



Database – a supporting tool in fighting illegal trade

Examples of wildlife seizure databases managed by TRAFFIC

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TRAFFIC

WCO, Brussels, 22 June 2017

About TRAFFIC



- TRAFFIC is an international non-governmental organization, the wildlife trade monitoring network
- Founded in 1976 – strategic alliance of WWF and IUCN
- We aim to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature



- Over 120 staff based in 17 countries
- TRAFFIC, Headquarters Office in Cambridge, UK
- Operates through a network of six regional offices

About TRAFFIC

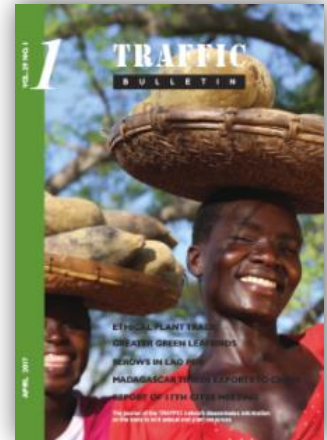
TRAFFIC supports government-led law enforcement action worldwide

- Monitors and analyses wildlife trade trends
 - Moving Targets: Tracking online sales of illegal wildlife products in China (2015)
- Provides reliable and objective information to enforcement agencies
- Supports interagency and international dialogue



About TRAFFIC

- Alerts agencies to emerging trade-related threats to wildlife
- Communicates wildlife trade news regionally and globally – www.traffic.org
 - **TRAFFIC Bulletin** is the only journal devoted exclusively to wildlife trade issues
- Organises training workshops (law enforcement)
- Organises awareness seminars (private sector)
 - 1st International Consultative Workshop Countering Illegal Wildlife Trade: Collaborative Actions along Transportation and Supply Chains, Bangkok Feb. 2015



TRAFFIC and WCO

TRAFFIC and WCO signed an MoU in October 2013

- To formalize ongoing co-operative relationship
- To pool capacity building efforts and organize joint training activities
- To enhance information exchange:
 - CEN database ↔ EU-TWIX,
AFRICA-TWIX, ETIS databases
 - ENVIRONET ↔ EU-TWIX
mailing list



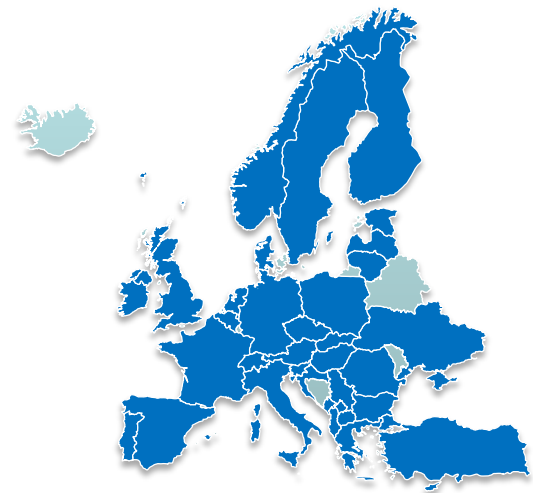
Wildlife law enforcement cooperation in Europe

EU-TWIX = Internet tool developed to facilitate information exchange and international co-operation between wildlife law enforcement officials in the EU

– “European Union - Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange”

➤ 2 components:

- mailing list
- website including a database of seizures



EU-TWIX Mailing list

Close to **950** wildlife law officials across the 28 EU Member States (+ Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and the Ukraine)

➤...from **144** European agencies including but not limited to:

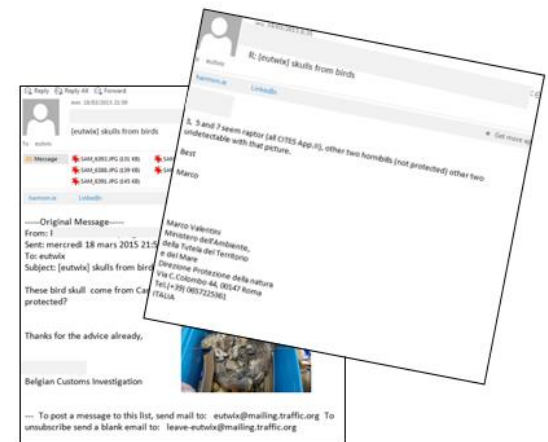
- Customs and Police
- Environmental inspection services
- CITES Management Authorities
- Prosecutor's offices and judges
- Also the CITES Secretariat, EC, Eurojust, Europol, Interpol, Impel, UNODC & WCO

EU-TWIX Mailing list

- Real time information sharing: alerts, routes, dissimulation methods and other relevant information

