

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

MIKE and ETIS Subgroup

UPDATE ON MIKE IMPLEMENTATION

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. This document sets out the progress made in the implementation of the MIKE programme in Africa and Asia, with a focus on activities carried out since the last meeting of the Standing Committee in November 2017. The MIKE Programme is entirely dependent on donor funding to fulfil its mandate as defined in Res. 10:10 (Rev. COP17). The CITES Secretariat would like to acknowledge the on-going support that the European Union has provided to the MIKE Programme from the start of implementation in 2001 to the present day, and the Government of Japan for additional site-specific support provided during 2017 and 2018.

Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other endangered Species (MIKES) project

3. The MIKES project is the principal project supporting all operations of the MIKE Programme. The project was approved by the European Commission in December 2013 and signed in June 2014 and was reviewed by the MESG at its meeting in April 2014. The project is scheduled to conclude by December 2019. While an important focus of MIKES continues to be monitoring the illegal killing of elephants and building capacity for the protection and sustainable management of Africa's elephant populations as mandated by Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17); the project also seeks to build capacity for the protection and sustainable management of populations of other CITES-listed flagship species, such as rhinos and great apes in Africa, and marine turtles in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. To this end, capacity building actions under the MIKES project concentrate on enhancing law enforcement for the conservation of elephants and other co-occurring species, and where possible on assisting the other concerned agencies in fulfilling their mandates. It is important to note that, while monitoring of other species at the site level is supported by the MIKES project, MIKES does not undertake global monitoring of other species as the MIKE programme currently provides for elephants.
4. The MIKES Project has five results; a brief summary of the progress under each of these results is outlined in the following paragraphs:

Result 1: Information on status and threats to elephants and other flagship species and benchmarks on law enforcement and management effort
5. Two sub-regional meetings took place; one for Central Africa in Douala, Cameroon and the other for Southern Africa in Lilongwe, Malawi. Two sub-regional meetings will be held in 2018 (one for Western Africa and one for Eastern Africa). These meetings, which were attended by Directors of Wildlife and/or MIKE National Officers, addressed issues on the on-going implementation of the MIKES Project in the respective subregions and related issues.
6. The new MIKE site (Limpopo National Park, Mozambique) nominated and approved for inclusion in the MIKE network contributed carcass data for the 2017 and 2018 data collection cycle.

7. Nominations for an additional 6 voluntary MIKE sites were received (4 in Zambia, 1 in Malawi and 1 in Zimbabwe). The nominations were considered by the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for inclusion in the MIKE network and supported. The impact of the additional sites on the PIKE analysis will be discussed at the MIKE-ETIS TAG meeting scheduled to take place from 6 – 8 November 2018.
8. By the submission date of 31 January 2018, 1585 records of elephant carcasses encountered in the course of 2017 were received from 40 MIKE sites in Africa. Additional records were received after 31 January 2018 and the final analysis for SC70 included 1,602 records of elephant carcasses encountered in the course of 2017, received from 40 sites in Africa.
9. Site visits, data quality assessment and/or site level law enforcement capacity assessments were completed by sub-regional support officers in 45 sites across Africa.
10. Monitoring tools and procedures that form part of the MIKE Implementation Monitoring System (MIMS), training materials and reporting frameworks being used by the MIKE Programme were updated where required. A process to assess and review these was initiated.

Result 2: Development of protected area law enforcement, management and monitoring systems, protocols and capacity of selected sites

