

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Administrative and financial matters

MIKE AND ETIS PROGRAMMES:  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of Parties adopted Decisions 18.21 and 18.22 on the *MIKE and ETIS programmes*, as follows:

**18.21 Directed at the Secretariat**

*The Secretariat shall develop a proposal for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting on possible approaches to address the financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE and ETIS programmes.*

**18.22 Directed to the Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee shall review the proposal developed by the Secretariat in terms of Decision 18.21 and make recommendations for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of Parties.*

3. The operational and financial sustainability of the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) programme was included in the review of the ETIS Programme (Decisions 18.18 to 18.20) and is addressed in document SC74 Doc. 12.
4. The Secretariat notes that further work is required to estimate the cost associated with the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the review of the ETIS programme. The present document, therefore, focuses on the assessment the Secretariat undertook to inform possible approaches to address the financial and operational sustainability of the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme.
5. As noted in paragraph 4 in Annex 2 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on Trade in elephant specimens: It is expected that most of the data collection functions will be absorbed by elephant range States into routine national-level biodiversity monitoring and law enforcement activities, but long-term support will be required to ensure: the continuity and sustainability of national; regional and global coordination; the provision of training and capacity-building; and global data compilation, analysis and reporting. This document focuses on the Secretariat's support to range States and on the resources required for meeting the Secretariat's responsibilities in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18).

## *Background*

### MIKE Programme objectives

6. Paragraph 27 a) i) to iv) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens* sets out the objectives of the MIKE programme as agreed by Parties:

27. *AGREES that:*

- a) *the system known as Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) [...], established under this Resolution and supervised by the Standing Committee, shall continue and be expanded with the following objectives:*
  - i) *measuring and recording levels and trends, and changes in levels and trends, of illegal elephant killing [...] in elephant range States, [...];*
  - ii) *assessing whether and to what extent observed trends are related to measures concerning elephants and trade in elephant specimens taken under the auspices of CITES; changes in the listing of elephant populations in the CITES Appendices; or the conduct of legal international trade in ivory;*
  - iii) *establishing an information base to support the making of decisions on appropriate management, protection and enforcement needs; and*
  - iv) *building capacity in elephant range States and, as applicable, countries involved in trade in elephant specimens, to implement and make use of MIKE [...] in managing elephants and enhancing enforcement;*

### Reporting responsibilities and role of the Secretariat

7. Paragraph 12 a) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens* directs the Secretariat, pending the necessary external funding, to:

12. a) *report on information and analyses provided by MIKE [...] at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, subject to the availability of adequate new MIKE [...] data, at relevant meetings of the Standing Committee; and, in collaboration with TRAFFIC as appropriate, provide other reports, updates or information on MIKE and ETIS as required by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee, the MIKE and ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) or Parties;*

8. Paragraph 3 in Annex 2 to the Resolution specifies the roles and responsibilities of the elephant range States and the Secretariat, and emphasizes that the Secretariat is primarily responsible for the global data compilation, analysis and reporting, but may request or subcontract technical support from appropriate experts or organizations, with the advice of the TAG, for the coordination of the following activities:

- a) *obtaining and compiling the data and information indicated above, including through active communication with range States;*
- b) *selecting sites for monitoring and, as appropriate, expanding the number of sites to the maximum extent;*
- c) *developing and refining a standardized methodology for data collection and analysis;*
- d) *facilitating the provision of training to designated officials in countries with selected sites and to CITES Management Authorities of elephant range States;*
- e) *establishing appropriate databases and developing linkages with existing databases containing relevant data for analysis; and*
- f) *collating and processing all data and information from all sources identified.*

## Resources required by the Secretariat to continue supporting MIKE implementation

9. Paragraph 32 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) *APPEALS to all governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other appropriate donors to provide funding for the resources required in the Secretariat, the elephant range States and the Parties, including technical expertise, to ensure that the recommendations in this Resolution can be effectively implemented.*
10. Paragraph 4 in Annex 2 to the Resolution also addresses funding and operational support and acknowledges that “*substantial funding is required for deploying and implementing MIKE*”.