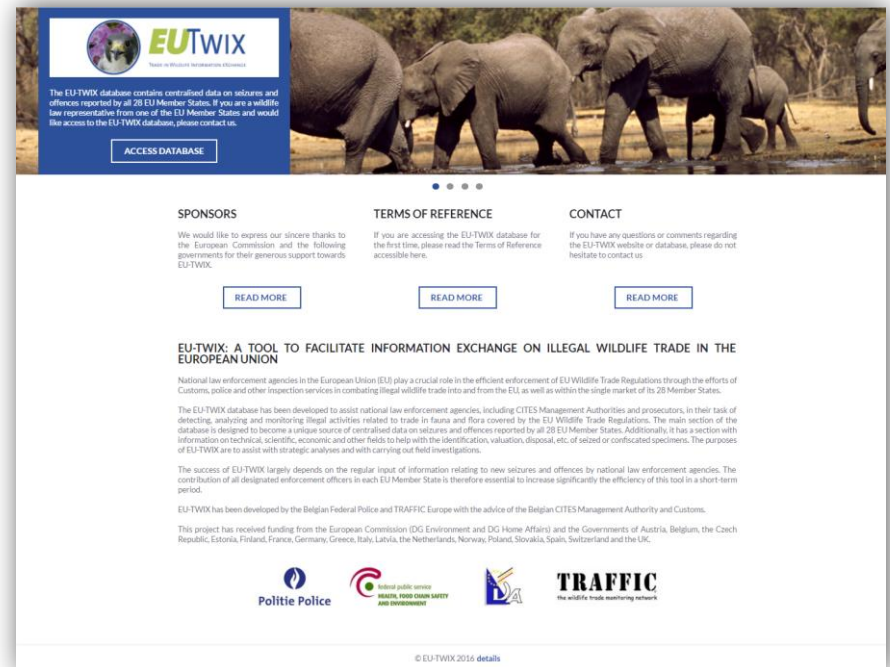


- Rapid identification assistance
- Over 400 messages exchanged in 2016

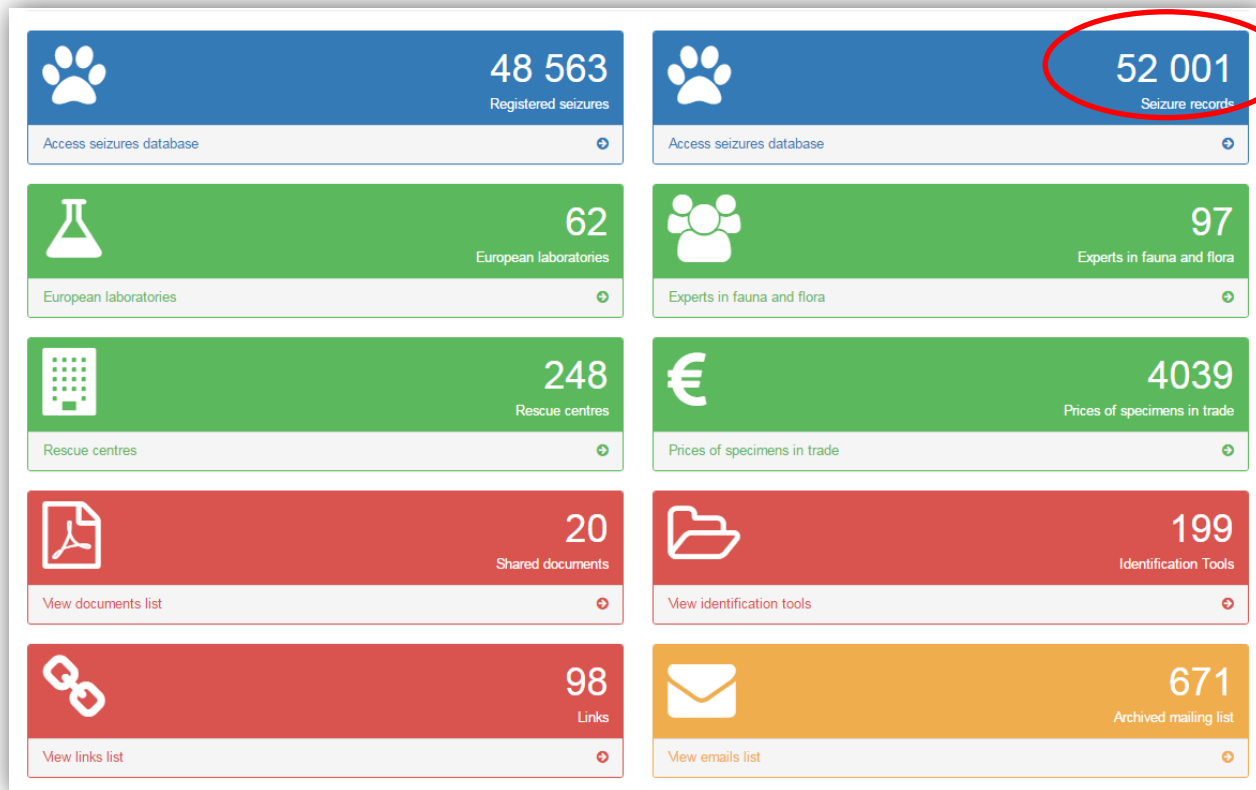


EU-TWIX Website

- Access **secure** and **restricted** to law enforcement officials (using personal codes)
- Holds:
 - **EU-TWIX database** of seizures
 - **Four directories** (European laboratories, rescue centres for seized specimens, wildlife experts, and prices of specimens in trade)
 - Other various useful **resource materials** (e.g. ID tools)
 - Mailing list **archives**



EU-TWIX Database



- Over 50 000 seizure records from 28 EU countries
- Seizures cases go back to the year 2000 for most countries
- Numerous possibilities of combining search criteria

Data for EU-TWIX database

➤ Ways to provide data:

- Individual agency → TRAFFIC
- National agencies → one centralising agency (often CITES Management Authority) → TRAFFIC
- Customs agencies → WCO (CEN database) → TRAFFIC

➤ Frequency of providing data:

- Once per year
- Once every six months
- Every three months (WCO)

EU-TWIX database - upload

- Data stored in the EU-TWIX database remain the property of the reporting agencies
- Only two people in TRAFFIC have access to the database
- TRAFFIC uploads all data received from agencies
- Data are checked and made uniform by using codes/predefined terms (necessary for analysis)
- Individual or bulk upload possible

The screenshot displays the EU-TWIX database interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Specimen', 'Route', 'Dates', 'Investigation', and 'File Number'. Below these are several filter fields: 'Export, transit or destination', 'Country', 'Type of location', 'Reporting country', 'Direction', and 'Type of transport', each with an 'ADD FILTER' button. A 'Current filters' section shows 'Route: Reporting country Belgium[BE]' with a 'clear all filters' button. Below this, there are buttons for 'download CSV', 'download XLS', and 'fullscreen table'. The main part of the interface is a table with columns: Kingdom, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species, CITES App., EC Annex, Description, Count, Mass, Value, Medicinal units, and Date. The table contains three rows of data:

Kingdom	Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species	CITES App.	EC Annex	Description	Count	Mass	Value	Medicinal units	Date
FLORA	CYCADOPSIDA	CYCALES	ZAMIACEAE	Encephalartos	-	I	A	LIV	1	-	-	-	17-12-2014
FLORA	MAGNOLIOPSIDA	CARYOPHYLLALES	CACTACEAE	Lophophora	Lophophora williamsii	II	B	LIV	1	-	-	-	05-12-2014
FLORA	MAGNOLIOPSIDA	CARYOPHYLLALES	CACTACEAE	Echinocactus	Echinocactus horizonthalonius	II	B	LIV	1	-	-	-	05-12-2014

EU-TWIX database - data

- TRAFFIC ensures that data are complete and sends reminders if necessary
- At any moment, agencies can check their data
- If TRAFFIC receives Customs data not yet in the CEN database, we share them with WCO (with the relevant agency's authorisations)



EUTWIX
TRADE IN WILDLIFE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

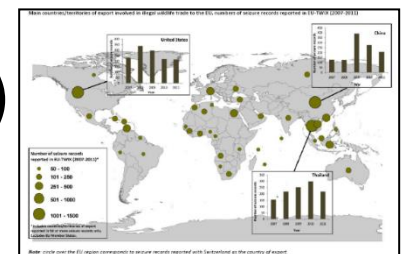
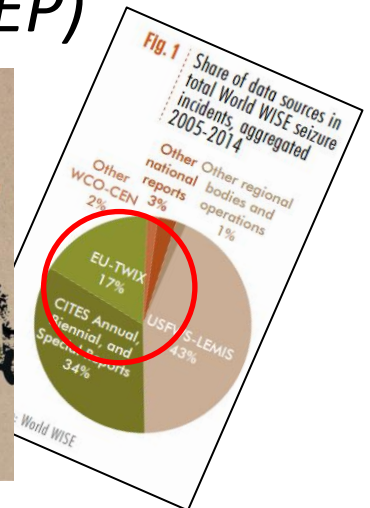
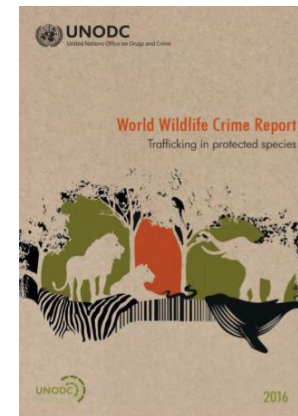
EU-TWIX database - benefits

- Centralised, pan-European (EU), and cross-agency wildlife seizure database
- A fount of useful information for:
 - Various analyses of illegal wildlife trade at national, European and global levels
 - Basis for decisions on law enforcement efforts (e.g. French CITES MA analysed seizures reported by other countries which had identified FR as transit country)
 - Indicator of capacity building needs (e.g. low number of seizures of timber indicated a need for training in timber identification - later organised by TRAFFIC)

Analysis based on EU-TWIX data

Examples:

- *Wildlife crime - a study commissioned by Policy Dept. A at the request of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (EP)*
- *World Wildlife Crime Report, Trafficking in protected species by UNODC*
- *Illegal Wildlife Trade and the EU – An analysis of EU-TWIX seizure data for the period 2007-2011 (commissioned by the EC)*

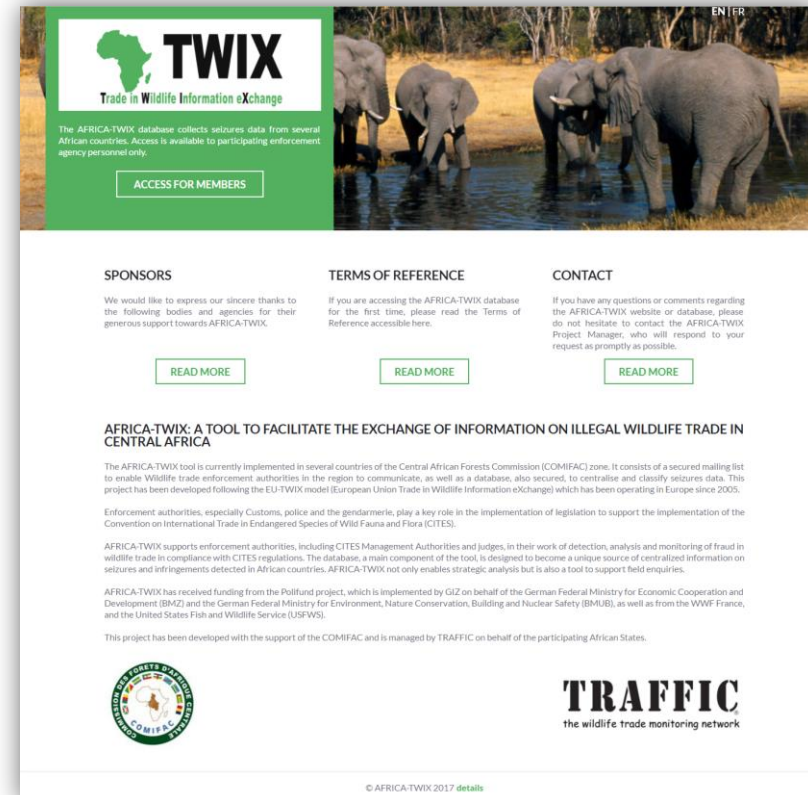


AFRICA-TWIX

- **AFRICA-TWIX** project **confirmed** by four pilot countries: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo in **February 2016**
- AFRICA-TWIX mailing list **launched in March 2016** (close to 100 officials currently connected)
- Central African Republic joined in February 2017
- TRAFFIC manages AFRICA-TWIX on behalf of the participating countries with support from COMIFAC

