
SESSION TITLE: AFESG TERMS OF REFERENCE

Chair: H Dublin

Rapporteurs: S Seydou, L Sebogo

The period from 1997 to 2000 is a new triennium for the SSC, and for which the AfESG membership was reappointed. Due to the new membership, discussions of the mission, objectives and Terms of Reference for the Group took place. The Group agreed on the following:

Mission: To promote the long-term conservation of Africa's elephants throughout their range.

Objectives

1. To compile and synthesise information on the conservation and status of the African elephant across its range.
2. To provide and improve technical information and advice on the conservation of Africa's elephants to the following:
 - a) Range State government agencies
 - b) non-governmental organisations, including both international and African-based organisations
 - c) inter-governmental organisations
 - d) non-Range State governments

Special effort will be made to target outputs in a manner that meets the needs of the above.

3. To promote and catalyse conservation activities on behalf of Africa's elephants to be carried out by the above.
4. To build capacity through the exchange of ideas, information and technical expertise among the members of the Group.

Activities

1. To review the status of elephant populations in Africa
2. To maintain, update and improve the African Elephant Database and, ideally, to publish a report every three years.
3. To undertake analyses of relevant data to assess conservation priorities.
4. To provide technical information to assessments of the impact of human activities (including legal and illegal off-take, changing land use patterns, and changes in relevant national and international policies and legislation) on Africa's elephants.
5. To contribute technical information to evaluations of the effectiveness of different management actions.
6. To advise governments on options for conservation action through interactions on both national and regional bases.
7. To improve technical support for the development, promotion and implementation of conservation strategies.
8. To facilitate co-ordination and co-operation in conservation-related research on Africa's elephants to ensure that lessons learned can be disseminated and applied as widely as possible.
9. To produce a peer-reviewed journal, *Pachyderm*, publishing articles on elephants and rhinoceroses.
10. if funding allows, holding a meeting of members every two years to facilitate information exchange and collaboration between members.
11. To form Task Forces, as required, to examine technical issues in detail.
12. In order to serve the public demand for information on Africa's elephants, to liaise with the IUCN/SSC to ensure that the information on the Specialist Group web site is accurate.
13. To liaise as closely as possible with the IUCN/SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group.