### *MIKE implementation to date*

11. Since the inception of the programme in 2001, the Secretariat secured funding for MIKE implementation in Africa and Asia from various donors. In Africa, the European Union has been the main donor to the programme for the past 20 years, with around 36 million Euro allocated from 2006 to support MIKE implementation and other law enforcement and conservation related activities in MIKE sites and at the national level in elephant range States in Africa. Other donors have also contributed to MIKE implementation in Africa, including recent support received from Germany and Japan. The support to the implementation of MIKE in Africa has enabled the Secretariat to work closely with African elephant range States, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other stakeholders to establish a continent-wide, coherent and robust monitoring and elephant conservation programme.
12. While the support for the MIKE implementation in Asia has not been as consistent and comprehensive as in Africa, support for MIKE implementation in Asia has been received from a larger group of donors, including Australia, the European Union, France, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Progress has been made in implementation of the programme and in addressing elephant conservation priorities in the Asian region, such as mitigation of human-elephant conflict in collaboration with IUCN.
13. Substantial progress has been made in implementing the activities under the Secretariat's responsibility as specified in Annex 2 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18). The Secretariat has to date been able to deliver on its primary responsibility, namely the global data compilation, analysis and reporting due to the commitment and dedication of the participating range States and the support from donors. The following key achievements are noteworthy:
  - a) **Compiling data and information, including reports:** There is continuous improved performance of range States and MIKE sites in terms of monitoring and data collection, with an increase in the number of range States and MIKE sites regularly submitting data on an annual basis to inform the analysis of the trends in illegal killing. In Africa, the number of range States and MIKE sites that regularly submit data increased from 23 range States and 38 MIKE sites in 2003 to 30 range States and 62 MIKE sites in 2021. In Asia, the number of range States and MIKE sites that submit data increased from five range States and six MIKE sites in 2003 to 13 range States and 29 MIKE sites in 2020. In terms of reporting, the Secretariat has reported on the implementation of the MIKE programme to eight meetings of the Conference of Parties and on the levels and trends in illegal killing of elephants to four meetings of the Conference of Parties (CoP11, Gigiri, 2000, in document [Doc. 11.31.2](#); CoP12, Santiago, 2002, in document [CoP12 Doc. 34.2](#); CoP13, Bangkok, 2004, in document [CoP13 Doc. 29.3](#); CoP14, The Hague, 2007, in document [CoP14 Doc. 53.3](#); CoP15, Doha, 2010, in document [CoP15 Doc. 44.2 \(Rev. 1\)](#); CoP16, Bangkok, 2013, in document [CoP16 Doc. 53.1](#); CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016, in document [CoP17 Doc. 57.5](#); and CoP18, Geneva, 2019, in document [CoP18 Doc. 69.2](#)). Reports on levels and trends in illegal killing of elephants have been submitted to seven Standing Committee meetings (SC61, Geneva, August 2011, in document [SC61 Doc. 44.2 \(Rev. 1\) Annex 1](#); SC62, Geneva, July 2012, in document [SC62 Doc. 46.1 \(Rev. 1\) Annex](#); SC65, Geneva, July 2014, in document [SC65 Doc 42.1 Annex 1](#); SC66, Geneva, January 2016, in document [SC66 Doc. 47.1 Annex 1](#); SC69, Geneva, November 2017, in document [SC69 Doc. 51.1 Annex](#); and SC70, Sochi, October 2018, in document [SC70 Doc. 49.1 Annex 1](#)). Thirty-two (32) MIKE Subregional Steering Committee meetings have taken place in Africa between 2004 and 2021, providing opportunities to range States to share lessons learnt and best practices, and to make recommendations on actions to further strengthen MIKE implementation. These meetings also provided an opportunity for the Secretariat to brief range States on wider CITES policies relevant to elephants and other CITES matters.
  - b) **Selecting sites and expanding the number of sites to the maximum extent:** The number of sites participating in the MIKE programme has been expanded, with 99 MIKE sites now part of the MIKE

network. In Africa, the number of sites has increased from 55 sites in 2002, to 69 in 2021. These sites now monitor and represent more than 50% of the African elephant population. In Asia, Viet Nam added Yok Don National Park to the MIKE network and Bangladesh expanded the Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary MIKE site to include the landscape in which elephants occur, bringing the total number of MIKE sites in Asia to 30 in 2021, with some range States in the process of finalizing nominations for additional sites to be added.