11. Activities under Result 2 of the MIKES project focus on supporting law enforcement capacity building and adaptive management at selected priority sites. Eight focal sites have been selected in accordance with their importance for the protection of key populations of elephants and other CITES-listed flagship species, the scale and nature of the threats to these species, and the likelihood of mitigating these threats through targeted support for the protected area's law enforcement and management systems. A brief summary of recent activities in each site is outlined below:
 - a. Activities underway in all eight MIKES Focal Sites (i.e. sites where additional support is provided for wildlife law enforcement capacity building) for which agreements were signed;
 - b. Key activities implemented in the focal sites include:
 - i. *Boumba Bek National Park, Cameroon*: Under the project a needs assessment was carried out and solar equipment ordered and is now installed and operational. Ranger field equipment and a patrol vehicle has also been procured under the project and have been delivered to the area. Properly organised ranger patrols are now taking place in the park for the first time in a number of years, with 240-man days of patrol effort during the first six months of 2018, although some room for improvement remains. Work is on-going to provide power to the park headquarters, which has proved difficult to maintain.
 - ii. *Dzanga Sangha, Central African Republic*: A vehicle and key equipment has been delivered to the site and are already supporting operations. This goes some way to re-establishing the equipment and materials lost during the security breakdown in 2012 and 2013. A patrol ration store has been constructed to provide patrol staff with access to rations at cost and enable better use of allowances provided. The first ranger training was supported at a newly established dedicated training base, with additional mentoring planned for senior management to enable them to make optimal use of the newly established and equipped operations control room.
 - iii. *Katavi-Rukwa, Tanzania*: This has proved a challenging focal site for implementing activities due to its extremely remote location and complex institutional arrangements. Vehicles to support operations in both areas have been ordered and will be delivered to the site in September, following customisation to meet field requirements. The installation of a VHF radio-network to cover the area is underway. Initial responses to the Request for Proposals were not of sufficient quality and the process is now being repeated with additional technical support to ensure that the request is more detailed and results in more focused responses.
 - iv. *Mana Pools, Sapi and Chewore, Zimbabwe*: Support for ongoing wildlife law enforcement operations continues through the continued training of patrol staff (basic and specialised (riverine) training). Park management infrastructure has also been developed throughout the area, this includes the establishment and equipping of two operational control rooms, and additional support for a third. Support has also been delivered to improve the well-being of out-posted patrol staff through efforts to improve the provision of clean water to sectoral headquarters, and the development of kitchen gardens to improve food supply.
 - v. *Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique*: In response to a continued high level of illegal elephant killing in the area a law enforcement advisor was appointed and advised a move away from fixed outposts to a more dynamic and responsive mode of operation. This entailed some rework and adjustment of the budget, but early data indicates that this approach has had some impact on illegal activities. Similarly, funds for the planned rehabilitation of outposts have been reallocated towards

the development of sectoral headquarters, which will decentralise operational management to key parts of the Reserve.

- vi. *Okapi Faunal Reserve, Democratic Republic of Congo*: Some serious insecurity incidences, combined with staff turnover in both government and non-government partners have slowed planned activities in this area. As a result, a project review was carried out in early 2018, and the priorities, activities and budget revised to take into account emerging issues. Since that time, critical field equipment for patrol staff has been procured along with communications equipment (HF radios) and is in the process of being delivered to the site. The collection of intelligence to inform operations has also been strengthened through a collaboration with a local NGO.
- vii. *Parc W Protected Area Complexe, Benin, Bukina Faso and Niger*: The unfortunate death of the MIKE Programme technical advisor leading the implementation of this aspect of the project has severely impacted the implementation in this area. The recruitment for a replacement is on-going. In the meanwhile, other MIKE Programme staff have stepped in to ensure continued support to patrols so that project momentum is not entirely lost. It is anticipated that the replacement staff member will be in place during the fourth quarter of 2018.
- viii. *Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda*: Work is on-going and continues to focus on building the capacity of patrol staff through training, alongside providing support for key infrastructure in the form of communications and VHF radios to enhance operations. Additional support is also being used to strengthen key infrastructure in the form of strategically located outposts and the up-grading of parts of the headquarters building. Support was also provided to help management secure a grant from the African Elephant Fund.

Result 3: National and subregional information, decision making and intelligence systems

- 12. The MIKE Programme National Law Enforcement Capacity Benchmarks have now been deployed by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime for use in its national indicator framework assessment tool. Work has continued in Gabon where UNODC has supported intelligence and investigative mentorship by placing two international mentors within the National Parks Agency to help establish an operational cell, intelligence cell and investigative cell.
- 13. The ICCWC Analytic Toolkit assessment was conducted in Mozambique. Priority areas for the training for law enforcement agencies were identified including training for border police officers in law-enforcement techniques for search procedures, detection of contraband and fraudulent document identification. In Congo, work has focused on supporting participation of prosecutors/magistrates in the regional Department of Justice workshops.

Result 4: International awareness, cooperation, and action in the conservation and protection of elephants and other flagship species

- 14. The MIKES Project is continuing the process launched in MIKE Phases I and II to catalyse and inform international conservation awareness, collaboration and action through the regular dissemination of reliable, relevant and user-friendly information of the status and trends in elephant populations. In this regard, Result 4 of MIKES focuses on meeting CITES mandates and developing collaborations to support the work of a number of key international initiatives, including the development of agreements between the CITES Secretariat and TRAFFIC (for ETIS), and the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group (for the African Elephant Database).
- 15. Key documents were developed and disseminated at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC69, Switzerland, 27 November – 1 December 2017). The MIKE report to SC 69 (document SC69 Doc. 51.5, 2017) provided estimates of poaching rates and the continental PIKE trend in Africa and its subregions. A joint report (document SC69 Doc. 51.5, Annex, 2017), along with CITES MIKE, ETIS, AfESG, AsESG, UNEP-WCMC and the African Elephant Fund Steering Committee provided status of elephant populations, levels of illegal killing and the trade in ivory.
- 16. Continental and sub regional poaching trends up to 2016 were disseminated at SC 69.
- 17. On-going support provided to ETIS key achievements include: The development of a business plan; support for website development; analysis for and presentation of documents on recent trends in international ivory seizures at SC 69. The MIKE and ETIS Subgroup discussed the documents at SC69 and various recommendations were adopted, including a request to TRAFFIC to undertake specific actions and to the Secretariat to prepare, in collaboration with the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group, a terms of reference for a review of the ETIS program.