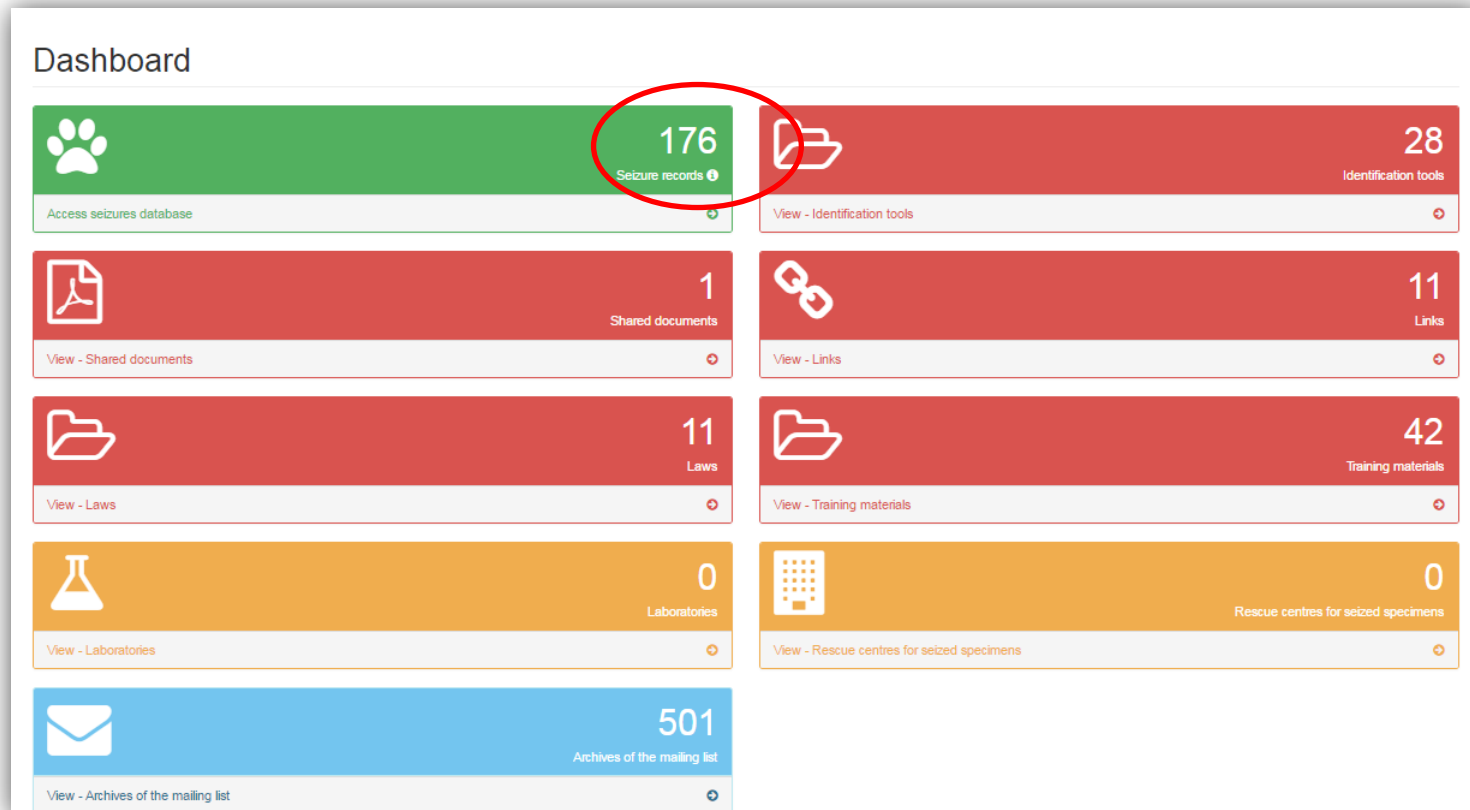
AFRICA-TWIX website/database

- AFRICA-TWIX database structure elaborated and **approved** by AFRICA-TWIX agencies in **February 2016**
- IT developments started in August 2016
- AFRICA-TWIX website and database (available in French and English) were first **presented** to the participating countries in **February 2017**



AFRICA-TWIX database

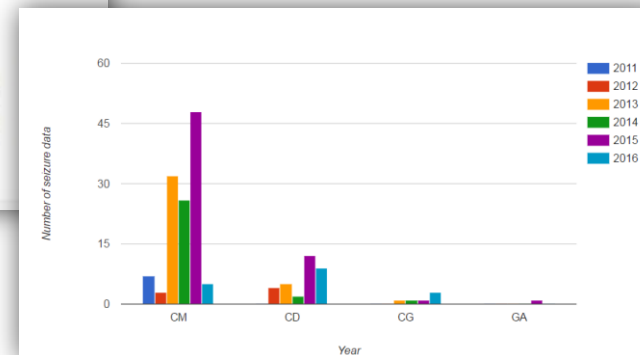
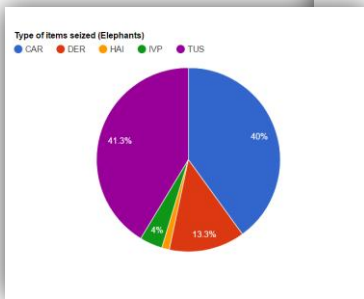
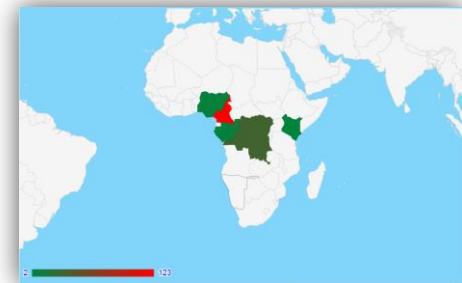
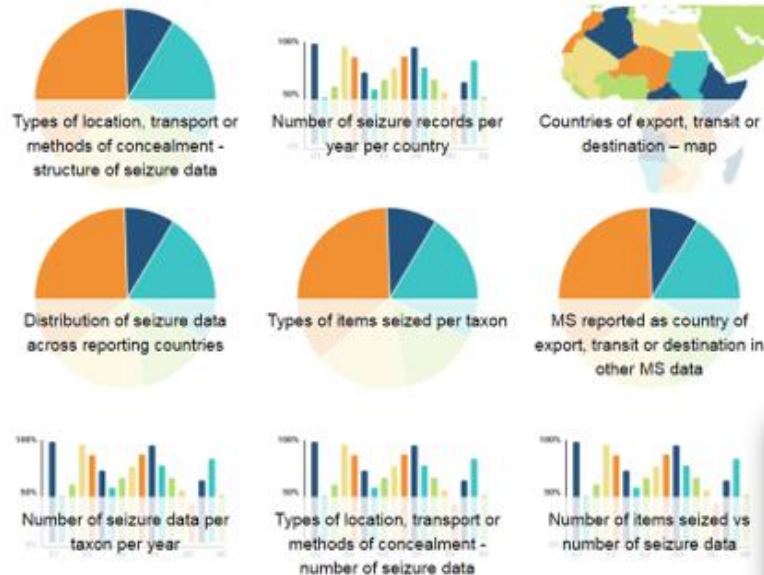
- AFRICA-TWIX database is operational and already holds first **data received from WCO** in April 2017