- c) **Standardized methodology for data collection and analysis:** A standardized methodology for data collection and analysis was developed and has been refined over the years. Comprehensive, standardized training material, including training videos and online training courses have been developed and the MIKE Online Database facilitates the submission of standardized data as well as the visualization of data. The analysis of trends in illegal killing based on the Proportion of Illegal Killing of Elephants (PIKE) index was developed and has been reviewed with support from the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group established by the Standing Committee to ensure the programme is scientifically and statistically robust. Seventeen meetings of the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group have taken place since 2001 and the TAG has provided guidance on the development and refinements of not only the analysis, but also the development of training materials, data collection protocols and advice on MIKE implementation to ensure the technical soundness and scientific robustness of the MIKE programme and its outputs.
- d) **Training:** The provision of training at the national and MIKE site level has taken place with more than 2,000 patrol staff and national level officials trained in Africa and Asia over the last five years alone. Training interventions did not only focus on MIKE data requirements, but also on ranger-based monitoring, the use of SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) and, in Asia, on the mitigation of human-elephant conflict. This excludes specialized training provided as part of the support to focal sites. The creation of focal sites that are of particular importance for elephant conservation and therefore comprehensively supported has also increased from an initial nine in 2016 to 15 in 2021. Support provided to the focal sites includes activities to strengthen law enforcement operations, management, infrastructure and patrol staff welfare, and actions to address other essential site needs. The development of standardized site-based law enforcement capacity assessments has enabled MIKE sites and the Secretariat to better understand and address the capacity gaps impacting MIKE site management and the fulfillment of requirements under the MIKE programme.
- e) **Appropriate databases:** The European Union funded projects not only supported the development of the MIKE Online Database that facilitates the submission and visualisation of MIKE data, but support was also provided through the Secretariat to TRAFFIC and the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) to collect and consolidate data on elephant specimen seizures and elephant population estimates, respectively. TRAFFIC recently developed the ETIS Online system while the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) developed, maintained and assessed refinements to the African Elephant Database (AED). The Secretariat explored the possibility of weighing the PIKE trends with population estimates obtained from the AED and further investigations into the integration of the data and analysis will be done in the future. Regular covariate analyses have been conducted to identify factors associated with the levels of illegal killing of elephants at the site, national and international levels, and guide targeted management interventions and conservation actions. Datasets used in the covariate analysis carried out are also kept by the Secretariat.

14. Above all, the MIKE programme and the activities deployed through it to improve monitoring and management in MIKE sites, bring the conservation status of African and Asian elephants to the attention of Parties and the wider international community, and carefully and objectively point at areas of concern and improvement to inform decision-making. It further plays an important role in promoting synergized, coherent and continent-wide actions for elephant conservation in MIKE sites.

#### *Approaches implemented by the Secretariat to enhance operational sustainability*

15. The Secretariat has implemented several approaches to enhance operational sustainability with the aim of reducing costs and increasing efficiency and effectiveness. A summary of these approaches is provided below in the context of each of the four objectives of the MIKE programme:

- a) **Objective i): Measuring and recording levels and trends, and changes in levels and trends, of illegal elephant killing in elephant range States**
  - i) Ensuring the MIKE site network is optimally defined to represent regional elephant populations is the foundation of all efforts to strengthen operational and financial sustainability. This ensures

that activities and expenses are directed and focused on representative elephant ranges. The MIKE site network review initiated in 2019 and subsequent engagements with range States resulted in MIKE sites in southern Africa being added to the MIKE network. This subregion was previously underrepresented in the site network.

- ii) The review of the statistical analysis and publication of the code used to run the PIKE trend analysis on GitHub as well as the digitalization and consolidation of the data through the MIKE Online Database means that the technical inputs required to consolidate data and carry out the analysis each year to produce the PIKE trend analysis could be reduced. Not all range States are using the MIKE Online Database yet. Any data submitted through the MIKE Workbook must still be uploaded on the MIKE Online Database. The CITES MIKE Central Coordination Unit provided training and continues to engage range States to capture data directly on the Online MIKE Database throughout the year.
- iii) Addressing the efficiency of data submission and the analysis through standardization and digitalization enables the MIKE programme to deliver the PIKE trend analysis as required in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18). Although the integration of other sources of data has been done on an experimental basis to respond to the requirements in the Resolution, the potential to integrate the PIKE trend analysis in other analytical processes the Secretariat is responsible for (e.g., the analysis of annual legal trade data or annual illegal trade data), has not yet been assessed.

