

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 ETIS Subgroup

FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF MIKE AND ETIS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. The systems known as the Monitoring of the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), were established under Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) and are supervised by the Standing Committee through the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup. The framework for the monitoring systems are set out in the Annexes to the Resolution. These programmes have guided CITES decision making for elephants since 1998 (ETIS) and 2006 (MIKE) and are globally recognized as the leading sources of information for understanding the scale, dynamics and impact of elephant poaching and ivory trafficking worldwide.

Elephant Trade information System (ETIS)

3. In terms of Annex I that contains the framework for monitoring illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens, the Parties have envisaged that "*A funding mechanism will be established to ensure that ETIS is fully operational*". To date, this funding mechanism has not been established.
4. TRAFFIC has independently sought funding to support the bulk of the ETIS operation since its inception in 1998. An ETIS business plan has since been developed and has been used by TRAFFIC fundraisers to seek funding for ETIS. TRAFFIC would like to acknowledge with gratitude the support from the European Union, the Governments of the United Kingdom (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – DEFRA and the Darwin Initiative), the United States (the Department of State, and the Fish and Wildlife Service's African Elephant Conservation Fund) and WWF, all of which have financially supported the ETIS programme to fulfil its mandate in recent years.
5. Since 2015 ETIS has been receiving funds through the project on Minimizing the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES), funded by the European Union.
6. In terms of Annex 2 that contains the framework for the monitoring of illegal killing in elephant range States, the following is stated relating to funding and operational support: "*Substantial funding is required for deploying and implementing MIKE. 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. In this regard, the CITES Secretariat will maintain existing partnerships and establish new ones as appropriate, such as the existing collaboration with IUCN in support of activities in the field and the provision and compilation of elephant population data*".

Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephant (MIKE) Programme

7. Like ETIS, the MIKE Programme is entirely dependent on donor funding to fulfil its mandate as defined in Resolution Conf. 10:10 (Rev. CoP17). In this regard the CITES Secretariat would like to acknowledge the on-going support that the European Union has provided to the MIKE Programme for the implementation of MIKE in Africa 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. As part of the current MIKES project, funded by the European Union, ETIS and key activities of the IUCN Species Survival Commission's African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) relating to their management of the African Elephant Database are receiving support.
8. Support for the implementation of the MIKE Programme in Asia has not been as consistent as the support to implementation in Africa. The support provided by the People's Republic of China, the European Union, France, United Kingdom, Japan and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is acknowledged and appreciated. Since 2016, the implementation of the MIKE programme in Asia has been receiving support from the European Union.
9. The generous support provided by the European Union in support of the MIKE programme is appreciated. Through this support the MIKE programme was able to provide reports relating to the analysis of data submitted by the MIKE sites for consideration by the Standing Committee as well as the Conference of Parties. In addition, it also enabled the MIKE programme to provide training and capacity building. As mentioned above, ETIS and the AfESG also benefited from support and reports produced by both have informed decision making by the Parties to CITES.
10. The MIKES project funded by the European Union will be completed at the end of December 2019. The European Union funded project, *UNODC-CITES Asia Wildlife Law Enforcement and Demand Management Project*, that supports the MIKE implementation in Asia will also be completed in December 2019. At this point in time, the European Union has indicated that there is no further funding available for future support. Considering the progress made in re-launching MIKE in the region it is important to maintain the coordination and support in terms of consolidation and analysis of data submitted by the Asian elephant range States. Another important element of the project is the work done by TRAFFIC relating to market surveys and demand management. It will be important to continue with both these elements after 2019 to monitor possible changes in the trends of illegal killing and changes in key markets, especially considering the prohibition implemented by the People's Republic of China relating to trade in ivory.

Next phase of funding

11. The MIKE Programme submitted a project concept, referred to as MIKES+ to the European Union for consideration. The MIKES+ project is essentially designed to build upon and maintain the strong, CITES-linked MIKE network, promote pro-active management and concerted actions in key-sites, and expand expertise and capacity across the entire network in Africa and for additional species of particular relevance to CITES Parties. The initial results framework for the MIKES+ project is attached as an Annex to this present document.
12. The European Union however indicated that the possible funding available for MIKES+ has been reduced and this will limit the realisation of the proposed role for the MIKES+ project in supporting and leveraging the MIKE network in Africa as it was originally envisaged. The scope of the planned activities had to be reduced, especially in terms of the level of specialised support originally planned as well as capacity building that could be offered to the broader MIKE network. If additional funds were to become available, an increase in the budget could have a significant impact on delivery and meeting important objectives. Provision was made in the MIKES+ project for activities relating to ETIS and the AfESG as is the case in the current MIKES project. ETIS will however continue to lobby for funding based on the business plan it developed in 2015.

Recommendations

13. The MIKE-ETIS Subgroup is requested to:

- a) Note that the current projects funded by the European Union that support MIKE implementation in Africa and Asia as well as activities of ETIS and the AfESG will be completed by 31 December 2019;
- b) Note the need for additional funding to continue to support the MIKE network in Africa through the MIKES+ project; including support to ETIS and the AfESG; as well as the funding required to continue to support the implementation of MIKE in Asia;
- c) Make the following recommendations to the Standing Committee to address the financial and operational sustainability of the programmes:
 - i. The Standing Committee to invite donors to make funding available to support the monitoring systems (MIKE and ETIS) established in terms of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17); and
 - ii. The Standing Committee to request the Secretariat to develop a proposal for consideration by the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee on possible approaches to be explored to address the financial and operational sustainability of the MIKE and ETIS programmes.