

# FOCUS

ON ARMS IN AFRICA

VOL 3 NO 1  
2004



Click on a heading to view the contents of that article

AU update:	1
Recent developments on peace and security	
<i>Kathryn Sturman</i>	
Identifying the culprits:	3
Tracking the circulation of small arms	
<i>Ben Coetzee</i>	
ECOWAS:	6
Which way with the Moratorium?	
<i>Nelson Alusala</i>	
Small arms proliferation	7
poses challenges in West Africa	
<i>Zebulon Takwa</i>	
Kenya hosts the First Review	9
Conference on landmines	
<i>Noel Stott</i>	
The Small Arms Programme	11
of Action and Africa:	
Progress and opportunities	
<i>Emily Schroeder</i>	
Practical disarmament:	13
Starting to identify best practice	
<i>Nelson Alusala</i>	

# SmallArmsNet: a hub for information on small arms and light weapons in Africa

In November 2003 the first ever web portal on small arms control in Africa was launched. This site, SmallArmsNet ([www.smallarmsnet.org](http://www.smallarmsnet.org)), is an initiative of the Arms Management Programme (AMP) at the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria. In less than twelve months of its existence, SmallArmsNet already attracts more than 26,000 visitors per month.



*This newsletter is a joint initiative of ISS and the AU.*



## **Why SmallArmsNet?**

Due to dynamics underlying the nature of weapons management in Africa, the Arms Management Programme saw the need for a tool to assist in stimulating and sustaining a much-needed debate on issues of peace and security in the continent.

## **Who does it benefit?**

SmallArmsNet is for groups and individuals working to contain the easy availability of, and access to, arms. Due to its interactive nature, it allows anyone, anywhere in the world, to participate in its running through various forms of contributions. It also offers an unprecedented platform for organizations and individuals who wish to build partnerships and share experiences.

The portal serves to collate, document and disseminate information to the following populations:

- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society
- Academics, researchers and students,
- Safety, security and defence government departments,
- Regional and international organizations,
- Government policy-makers,
- Journalists and media organizations,
- Law-enforcement agencies, and
- Anyone who is involved in the fight against the easy availability of small arms in Africa.

SmallArmsNet is divided into the following information categories:

- News headlines,
- New on the website,
- Issues,
- Resources,
- Events,
- Links, and
- Discussion forum.

NEWS HEADLINES give a day-to-day update on the developments in the field of arms throughout the continent.

NEW ON THE WEBSITE provides a list of new documents and reports on the issue.

ISSUES are divided into THEMES and REGIONS. Under THEMES you will find information on various topics, including: brokering, children, youth and conflict, export controls, demand reduction, tracing firearms and the arms trade. While REGIONS gives information on small arms and light weapons in West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa.

RESOURCES introduces you to documents, facts and figures, publications and conference proceedings, while the DOCUMENTS section contains resource information on small arms, conventional arms and landmines.

The EVENTS section provides you with a list of events that are taking place in the current year and the LINKS page gives access to various international and regional organizations, networks and research institutes that are involved in the efforts to curb the proliferation of illicit arms. The DISCUSSION FORUM enables you to air your views on any topic on small arms and light weapons.

AMP believes that information sharing and knowledge are vital in finding ways to address the proliferation of weapons in Africa. For further details on the website, you can write to the following email address: [smallarmsnet@iss.org.za](mailto:smallarmsnet@iss.org.za).