**b) Objective ii): Assessing whether and to what extent observed trends are related to measures concerning elephants and trade in elephant specimens taken under the auspices of CITES; changes in the listing of elephant populations in the CITES Appendices; or the conduct of legal international trade in ivory**

- i) The covariate analysis is done to assess factors associated with trends in illegal killing of elephants. It is currently carried out every three years and included in the MIKE report to the Conference of Parties. Since CoP15 (Doha, 2010), no major changes in the factors associated with illegal killing of elephants at the site, national and global levels have been reported based on the covariate analysis.
- ii) The covariate analysis highlighted the need to implement measures to address (i) demand for illegally sourced ivory, (ii) law enforcement shortcomings and other governance challenges at national and site levels, and (iii) the poverty at the site level. The costs associated with this analysis are not extensive, but since these factors have not changed significantly over the last decade, a key consideration is to only undertake this analysis if changes in the PIKE trend is observed.

**c) Objective iii): Establishing an information base to support the making of decisions on appropriate management, protection and enforcement needs**

- i) Efficiency and effectiveness under this objective focus on enhancing the ability of MIKE Programme participants to directly access the information that they are interested in through the standardized MIKE database in a format and timeframe that is attuned to their needs. This also reduces the staff time requirements of Secretariat (MIKE Programme) staff, as the reports that provide dashboards and maps based on the data can now automatically be generated through this online system.
- ii) The MIKE Online Database also allows any users with Internet access to directly access information relevant to them in a timely fashion (even at the MIKE sites themselves in some cases), thus improving the potential of the information being integrated with other information collected at the site and informing conservation activities and action.
- iii) An online training portal has also been developed to support range States' access to materials that will assist them in fulfilling their obligations under the MIKE Programme. This includes a guide on how to complete the law enforcement capacity assessment (which is required to be completed for all new sites, and periodically requested from all existing sites) and how this can be further developed as the basis for a strategic law enforcement plan for the MIKE site in question.

**d) Objective iv): Building capacity in elephant range States and, as applicable, countries involved in trade in elephant specimens, to implement and make use of MIKE in managing elephants and enhancing enforcement**

- i) Further building on the knowledge acquired about the sites in the MIKE network, prioritization under this objective ensures that activities are targeted at the subset of MIKE sites where capacity-building is most required (as identified based on an assessment of the data submitted and engagements with the national and site focal points). In contrast to previous approaches, the basis for the trainings provided and supporting materials are now standardized, which, in turn, allows different and complementary capacity-building approaches to be scaled up, rather than relying only on expensive in-person trainings.
- ii) In addition, online training courses, guides and materials have been developed that can be accessed on demand to complement the traditional in-person trainings. These provide a cost-effective complement or alternative to some in person trainings, reducing staff and travel costs.
- iii) Further, the development and dissemination of these materials allows for MIKE training requirements to be integrated with range State-led trainings by trainers trained by the Secretariat and other capacity-building activities taking place at a site, further enhancing cost-effectiveness.
- iv) Enhancing enforcement has mainly been achieved through the selection of an increasing number of focal sites where targeted law enforcement capacity-building support is provided. Although important, it should be noted that supporting this type of capacity-building is costly and accounts for a substantial amount of the MIKE Programme budget in recent years. The CITES Secretariat is grateful to the EU for the financial support for this activity.

*Funding diversification options*

16. In addition to approaches to enhance the operational sustainability, as explained in paragraph 15, and which are focused on efficiency and effectiveness while being responsive to the elephant range States' needs and donor requirements, the Secretariat considered further options to diversify the sources of funding to support MIKE implementation.
17. The following options were considered:
  - a) diversifying donors (public funding)
  - b) private sector funding
  - c) crowdfunding<sup>1</sup>
18. The feasibility to use the above-mentioned options was further considered taking the following into consideration:
  - a) benefits, including benefits to beneficiaries (elephant range States) in terms of maximizing support to implement the objectives of the MIKE programme;
  - b) risks, including changes in funding levels that hamper longer term planning thereby increasing risks, as well as reputational risks to the Secretariat;
  - c) costs, including transaction costs associated with securing funds, management of funding and compliance with UN and donor requirements;
  - d) synergies, including alignment with activities implemented by other partners or organizations and multilateral environmental agreements.

