

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Elephants

MIKE-ETIS SUBGROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 57th meeting (SC57, Geneva, July 2008), the Standing Committee agreed to re-establish a MIKE-ETIS Subgroup with the following membership: China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Japan, Kenya, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia (see document SC57 Doc. 33.5).
3. At its first meeting, on 17 July 2008, held in the sidelines of SC57, the Subgroup selected Zambia as its chair. It requested the Secretariat and TRAFFIC, as implementer of the ETIS programme, to undertake several activities on which comments are provided below (see document SC57 Com. 5).

Terms of Reference and programme of work for the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup

4. The Subgroup agreed that its Terms of Reference needed clarification and requested that the Secretariat circulate, by early September 2008, a more comprehensive and up-to-date version for review by the Subgroup. At the same time, the Secretariat was to circulate a proposed programme of work for the Subgroup for the coming months.
5. The Terms of Reference that were approved by the Subgroup are presented in Annex 1 to this document. With regard to the programme of work, the Secretariat has explained that it is in no position to provide guidance because working groups or subgroups established under one of the CITES bodies usually agree themselves about the timing and organization of their work. By way of assistance, a tentative timetable was provided with relevant dates and events between SC57 and the proposed date for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010 (CoP15), which could help the Subgroup in scheduling its tasks as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

Communication and reporting

6. The Subgroup requested the Secretariat and TRAFFIC to provide quarterly reports on MIKE and ETIS activities respectively. To date, three such reports have been submitted for the Subgroup's review and comments (i.e. for the last two quarters of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009). They cover administrative and institutional matters, technical and scientific matters, and other relevant issues. These progress reports have generally been well received by the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup.
7. In addition to regular reporting on MIKE and ETIS to facilitate understanding of the development and implementation of programmes, the Subgroup agreed to communicate intersessionally by electronic

mail because it was of the opinion that the teleconferences that had been organized by the Secretariat on previous occasions had faced too many technical problems.

#### Recommendation

8. The Secretariat proposes that the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup convenes during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee and reports to the Committee at the present meeting. It recommends that the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup consider the following issues:
  - a) The tasks of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup (as indicated in the Terms of Reference in Annex 1) and results of the intersessional communications amongst the Subgroup;
  - b) Progress in the development and implementation of MIKE;
  - c) Progress in the development and implementation of ETIS;
  - d) The outcome of the seventh meeting of the MIKE Technical Advisory Group and of the second meeting of the ETIS Technical Advisory Group (Nairobi, January 2009);
  - e) The revised Terms of Reference for the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group, as recommended at the sixth meeting of the TAG (TAG6, Entebbe 2008) and based on those disseminated with Notification to the Parties No. 2006/040 (see Annex 2);
  - f) MIKE and ETIS reporting for CoP15; and
  - g) The work of the Subgroup until CoP15 and beyond.

TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE MIKE-ETIS SUBGROUP OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 2008

In the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, the Standing Committee may establish under its direction a MIKE-ETIS Subgroup to oversee the further development, refinement and implementation of the systems known as Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS).

The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup would normally be reconstituted at the first regular meeting of the Standing Committee following a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Tasks of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup***

The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup will:

- a) regularly review the institutional and administrative arrangements of ETIS and MIKE, and provide advice and formulate recommendations as appropriate;
- b) review policies regarding the collection, compilation, use and publication of MIKE and ETIS data, analysis and findings;
- c) examine and make recommendations to the Standing Committee as appropriate on proposals from MIKE and ETIS concerning:
  - the financial and operational sustainability of the programmes;
  - the participation of elephant range States and Parties in the implementation of MIKE and ETIS; and
  - other matters which may arise in conjunction with meetings of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup.
- d) when necessary examine Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14) on Trade in elephant specimens, including the framework outlined in its Annex 1 for ETIS and in Annex 2 for MIKE, to ensure that it remains valid and pertinent;
- e) be kept informed about the technical and scientific oversight provided to MIKE and ETIS through the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group;
- f) consider documents regarding MIKE and ETIS that are submitted to the Standing Committee;
- g) review progress made by MIKE and ETIS when it meets in the sidelines of the meetings of the Standing Committee, and appraise any intersessional reporting; and
- h) report to the Standing Committee at its regular meetings.

***Composition***

- a) The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup will normally consist of six members of the Standing Committee: two from Anglophone Africa, one from Francophone Africa, two from Asia and one from Europe or North America.
- b) The members of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup should be Parties that are: a) involved in the on-the-ground implementation of the MIKE programme; b) funding or otherwise actively supporting MIKE or ETIS; or c) showing a particular interest in the implementation and developments of MIKE and ETIS.

***Modus operandi***

- a) Once constituted, the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup should elect a chairman amongst its membership.
- b) The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup should convene at the meetings of the Standing Committee in years when there is no meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and should work intersessionally principally through email.
- c) The CITES Secretariat, through its MIKE programme, shall serve as the secretariat for the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup.

TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR  
MONITORING THE ILLEGAL KILLING OF ELEPHANTS (MIKE) AND  
THE ELEPHANT TRADE INFORMATION SYSTEM (ETIS)

JANUARY 2009

Background

In the context of the implementation of the systems known as Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) and in compliance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, technical oversight will be provided to both MIKE and ETIS through an independent technical advisory group (TAG), to be established by the Secretariat.

This document outlines the Terms of Reference for the structure and operation of the TAG.

