management of the MoU between 2009 and 2011;
 - 6.7 The request of the Signatory States to the Executive Secretary of CMS to write to the countries concerned encouraging them to provide voluntary contributions for the MoU; and
 - 6.8 On a motion by the delegates, the Republic of Niger was appointed the host country for the next meeting of the Signatories scheduled for the end of 2011.

The meeting
Accra, 31 March 2009

Annex: List of participants

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