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<sup>1</sup> Crowdfunding is a way of raising money to finance projects by collecting small amounts of money from a large number of people mainly through online platforms.

19. In terms of **diversifying donors**, as indicated in this document, the MIKE programme already receives contributions from various sources, with the European Union being the main donor, especially in Africa, providing multi-year funding that has contributed to the successful implementation and expansion of the continental MIKE programme. Continued backing from the European Union will enable the MIKE programme to continue assisting the 32 elephant range States in Africa to meet the objectives of the MIKE programme as contained in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) and support a range of activities to minimise the illegal killing of endangered species.
20. In addition to the multi-year funding from the EU, the Secretariat has received small-scale, short-term contributions from various donors. These contributions are valuable and support critical activities in range States, e.g., infrastructure to support enforcement activities (control rooms, accommodation for patrol staff and strong rooms for safekeeping of ivory). The main challenge associated with small-scale funding relates to the transaction costs involved in managing these funds and the lack of predictability of the funding available. The Secretariat has only been able to offset the transaction costs due to the long-term funding from the European Union and through synergies with the long-term projects it supports. The Secretariat therefore encourages donors to consider providing multi-year funding to facilitate longer-term planning and continued support to range States. In addition, multi-year funding enables the Secretariat to explore synergies with other projects implemented by partners, resulting in maximizing benefits to range States.
21. With regards to **private sector funding**, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) developed a Strategy for Private Sector Engagement that the Secretariat will use to guide the process to further explore this option. Private sector funding could provide an important source of co-financing to support MIKE implementation, but UNEP's due diligence processes may increase the transaction costs.
22. **Crowdfunding** has been used successfully by some UN agencies to support the implementation of activities, e.g. the United Nations Development Programme ([UNDP](#)) digital giving infrastructure that provides for crowdfunding campaigns. There are some potential risks associated with this option, however, including the fact that there is no oversight relating to the origin of the funds (due diligence) and significant funds are required for market / campaign activities to sustain or increase the returns.
23. The Secretariat will mainly focus its efforts on the option to diversify donors, while further exploring the role that the private sector could play and the feasibility of crowdfunding. The Audit Report of the Secretariat, dated 4 November 2021, recommended that the Secretariat develop a resource mobilization strategy to raise resources and facilitate effective implementation of the Convention's activities. In case the Parties approve this approach, the Secretariat will also take the resource requirements for the ETIS programme into consideration in the development of such a resource mobilization strategy.
24. In addition to the options to diversify the sources of funding discussed in paragraphs 16 to 23 above, the Secretariat will explore the possibility to include key elements of support and analytical capacity in the core budget of the Secretariat to maintain these essential services for MIKE sites and prepare a proposal in this regard. This could include the integration and consolidation of programme support and analytical needs and capabilities across the work of the Secretariat.

#### *Current funding and future funding needs*

#### Africa

25. In Africa, the MIKE programme has benefitted from consistent and continued support from the European Union as mentioned above. Other donors have contributed to MIKE implementation in Africa, including recent support received from Germany and Japan for small scale projects. The Secretariat and elephant range States greatly appreciate the funding provided by donors to support MIKE implementation.
26. The two European Union-funded MIKE projects that are currently implemented in Africa are both multi-year projects that will come to an end in 2023 and 2024:
  - a) The European Union-funded project, *Cross-Regional Wildlife Conservation in Eastern and Southern Africa*, is implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) over a five-year period (2018–2023). The project aims at tackling the illegal killing of wildlife and the trafficking of wildlife products at three levels, each led by one of the partners: (i) CITES, through its MIKE Programme, is leading the implementation of activities to reduce the illegal killing of wildlife at a number of priority protected areas located in critical

transboundary ecosystems throughout eastern and southern Africa; (ii) at the national and regional levels, UNODC is leading activities focused on reducing the international trafficking of wildlife products by strengthening and expanding their Container Control Programme; improving criminal justice responses and enhancing capacities through the criminal justice chain; and (iii) at the regional level, activities under CMS focus on developing and strengthening the governance and collaborative management mechanisms for some of the most important transboundary conservation areas throughout eastern and southern Africa.

