

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first edition of the Elephant Trade Information (ETIS) newsletter! The aim of this newsletter is to provide regular ETIS programme updates, including latest published reports, meetings attended by ETIS staff, enhancements to ETIS Online, and details of upcoming activities. In this first edition, we **highlight outcomes from the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP19)**, including the adopted recommendations from the ETIS review, amendments to [Resolution Conf. 10.10 \(Rev. CoP19\)](#), and other Decisions related to ETIS. We would also like to kindly remind the Parties to please submit seizure data to ETIS by 31st of March ([Notification No. 2023/023](#)).

We welcome your feedback on the Newsletter and its content – please send these to etis@traffic.org. We look forward to working with you for a productive 2023!

Sincerely,

The ETIS Team at TRAFFIC

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ETIS DATA IS 31 MARCH 2023

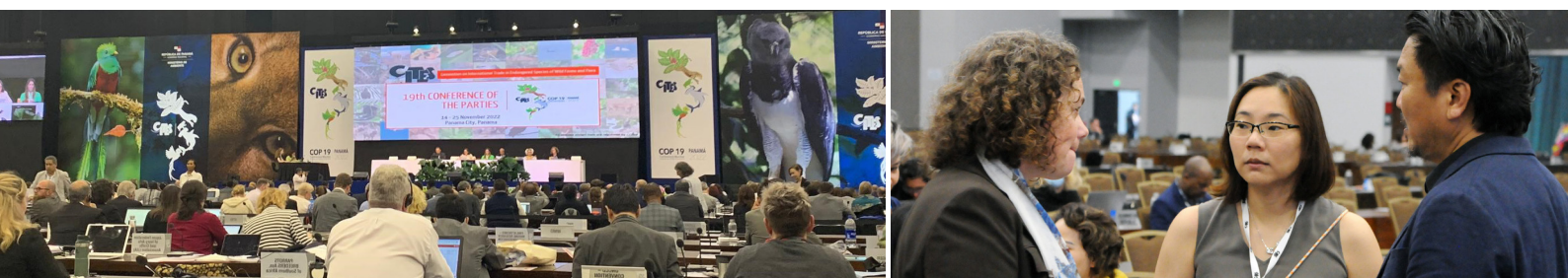
UPDATES FROM CITES COP19

In November 2022, the ETIS report was presented by the CITES Secretariat ([CoP19 Doc. 66.6](#)) to CITES CoP19 that took place in Panama. The report incorporated trend analyses results already published in the ETIS report to SC74 ([SC74 Doc. 68](#)) as well as the analyses to identify Parties requiring attention under the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) process. The latter were discussed by the Standing Committee at its 75th meeting that preceded CoP19.

CITES Parties adopted several Decisions related to the ETIS programme at CoP19, especially in light of the *Review of the ETIS Programme* ([CoP19 Doc. 21](#)). The review found the overall performance of ETIS to be *Satisfactory*, where “the overall analysis is data-driven and quantitative at its core”, and where “TRAFFIC is objective in its use of available data, the analytical approach and reporting” ([SC74 Doc. 12](#)). At CoP19, **Parties accepted suggested recommendations of the ETIS review including amendments to Res. Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19)**; the latter now includes sections on “data scope”, “data governance”, “data collection and compilation”, “Information, data analysis and interpretation”

and “Funding” and sets the deadline for **ETIS data submission as 31 March**. The Parties also adopted the prioritization of recommendations from the review, with 10 high-priority items directed to TRAFFIC to be implemented by CoP20, in consultation with the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the CITES Secretariat (Annex 3 of [CoP19 Doc. 21](#) and Decision 19.94).

Parties also adopted Decisions relating to NIAP categorization and closure of domestic ivory markets; **Decision 19.97** states that the CITES Secretariat shall, in consultation with the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group and TRAFFIC, develop draft criteria for the categorization of Parties based on the ETIS analysis and seizure data relating to elephant specimens submitted to TRAFFIC; **Decision 19.99** directs the CITES Secretariat to engage TRAFFIC and the MIKE-ETIS TAG to explore, and if feasible carry, an analysis of ETIS ivory seizures data connected to each Party with a legal domestic market for commercial trade in ivory, and to report on the findings to SC78 and CoP20.



(left) CITES CoP19, (right) Senior Analyst, Sharon Baruch-Mordo discussing ETIS with representatives from Singapore © IISD/ENB | Diego Noguera

ETIS ONLINE CELEBRATES ITS 2ND ANNIVERSARY!

October 2022 marked the second anniversary of the launch of [ETIS Online](#). With your continued support, the platform continues to grow from strength to strength with **over 100 registered data providers from more than 60 different Parties!** In line with Res. Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) the seizures database, which now holds more than 35,000 seizure records, serves as an information base to support decision-making by the Parties, as it allows data providers approved by their country's CITES Management Authority to view, verify, and download data relating to their country. After receiving valuable feedback from the Parties, several improvements

to the user interface of ETIS Online were implemented last year. These include the **ability to report that no seizures were made in a given year** for which no reports were previously received from the Party, and the addition of search filters to allow users to sort through seizure data. The available user guides in the three languages of the Convention (English, French and Spanish) have been updated to reflect all the new improvements to ETIS Online.