AFRICA-TWIX database

- Possibility to **visualize data** has been developed

Charts



AFRICA-TWIX - future

- Website and database are being promoted among the participating countries and relevant agencies:
 - Two national workshops were organized in 2017 (in Congo Brazzaville with local participants and 20 guests from DRC, and in Gabon)
 - TRAFFIC has started visiting agencies holding wildlife seizure data
- Formal agreement to store data in the AFRICA-TWIX database and regular transfers of data need to be obtained

ETIS - Elephant Trade Information System

Where

The 10th meeting of the
Conference of Parties to CITES
in Harare, Zimbabwe

Proud Parents

CITES and TRAFFIC

When

June 1997

Half Brother

MIKE

(Monitoring
Illegal Killing
of Elephants)



The purpose of ETIS and MIKE

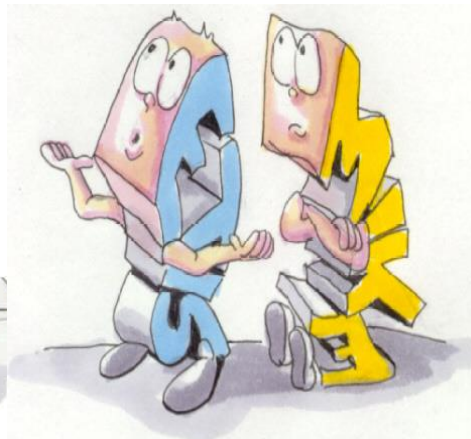
Hey guys, what are
ETIS and MIKE all
about?

I

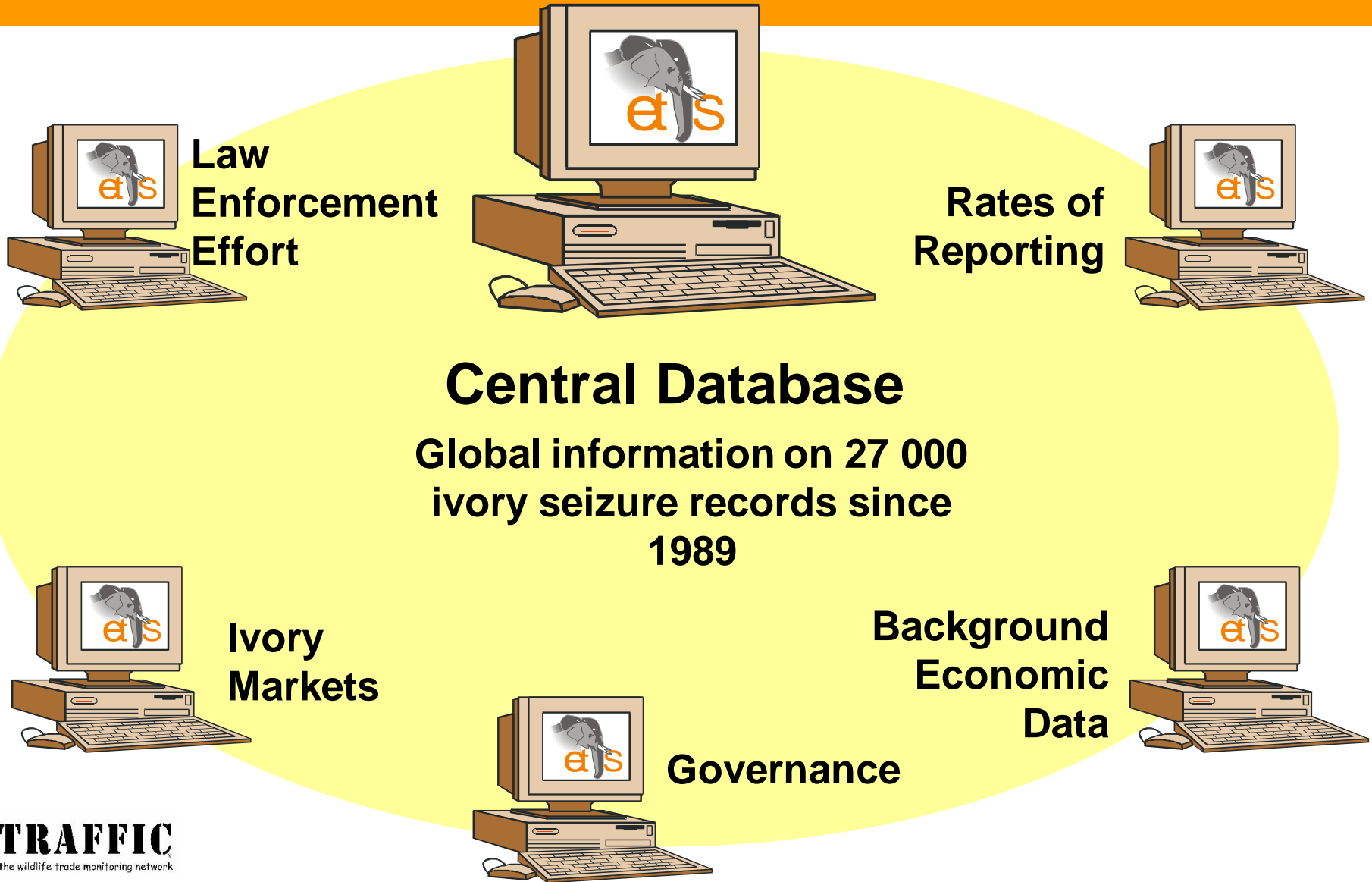


In CITES Resolution Conf. 10.10,
both systems were designed to:

- ❖ **identify trends** in illegal trade or illegal killing of elephants,
- ❖ **track changes in trends** over time, and
- ❖ **correlate** how the trends relate to CITES decisions and developments.