b) MIKES+ (also referred to as the Intra-ACP Wildlife Trafficking project) is a five-year project (2019–2024) that contributes to the protection and sustainable management of Africa's elephant populations, but also addresses the illegal killing of and trade in other iconic CITES listed African mammals through the implementation of a range of activities grouped under three result areas: (i) support and strengthen elephant mortality monitoring and management practices and procedures across the MIKE site network; (ii) range State wildlife management agencies' efforts to protect priority populations of elephant and other target species in key conservation landscapes; and (iii) national, subregional and continental actions supporting the conservation of elephants and other mammal species, the implementation of relevant CITES Decisions, and the effective management of MIKE sites.

27. Based on the current projects and the increase in the number of MIKE sites participating in the programme (69 MIKE sites in Africa), the increase in the number of focal sites supported (15), and the support to both ETIS and the IUCN AfESG, the estimated budget required for a next phase of implementation in Africa (2025–2029) is USD 21,671,871 [excluding Programme Support cost (PSC) (Annex 1)].
28. It is important to keep in mind that capacity-building is a significant cost driver, but also one of the most valuable contributions that the MIKE programme brings to elephant range States and sites. Although key focus areas include enhancing sustainability through training of trainers and integration of MIKE training with range State-led trainings and monitoring activities, a constraint in terms of retaining knowledge of MIKE relates to the frequent turnover of staff at the site level. If capacity-building activities were to be reduced based on successful training of trainers' interventions and integration of training and monitoring in range State-led activities, less funding would be required.
29. The focal sites approach referred to in paragraph 13 that result in comprehensive support in terms of operations, infrastructure and capacity building, consumes a significant portion of the current donor funding received. If the support to focal sites is discontinued, less funding will be required but it will result in a less impactful MIKE programme as it relates to these areas of support. An estimated budget required for a next phase of implementation in Africa that excludes capacity-building support to focal sites is: USD 9,233,504 [excluding Programme Support cost (PSC) (Annex 2)].

## Asia

30. In Asia, the MIKE programme has benefited from ad hoc support from various donors, including Australia, the European Union, France, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Due to the inconsistent level of funding to support MIKE implementation in Asia, it has been challenging to maintain momentum and enhance the programme to the same extent as in Africa.
31. Although the threat associated with poaching for ivory in Asia is not as high as in Africa, and only male Asian elephants carry tusks, emerging threats such as illegal killing to obtain elephant skin and other body parts is of concern, especially in small, fragmented populations, and some illegal killing of elephants for their ivory is still recorded. Habitat loss and fragmentation, and human-elephant conflict remain the main threats to Asian elephants.
32. The recent project funded by the European Union<sup>2</sup> facilitated the relaunch of the MIKE programme in Asia and activities included support to range States to mitigate human-elephant conflict in addition to training and support to implement the MIKE programme. The MIKE site network review conducted during the project resulted in Viet Nam adding Yok Don National Park to the network and Bangladesh extending the Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary to include the landscape in which elephants occur.

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<sup>2</sup> UNODC-CITES Asia Wildlife Law Enforcement and Demand Management Project



33. Through the current US-funded project for five Asian elephant range States<sup>3</sup> in southeast Asia, the capacity of MIKE sites to monitor illegal killing of elephants will be strengthened, along with enhanced protection and enforcement measures. Furthermore, national and subregional actions to support MIKE sites and implement key CITES commitments relating to the illegal killing of elephants and trade in elephant specimens will be supported.
34. At the moment, no funding to support MIKE implementation in south Asia has been secured.
35. Based on the recent projects and the increase in the number of MIKE sites participating in the programme (30 MIKE sites in Asia), the introduction of focal site support in Asia, the need to implement measures to monitor and mitigate human-elephant conflicts and assist the IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) to establish and manage a database of Asian elephant populations, the estimated budget required for a next 5-year phase of implementation in Asia is: USD 5,984,290 [excluding Programme Support cost (PSC) (Annex 3)]. If focal site support that includes capacity building and mitigation of human-elephant conflict, one of the main threats to elephant conservation in Asia, is excluded from the budget, the estimated budget excluding focal site support is: USD 4,134,290 [excluding Programme Support cost (PSC) (Annex 4)].

