



Terms of Reference for the Technical Advisory Group for
Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)

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. CoP16) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, technical oversight will be provided to both MIKE and ETIS through an independent technical advisory group (TAG) established by the Standing Committee.

The Terms of Reference for the structure and operation of the TAG are outlined below.

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. CoP15), 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

- The TAG will comprise a maximum of 12 members, as follows: one elephant expert from each of the six relevant subregions of Africa and Asia (Central, East, Southern and West Africa; South and Southeast Asia; and up to six members with broad, widely-recognized, continental or global technical expertise in one or more of the following fields: wildlife conservation science and management; law enforcement monitoring in conservation areas and capacity building; data analysis and statistics; ivory trade or other wildlife trade issues; and natural resource economics. Members of the TAG 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 Chairs of the IUCN African and Asian Elephant Specialist Groups will be co-opted to the TAG. In cases where a Specialist Group is jointly chaired by two or more individuals, co-opted membership of the TAG will be rotated between co-chairs at three-year intervals.
- 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, in consultation with TRAFFIC, shall propose nominations for global members of the TAG to the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup of the Standing Committee. In the case of the six members of the TAG proposed by the subregions, they will be drawn from nominations received from range State governments, reflecting the sub-regional approach followed by MIKE. Such nominations shall be agreed by the relevant Parties at the MIKE Subregional Steering Committee meetings and notified to the Secretariat.
- The CITES Secretariat, through its MIKE Central Coordination Unit and TRAFFIC, will participate in the TAG as *ex-officio* members, acting as joint Chairs and Secretaries to 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 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 or wildlife 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 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;
- become actively involved in and aware of subregional and global MIKE and ETIS issues;
- be readily and easily accessible by electronic mail, fax or telephone, and be able to correspond effectively in English;
- be willing and able to provide written comments at short notice and avail themselves for consultation on the timelines required by the CITES Secretariat; and
- be willing and able to work for nominal or no compensation on demanding technical matters often against strict deadlines.
- TAG members shall be appointed for an initial term of three years. This term can be extended for a maximum of one additional three-year term. Members who have served for the maximum of two terms can only be reappointed to the TAG after a waiting period of three years. Membership of the TAG can be terminated by members voluntarily stepping down by informing the Secretariat in writing, or by the Standing Committee 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 as directed by the Standing Committee.