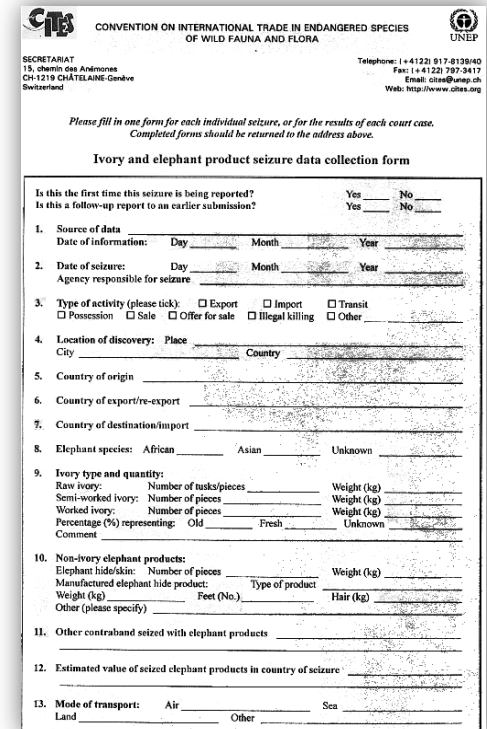


The components of ETIS



ETIS – reporting mechanism

- A **standardized ETIS data collection form** available for all Parties since 1998 on the CITES website
- Used to ensure that vital information on elephant product seizures is recorded in a standardized and efficient manner
- A **manual** and an **electronic version** of the form available
- TRAFFIC is eager to work with any country to ensure good data collection for ETIS



The image shows a standardized form for reporting elephant product seizures. At the top, it features the CITES logo and the text 'CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA'. Below this, the 'SECRETARIAT' information is provided: '15, chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 CHÂTELAINE, Genève, Switzerland'. Contact details include a telephone number (+41 22) 917 8130/40, a fax number (+41 22) 797 3417, an email address (cites@panp.ch), and a website (http://www.cites.org). The form is titled 'Ivory and elephant product seizure data collection form'. It begins with a question: 'Is this the first time this seizure is being reported?' with 'Yes' and 'No' options, followed by 'Is this a follow-up report to an earlier submission?' with 'Yes' and 'No' options. The form is divided into 13 numbered sections: 1. Source of data (Date of information: Day, Month, Year); 2. Date of seizure (Day, Month, Year) and Agency responsible for seizure; 3. Type of activity (please tick): ☐ Export, ☐ Import, ☐ Transit, ☐ Possession, ☐ Sale, ☐ Offer for sale, ☐ Illegal killing, ☐ Other; 4. Location of discovery: Place, City, Country; 5. Country of origin; 6. Country of export/re-export; 7. Country of destination/import; 8. Elephant species: African, Asian, Unknown; 9. Ivory type and quantity: Raw ivory (Number of tusks/pieces, Weight (kg)), Semi-worked ivory (Number of pieces, Weight (kg)), Worked ivory (Number of pieces, Weight (kg)), Percentage (%) representing: Old, Fresh, Unknown; 10. Non-ivory elephant products: Elephant hide/skin (Number of pieces, Weight (kg)), Manufactured elephant hide product (Type of product, Weight (kg), Feet (No.), Hair (kg)), Other (please specify); 11. Other contraband seized with elephant products; 12. Estimated value of seized elephant products in country of seizure; 13. Mode of transport: Air, Land, Other, Sea.

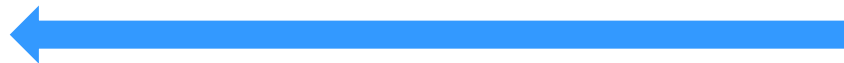
ETIS and WCO

MoU between WCO and CITES Secretariat came into effect in 2006

- Exchange of elephant product related seizure data between CEN and ETIS once per year not later than April of each year