### *Conclusion*

36. The Secretariat proposes the following approaches to address the financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE programme:
  - a) incorporate the MIKE and ETIS programmes in a resource mobilisation strategy to be developed by the Secretariat;
  - b) identify key elements of support and analytical capacity to be integrated in the core budget of the Secretariat;
  - c) prepare proposals for support to the MIKE programme for consideration by donors;
  - d) further explore the options to secure support from alternative funding sources, such as the private sector and through crowdfunding; and
  - e) continue to enhance operational performances, including improvements to the MIKE Online Database and online training, and identifying and implementing cost-effective approaches to deliver on MIKE objectives.
37. However, the Secretariat draws to the attention of the Standing Committee that, if funding cannot be secured over the next year, the ability to meet the responsibilities assigned to the Secretariat in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) will be compromised, thereby having a direct impact on the objectives of the MIKE programme set out in the Resolution. The Secretariat will provide an update to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee relating to the status of resources and funding secured.

### Recommendations

38. The Standing Committee is invited to:
  - a) note that three multi-year projects managed by the Secretariat in support of the MIKE programme will come to an end in 2023 (European Union-funded CRWCP project in Africa), 2024 (European Union-funded MIKES+ project in Africa) and 2023 (US-funded project in Southeast Asia);
  - b) note that the Secretariat has not been able to secure funds to support MIKE implementation in south Asia;
  - c) note and support the approaches that the Secretariat proposes in paragraph 36 to address the financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE programme;

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<sup>3</sup> *Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam*

- d) request the Secretariat to provide a report to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee on the resources secured to support the implementation of the MIKE programme in Africa and Asia, with any relevant recommendations in this regard;
- d) encourage donors and Parties to provide funds to the Secretariat to support MIKE implementation in Africa and Asia; and
- e) consider submitting the following draft decisions to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

**19.AA Directed to the Parties**

All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations, donors and other entities are encouraged to support elephant range States and the Secretariat in their efforts to implement the MIKE and ETIS programmes as mandated in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, and the Secretariat in the implementation of 19.BB.

**19.BB Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall

- a) pursue the following approaches to address the financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE programme:
  - i) prepare proposals for support to the MIKE programme for consideration by donors;
  - ii) further explore alternative options to secure support from alternative funding sources, such as the private sector and through crowdfunding; and
  - iii) continue to enhance operational performances, including improvements to the MIKE Online Database and online training, and identifying and implementing cost-effective approaches to deliver on MIKE objectives.
- b) provide the Standing Committee with a report on the activities it has undertaken and the results thereof, including funding secured to support the implementation of the MIKE and ETIS programmes.

**19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall review the report by the Secretariat in terms of Decision 19.BB and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties.

MIKE Programme

ESTIMATED FUNDING NEEDS FOR MIKE IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA  
(INCLUDING FOCAL SITE SUPPORT)

	Budget by Calendar Year in USD					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total USD
<b>MIKE CCU Operating Costs</b>						
Staff time	749,999	772,499	795,674	819,544	844,130	3,981,847
Travel	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	200,000
Office rent, equipment and supplies	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	170,000
<b>Technical Support Costs</b>						
MIKE Training Development (online/materials etc)	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	100,000
MIKES data analysis technical support	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	100,000
TAG Meetings	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	75,000
<b>Focal Site Support</b>						
MIKES focal site support packages (15 sites)	2,250,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	11,250,000
<b>MIKE site network support</b>						
MIKE site equipment	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
MIKE site training and support	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,250,000
MIKE network partnerships	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
MIKE Africa Meetings	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	100,000
Subregional MIKES Meetings	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	150,000
<b>ETIS and AED</b>						
Monitoring the illegal trade in ivory: ETIS	400,000	412,000	424,360	437,091	450,204	2,123,654
IUCN AfESG (African Elephant Database)	150,000	154,500	159,135	163,909	168,826	796,370
<b>Visibility</b>						
Material design, productions and dissemination	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	125,000
<b>Compliance</b>						
Audit	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	200,000
Evaluation	0	0	50,000	0	0	50,000
<b>Total (USD) (excl PSC)</b>	<b>4,283,999</b>	<b>4,272,999</b>	<b>4,363,169</b>	<b>4,354,544</b>	<b>4,397,160</b>	<b>21,671,871</b>