18. The MIKES Event Response Mechanism was completed in the Gourma region of Mali. A second MERM is currently being implemented to support wildlife law enforcement capacity building in the Democratic Republic of Congo border region of South Sudan, focused on ranger training and re-establishment of basic infrastructure. The final MERM planned under this project is currently in the contracting phase, and it is proposed that it will take place in Cameroon to help combat poaching along the border with Chad.

Result 5: Piloting of law enforcement, management and monitoring systems, protocols and capacity building approaches in Caribbean and Pacific protected area sites

19. In terms of the development of practical and effective protected area law enforcement and management systems at pilot sites, particularly strong progress has been made in the Solomon Islands. With regard to developing an understanding of the extent of the illegal turtle trade in Solomon Islands, in collaboration with other regional partners, a study is underway on the status, scope and trends of the legal and illegal international trade in marine turtles, its conservation impacts, management options and priority areas for mitigation.

Asia Wildlife Law Enforcement and Demand Management Project

20. This joint initiative with UNODC, was approved by the EU in the last quarter of 2015, and recruitment to support project implementation began in May 2017. The project builds on lessons learnt from MIKE and ETIS implementation and aims to address the growing problem of international trade and demand for key African wildlife species in Asia, in particular African elephants, rhinos and pangolins, as well also targeting efforts to reduce the illegal killing of key Asian wildlife species impacted by international trade, with a focus on the Asian elephants.
21. The MIKE Programme is primarily involved in two key result areas. The first on strengthening law enforcement management and monitoring capacity across key elephant and rhino sites in South and South-East Asia, including the collection of information on the illegal killing of elephants and other key species and the effectiveness of associated protection efforts (in collaboration with IUCN). The second focuses on using information on the status, illegal trade and off-take of key wildlife species and the demand for their products to influence decision makers and to inform wildlife crime enforcement and demand-side strategies and interventions and is implemented in collaboration with TRAFFIC.
22. Activities have recently been initiated under both results. A MIKE Regional Meeting for Asian elephant range States took place on 28 April 2018 and was attended by all range states, IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) and members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).
23. The Sub-Regional Support Unit (SSU) in Southeast Asia has established direct contact with all sub-region range states and conducted 3 site visits since January 2018, while the South Asia SSU has at least eight MIKE sites submitting regular and reliable information on the illegal killing of elephants. Strong links have also been formed with the IUCN/SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG), and the MIKE Central Coordination Unit and the SSUs attended the AsESG meeting that preceded the MIKE Regional meeting in April 2018. Work under Result 5 is detailed under the ETIS report to the group (MESG18 Doc. 4).

Japan Voluntary Contribution

24. The Strategic Anti-Poaching Operations Centre, funded by the Government of Japan and located in the Chewore Safari Area in Zimbabwe was handed over by Japanese Ambassador, Toshiyuki Iwado, to the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority on 16 May 2018.
25. An agreement has been concluded with the Government of Japan for a similar initiative in 2018 to support the development of a new outpost in Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda (again, as a complement to support provided under the EU funded MIKES project).
26. A project in Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique has also been identified for support from the Government of Japan.

MIKE Database Development

27. The MIKE Programme is collaborating with UN Environment – Science Division who is developing an Elephant Carcass database using the Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS). This will include the development of a customized IRIS on-line platform, which allows for data capturing (elephant carcass

data), data management, automatic calculation of the Proportion of Illegally Killed elephants (PIKE) indicator, the visual display of data (dashboards) and reporting.

MIKE Programme – Website development and update of page on www.cites.org website

28. The MIKE Programme section of the [cites.org](http://www.cites.org) website is in the process of being updated to improve the structure of the information provided, make it more relevant to the CITES Parties, and enhance the accessibility of the MIKE Programme data and analytical code. A separate website is also under development that will focus on the information of interest to elephant range States and site-based partners in the MIKE Programme.

Consultancy – publication of MIKE methodology

29. The MIKE Programme initiated a consultancy to provide support to the MIKE programme to prepare and submit for publication a journal paper on the MIKE analytical method; make the programming code used in the analysis publicly accessible (published in Git Hub); and provide the MIKE Central Coordination Unit (CCU) with advice on the analysis of MIKE data.

Recommendation

30. The Secretariat requests the MIKE and ETIS Subgroup to note this document.