Terms of Reference

***Tasks and scope of work***

- a) As a group the TAG shall:
- act together, through the combined strengths of their individual professional contributions, to ensure the technical and practical soundness of the MIKE and ETIS monitoring systems in meeting their objectives as defined in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14);
  - help ensure the consistency, scientific robustness and appropriateness of the design, development and implementation of MIKE across the six sub-regions in Africa and Asia, and globally for ETIS;
  - review relevant MIKE and ETIS data collection forms, databases and reporting protocols for technical correctness, broad applicability and practicality of design and analysis; and
  - advise on the analysis and interpretation of MIKE and ETIS data, on appropriate analytical procedures and time-lines for outputs or products from MIKE and ETIS to the Parties or relevant bodies established by the Parties, and on the technical content of these outputs.
- b) In their individual capacities, the members of the TAG shall, in response to specified deadlines:
- avail themselves for technical consultation on specific or general issues concerning MIKE and ETIS as required by the CITES Secretariat, either in compliance with provisions in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14), or on behalf of the Standing Committee or its MIKE-ETIS Subgroup;
  - review as necessary MIKE and ETIS training modules and capacity-building materials to ensure technical quality, consistency and appropriateness; and
  - provide extensive and in-depth written advice to the CITES Secretariat on any technical matters concerning MIKE and ETIS requiring review or revision, often on short notice and to tight deadlines.

## ***Modus operandi***

### a) TAG structure

- MIKE and ETIS shall have one TAG, but the TAG will operate in two groups, namely a MIKE TAG and an ETIS TAG. This does not preclude holding plenary TAG meetings for MIKE and ETIS if and when required.
- The formal TAG membership shall be held to a maximum of 14 persons. Depending on their expertise, TAG members may be requested to take part in the MIKE TAG, the ETIS TAG, or both.
- The MIKE TAG will comprise 12 members in total: six with broad, widely-recognized technical expertise at the continental or global level and, additionally, one elephant expert from each of the six relevant sub-regions of Africa and Asia (Central, East, Southern and West Africa; South and Southeast Asia). MIKE TAG members will serve in their personal capacity and will not be representatives of the government structures overseeing MIKE in the six sub-regions, or of the MIKE Units.
- The ETIS TAG will comprise six members with broad, international knowledge of trade in ivory and other elephant specimens.
- Additional individuals may be co-opted on an *ad hoc* basis when technical expertise in a specific area is required or when deemed necessary.
- The Secretariat shall nominate the members of the TAG. In the case of the members of the ETIS TAG, this will be in close consultation with TRAFFIC. In the case of the six members of the MIKE TAG proposed by the sub-regions, they will be drawn from nominations received from participating governments, reflecting the sub-regional approach followed by MIKE.
- The CITES Secretariat, through its MIKE Central Coordination Unit, will act as Chair and Secretary of the TAG, and will formally report the TAG's deliberations and recommendations to the Standing Committee or its MIKE-ETIS Subgroup. TAG members are encouraged to attend relevant meetings of the Standing Committee or its MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, and of the Conference of the Parties.
- Representatives of the MIKE Central Coordinating Unit, the MIKE Sub-regional Support Units and of TRAFFIC may attend meetings of the TAG.

### b) TAG operational methods and means

- The TAG will be convened and consulted primarily through electronic and telephonic means.
- The operational language of the TAG will be English.
- The TAG will meet as and when deemed necessary by the Secretariat, but normally in advance of meetings of the Standing Committee or its MIKE-ETIS Subgroup, and prior to meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
- To the extent possible and subject to the availability of funds, the CITES Secretariat will financially support the operation of the TAG, including the organization of and participation of TAG members in meetings.
- TAG members will contribute primarily on a *pro bono* basis although a nominal fee may be provided on the production of substantive technical inputs.
- The TAG may create working groups or task forces, and establish a research network to address particular scientific and technical issues concerning MIKE and ETIS, seek associations with other researchers and institutions, and enhance the scientific robustness of the methodologies used in the programmes.

c) Membership

Members of the TAG shall:

- be well-published and widely-recognized scientists actively working on relevant issues in elephant conservation and management in Africa or Asia and/or elephant trade issues (including socio-economic, analytical and biodiversity monitoring expertise);
- represent the broad array of technical issues facing the full implementation of MIKE in each of its six designated sub-regions and of ETIS globally;
- provide demonstrated technical skills in the specific areas to be addressed by the agreed MIKE and ETIS systems;
- in the case of the six elephant experts of the MIKE TAG proposed by the sub-regions, have the trust of the relevant African and Asian elephant range State governments from the sub-region and/or the MIKE Sub-regional Steering Committees, and be willing to communicate with the relevant MIKE Sub-regional Steering Committees and Sub-regional Support Units;
- be readily and easily accessible by electronic mail, fax or telephone, and be able to correspond effectively in English;
- be willing to provide written comments at short notice and avail themselves for consultation on the timelines required by the CITES Secretariat; and
- be able to work for nominal or no compensation on demanding technical matters often against strict deadlines.
- TAG members shall be appointed for an indefinite term. Membership of the TAG can be terminated by members voluntarily stepping down by informing the Secretariat in writing, or by the Secretariat if it considers that the member no longer meets the requirements or qualifications laid out in these Terms of Reference. In the latter case, the Secretariat shall inform the member and proceed with seeking and nominating a substitute.
- The Secretariat shall communicate through a Notification to the Parties the membership of the TAG, these Terms of Reference, and any future changes to the TAG's membership or Terms of Reference.