

Terms of Reference for a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for MIKE and ETIS

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) shall provide expert and transparent technical oversight to the development and implementation of MIKE and ETIS.

1. Terms of Reference

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 MIKE and ETIS.
- Help ensure the consistency and appropriateness of the design, development and implementation of MIKE and ETIS across the six sub-regions in Africa and Asia and globally for ETIS.
- Advise 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.

b) In their individual capabilities, the members of 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, on behalf of the MIKE-ETIS Sub-Group of the CITES Standing Committee.
- Review all MIKE and ETIS data collection forms and instruction protocols for technical correctness, broad applicability and practicality of design and analysis.
- Review all training modules and materials to ensure consistency and appropriateness across the existing field conditions and characteristics in the MIKE sites and ETIS countries.
- Provide extensive and in-depth written comment to the CITES Secretariat on any technical matters requiring review or revision, often on short notice and to tight deadlines.

2. Modus operandi

a) TAG structure

- The formal TAG membership should be held to a maximum of 14, not including CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC or MIKE staff.
- The MIKE experts on the TAG will comprise 10 elephant experts from the six relevant sub-regions of Africa and Asia as well as members with broader, continental-level perspectives.
- Additional individuals may be co-opted on an “as needs” basis when specialist technical expertise is deemed necessary (e.g. individuals whose areas of expertise include population dynamics, analytical design of surveys and monitoring programs, spatial statistics, use of imagery/remote sensing, and training).
- The CITES Secretariat will act as Chair and convenor of the TAG and will formally report its deliberations and recommendations to the MIKE-ETIS Sub-Group of the Standing Committee.
- The MIKE Central Coordination Unit will act as the Secretary to TAG and as an *ex-officio* member of the MIKE-ETIS Sub-Group of the Standing Committee together with the authorised representative of TRAFFIC.

b) TAG Operational Methods

- The TAG will be convened and consulted primarily through electronic and telephonic means.
- The TAG will meet as and when deemed necessary but normally in advance of any planned meetings of the MIKE-ETIS Sub-Group of the Standing Committee.

c) TAG Operational Means

- TAG members will contribute primarily on a *pro bono* basis though a nominal fee may be provided on the production of clear technical inputs.
- All costs for active participation in meetings and required teleconferences will be met through the CITES MIKE process.

3. Qualifications of TAG members

a) Members of the TAG shall:

- Be well-published and widely-recognized scientists actively working on relevant issues in elephant conservation and management in Africa and/or Asia (relevant expertise includes socio-economic expertise as well) and/or elephant trade issues.
- Represent the broad array of technical issues facing the full implementation of MIKE in each of its six designated sub-regions and ETIS globally.
- Provide demonstrated technical skills in the specific areas to be addressed by the agreed MIKE and ETIS system.
- In the case of MIKE experts, have the confidence of the relevant African and Asian elephant range state governments from the Sub-region which nominates them.
- Be readily and easily accessible by electronic mail and fax.
- Be willing to provide written comment and avail themselves for consultation on the timelines required by CITES.
- Be able to work for nominal or no compensation on demanding technical matters often against strict deadlines.

b) Members of the TAG shall:

- In the case of MIKE experts, be drawn from nominations received from participating Governments, reflecting the sub-regional approach followed by MIKE.
- Initially, be appointed to the TAG for a two-year term.