TRAFFIC thanks the Parties for making ETIS Online a success! Parties who have yet to register are encouraged to do so to access their country's data at their convenience.

TO REGISTER TO ETIS ONLINE OR FOR TRAINING EMAIL:
etis@traffic.org

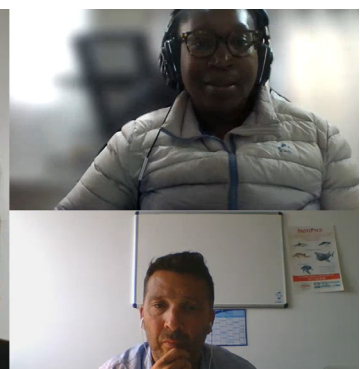
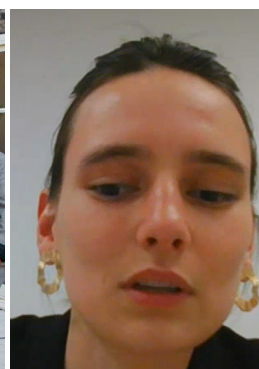
REPORTS, MEETINGS AND TRAININGS

In addition to the report to CoP19, the CITES Secretariat published two information documents on ETIS on behalf of TRAFFIC. The first, [CoP19 Inf. 33](#), provided updated trend models with updated data for 2020 and 2021. This served to augment the trend analyses presented in [CoP19 Doc. 66.6](#), where it was noted that 2020 “was most likely an abnormal year in terms of seizure data”. Additionally, and in response to recommendations from the ETIS review, [CoP19 Inf. 40](#) provided data collection and processing definitions, and standard operating procedures for the inclusion of ETIS data in analysis. The latter demonstrated that on average, 89% of the data from 2008–2021 were reported by CITES Management Authorities (MA). The information document further provided a breakdown of tallies of ETIS data by non-MA sources and by year, including the percentage overlap of each with MA-reported data. ETIS will continue to strive for transparency of methodologies and Parties are encouraged to review data related to their country on ETIS Online and suggest amendments if any discrepancies are noted.

With COVID restrictions easing in 2022, regional and international meetings resumed with in person attendance. Hence in addition to CoP19, ETIS staff were busy attending

and presenting at several CITES meeting in person and virtually to include: the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (7-11 March, Lyon, France); the 18th meeting of the MIKE-ETIS TAG (26-27 April, virtual), which was preceded by an ETIS 101 session with new and existing TAG members; and two MIKE Subregional Steering Committee meetings for Southern Africa countries (23-25 August, Maputo, Mozambique) and for Central Africa countries (18 October, online presentation).

ETIS’ senior analyst was also invited to present online at the 6th International Conference on Governance, Crime, and Justice Statistics hosted by UNODC on 9 Nov 2022 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The presentation that was part of the session on *Evidence Solutions to Wildlife and Environmental Crime* can be viewed [here](#). Finally, ETIS staff provided online training on ETIS and ETIS Online to several Parties bringing the total ETIS Online trainings provided to 23! The trainings are a great platform for ETIS’ and the CITES MA’ staff to get acquainted, and ETIS staff are happy to provide them upon request. [Please contact us at etis@traffic.org](mailto:etis@traffic.org) to set up a training session.



(left) Participants of the MIKE Subregional Steering Committee meeting for Southern African countries held in Maputo, Mozambique © CITES (right) ETIS Programme Officer, Louisa Sangalakula, on an ETIS Online training session with Natacha SAULNIER, Chargée de mission CITES, CITES Management Authority of France, and Stéphane DURAND, Responsable national Réseau CITES/FSC, Office français de la biodiversité (OFB)

UPCOMING PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES IN 2023

The annual ETIS data collection season is upon us! CITES Notification No. 2023/023 calls for the **submission of ETIS data no later than 31 March 2023** to ensure most up-to-date data are included in ETIS analyses. This year we will be collecting data for 2022; amendments to Res. Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) further clarify that seizures made domestically should be reported to ETIS. ETIS staff will work with the CITES Secretariat on a future Notification to validate data collected by ETIS from non-MA sources; hence Parties should be on the

lookout for an ETIS data validation Notification later this year.

The 19th meeting of the MIKE-ETIS TAG is anticipated in the coming months. ETIS staff will consult with the TAG and the CITES Secretariat to implement ETIS-related CoP Decisions and assess the most feasible deliverables for the ETIS report to the 77th Standing Committee that is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 6-10 November 2023. As part of the implementation of review recommendations, further enhancements to ETIS Online are also anticipated.

Thank you donors who have been instrumental in the development and operation of the ETIS programme and ETIS Online over the years, including: European Union; German Federal Ministry for the Environment; Belgian Federal Public Service for Food, Health, and the Environment; Dutch Ministry

of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality; Dutch Federal Public Service, Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment; UK Darwin Initiative; University of Reading; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Agency for International Development; and World Wildlife Fund.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ETIS! WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER IN 2023!

To contact ETIS please email:
etis@traffic.org

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