

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Elephants (Elephantidae spp.)

REPORT OF THE MIKE AND ETIS SUBGROUP

*This document has been prepared by the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup of the Standing Committee in relation to agenda item 47.2.*

1. The MIKE and ETIS Subgroup of the Standing Committee convened on the margins of SC66 on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th January 2016. The meetings of the Subgroup were attended by Botswana, Japan, Thailand, Uganda (Chair), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, TRAFFIC, members of the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) present at SC66 and the Secretariat.
2. The Secretariat provided a report on progress in MIKE implementation. The Subgroup noted this report.
3. TRAFFIC provided a report on progress in ETIS implementation. The report included proposed minor changes to ETIS data classification and analysis. The MIKE and ETIS Subgroup noted the report of TRAFFIC and recommended that the proposed changes to data analysis be reviewed by the MIKE and ETIS TAG at its next meeting.
4. With regard to the designation of countries of primary concern, secondary concern and importance to watch in the illegal ivory trade, TRAFFIC clarified that ETIS only provides technical analyses and does not make recommendations on actions regarding the designation of countries in those categories, and that the Parties are the decision-making authority in this regard.
5. Considering the National Ivory Action Planning (NIAP) process initiated at SC63 and CoP16 by decisions of the Parties, TRAFFIC informed the Subgroup that the component of the ETIS report that will be presented at CoP17 that assesses the degree of involvement of countries in the illicit ivory trade (i.e. the cluster analysis), will be based on bias-adjusted seizure data covering the period 2012-2014. Noting that, in most cases, implementation of National Ivory Action Plans only began in 2014, it will be difficult to measure the impact of NIAP implementation in the ETIS results to CoP17. This may only be possible when ETIS has the requisite data to assess the years 2014-2016, which will cover the entire period of implementation of the NIAPs since CoP16.
6. In this regard, the Subgroup emphasized the importance of timely submission of seizure data to ETIS as outlined in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) and in SC66 Doc. 47.1.
7. The Subgroup also noted that some countries may remain as primary concern, secondary concern or of importance to watch, regardless of the impacts of NIAP implementation, due to factors that shape the illegal ivory supply chains from source to destination countries.
8. TRAFFIC pointed out that new information arising from the genetic analysis of ivory seizures, which provide information on the source of confiscated ivory, may result in new countries being identified as being of concern in the illegal ivory trade.

9. The Subgroup also considered and adopted a data access and release policy for ETIS, and agreed that the policy should be incorporated into the revision of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) that will be prepared for CoP17. In the interim, the Subgroup indicated that access and release of ETIS data should already be guided by the policy as approved by the Subgroup. The approved ETIS data access and release policy, which reflects the *status quo* that has been in effect since the inception of ETIS in 1998, is as follows:

ETIS Data Access and Release Policy

Definitions

*Information is hereby defined as the outcomes and outputs of ETIS data analysis, including summaries and aggregates in different forms, trends and other analytical presentations, and the relationships and factors which comprise underlying trade dynamics.*

*Data is hereby defined as the facts gathered through ETIS processes on individual seizures, including that collected using the CITES 'Ivory and elephant product data collection form' or other mechanisms used for obtaining elephant product seizure data. It also includes data that is part of the subsidiary databases within ETIS, and any other data that have been primarily collected under ETIS auspices to facilitate ETIS analyses.*

Access to ETIS Information and Data

*Summaries and the aggregates of data provided by ETIS, and the analyses of such data, constitute information and will be considered to be in the public domain once they are published on the CITES website or otherwise publicly distributed.*

*The detailed data on individual seizure cases submitted to ETIS are owned by the data providers, which in most case are the CITES Parties. Any data relating to a CITES Party will be accessible to that Party for information and review purposes, but will not be released to any third party without the consent of the Party concerned. Data may also be released to contractors (e.g. statisticians) or other researchers (e.g. MIKE ETIS Subgroup-approved research collaborations) under appropriate non-disclosure agreements.'*

10. In accordance with the terms of reference of the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group, as approved by the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup at SC65, the Secretariat presented nominations for new subregional members of the TAG as proposed by the African elephant range States. The Secretariat also submitted a nomination for one of the members of the TAG in the global category. The Subgroup approved these nominations. As a result, the current composition of the MIKE and ETIS TAG is as follows:

<b>Member category</b>	<b>Nominated</b>
Subregional (Central Africa)	Leonard Mubalama
Subregional (Eastern Africa)	Chris Thouless
Subregional (Southern Africa)	Russell Taylor
Subregional (West Africa)	Emmanuel Hema
Subregional (South Asia)	Raman Sukumar
Subregional (Southeast Asia)	Li Zhang
Global	Eleanor Jane Milner-Gulland
Global	Hugo Jachmann
Global	Esmond Martin
Global	Ken Burnham
Co-opted (AfESG chair)	Holly Dublin
Co-opted (AsESG chair)	Vivek Menon

<b>Member category</b>	<b>Nominated</b>
Co-opted (ETIS statistician)	Fiona Underwood

11. On behalf of the Standing Committee, the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup would like to express its appreciation to the outgoing members of the TAG for their services to the Convention. The Subgroup would also like to welcome the new members joining the TAG.