MIKE Programme

ESTIMATED FUNDING NEEDS FOR MIKE IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA  
(EXCLUDING FOCAL SITE SUPPORT)

	Budget by Calendar Year in USD					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total USD
<b>MIKE CCU Operating Costs</b>						
Staff time	545,000	561,350	578,191	595,536	613,402	2,893,479
Travel	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	200,000
Office rent, equipment and supplies	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	170,000
<b>Technical Support Costs</b>						
MIKE Training Development (online/materials etc)	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	100,000
MIKES data analysis technical support	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	100,000
TAG Meetings	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	75,000
<b>Focal Site Support</b>						
MIKES focal site support packages (15 sites)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>MIKE site network support</b>						
MIKE site equipment	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
MIKE site training and support	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,250,000
MIKE network partnerships	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
MIKE Africa Meetings	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	100,000
Subregional MIKES Meetings	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	150,000
<b>ETIS and AED</b>						
Monitoring the illegal trade in ivory: ETIS	400,000	412,000	424,360	437,091	450,204	2,123,654
IUCN AfESG (African Elephant Database)	150,000	154,500	159,135	163,909	168,826	796,370
<b>Visibility</b>						
Material design, productions and dissemination	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	125,000
<b>Compliance</b>						
Audit	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	100,000
Evaluation	0	0	50,000	0	0	50,000
<b>Total (USD) (excl. PSC)</b>	<b>1,809,000</b>	<b>1,791,850</b>	<b>1,875,686</b>	<b>1,860,536</b>	<b>1,896,432</b>	<b>9,233,504</b>

MIKE Programme

ESTIMATED FUNDING NEEDS FOR MIKE IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA  
(INCLUDING FOCAL SITE SUPPORT)

	Budget by Calendar Year in USD					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total USD
<b>MIKE CCU Operating Costs</b>						
Staff time	48,250	49,383	50,549	51,750	52,988	252,920
Travel	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	200,000
<b>Technical Support Costs</b>						
MIKE Training Development (online/materials etc)	0	25,000	0	0	25,000	50,000
MIKES data analysis technical support	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	60,000
<b>Focal Site Support</b>						
MIKES focal site support packages (10 sites)	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	1,750,000
<b>MIKE site network support</b>						
MIKE site equipment	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
MIKE site training and support	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,250,000
MIKE network partnerships	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
MIKE Asia Meetings	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	100,000
Subregional MIKES Meetings	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	150,000
<b>AsESG</b>						
IUCN AsESG (Asian Elephant Database)	150,000	154,500	159,135	163,909	168,826	796,370
<b>Visibility</b>						
Material design, productions and dissemination	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	125,000
<b>Compliance</b>						
Audit	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	200,000
Evaluation	0	0	50,000	0	0	50,000
<b>Total (USD) (excl. PSC)</b>	<b>1,163,250</b>	<b>1,213,883</b>	<b>1,194,684</b>	<b>1,180,659</b>	<b>1,231,814</b>	<b>5,984,290</b>

MIKE Programme

ESTIMATED FUNDING NEEDS FOR MIKE IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA  
(EXCLUDING FOCAL SITE SUPPORT)

	Budget by Calendar Year in USD					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total USD
<b>MIKE CCU Operating Costs</b>						
Staff time	48,250	49,383	50,549	51,750	52,988	252,920
Travel	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	200,000
<b>Technical Support Costs</b>						
MIKE Training Development (online/materials etc)	0	25,000	0	0	25,000	50,000
MIKES data analysis technical support	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	60,000
<b>MIKE site network support</b>						
MIKE site equipment	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
MIKE site training and support	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,250,000
MIKE network partnerships	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
MIKE Asia Meetings	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	100,000
Subregional MIKES Meetings	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	150,000
<b>AsESG</b>						
IUCN AsESG (Asian Elephant Database)	150,000	154,500	159,135	163,909	168,826	796,370
<b>Visibility</b>						
Material design, productions and dissemination	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	125,000
<b>Compliance</b>						
Audit	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	100,000
Evaluation	0	0	50,000	0	0	50,000
<b>Total (USD) (excl. PSC)</b>	<b>793,250</b>	<b>843,883</b>	<b>824,684</b>	<b>810,659</b>	<b>861,814</b>	<b>4,134,290</b>