10 exchanges of 10 299 seizure records

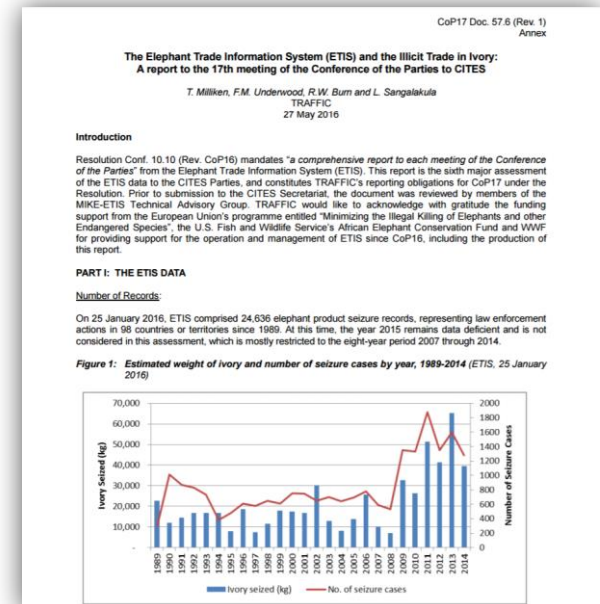


9 exchanges of 1 138 seizure records



ETIS reports

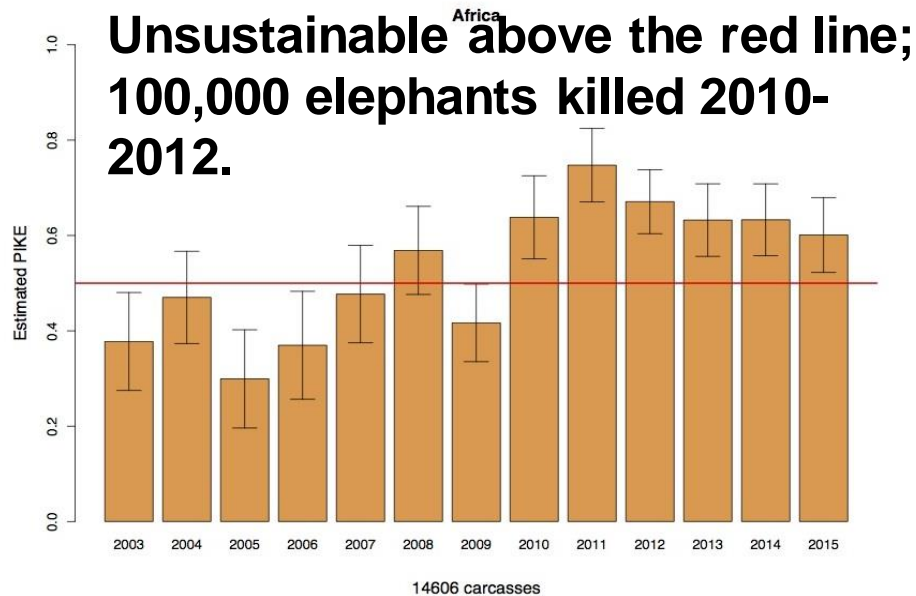
- Comprehensive analyses of the ETIS data for consideration at each meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties
- Basis for assessing decision-making for elephant conservation under CITES in a transparent and credible manner



Elephants in Crisis: Illegal Ivory Trade

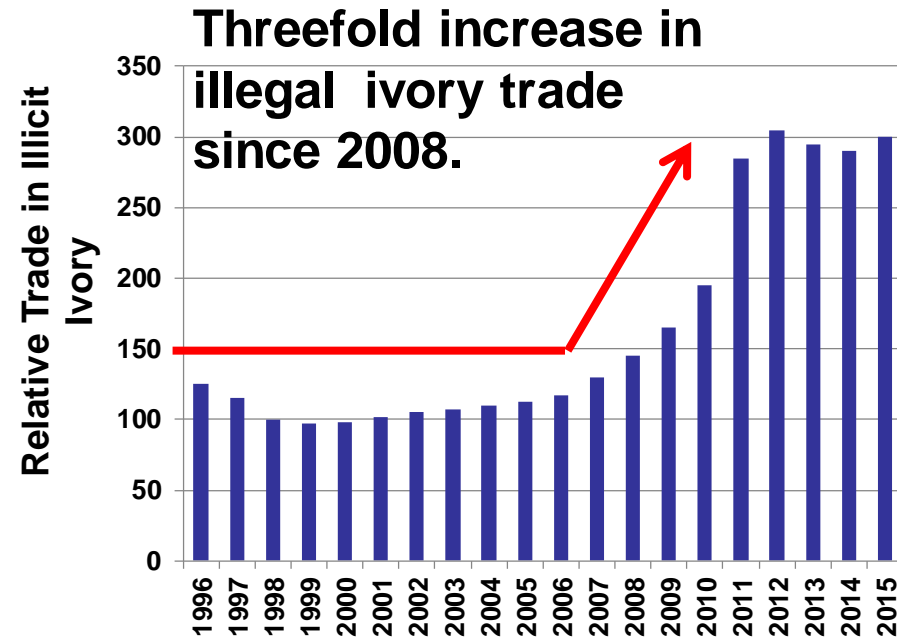
Illegal Killing – MIKE

CITES: Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants

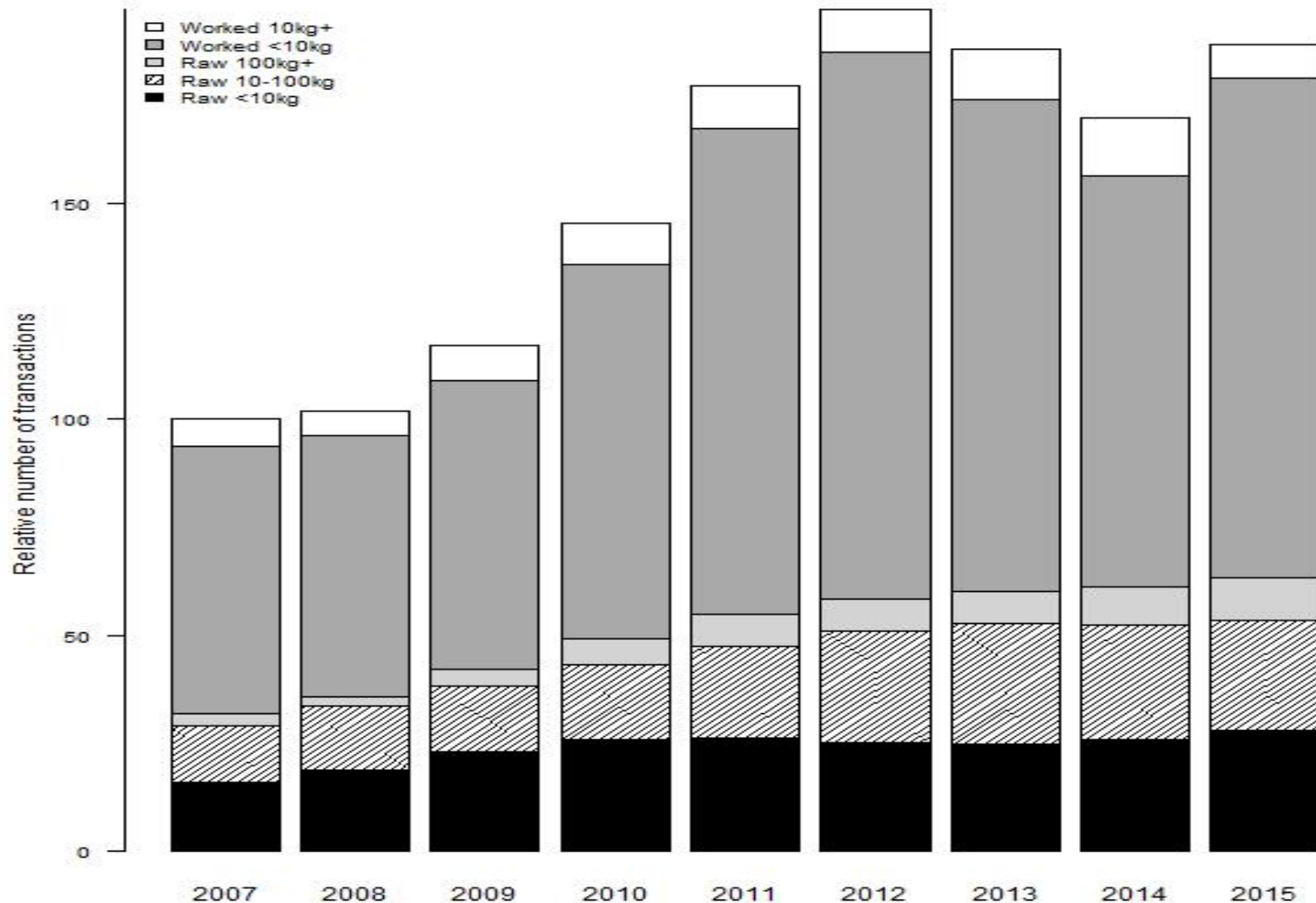


Illegal Trade – ETIS

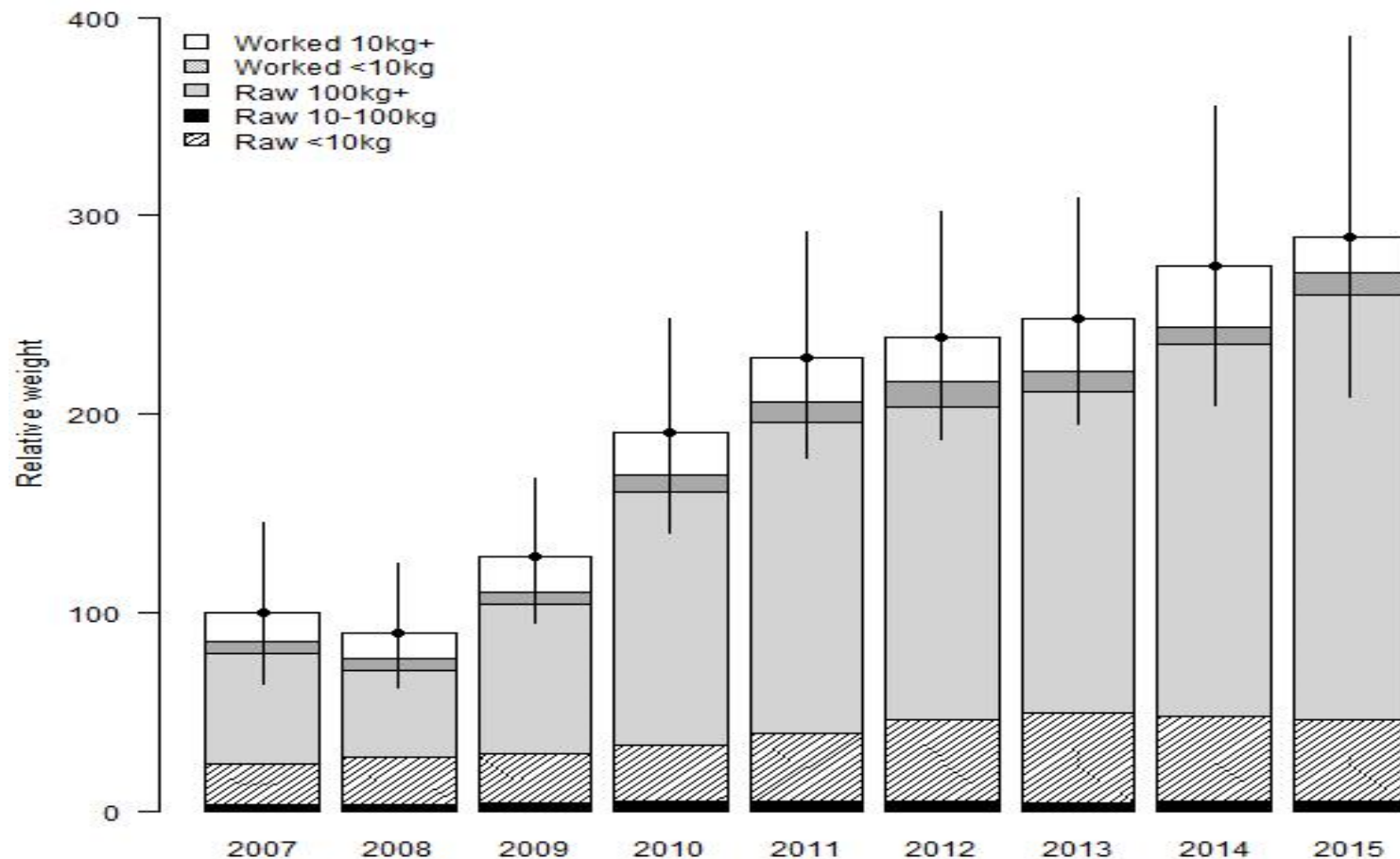
TRAFFIC: Elephant Trade Information System



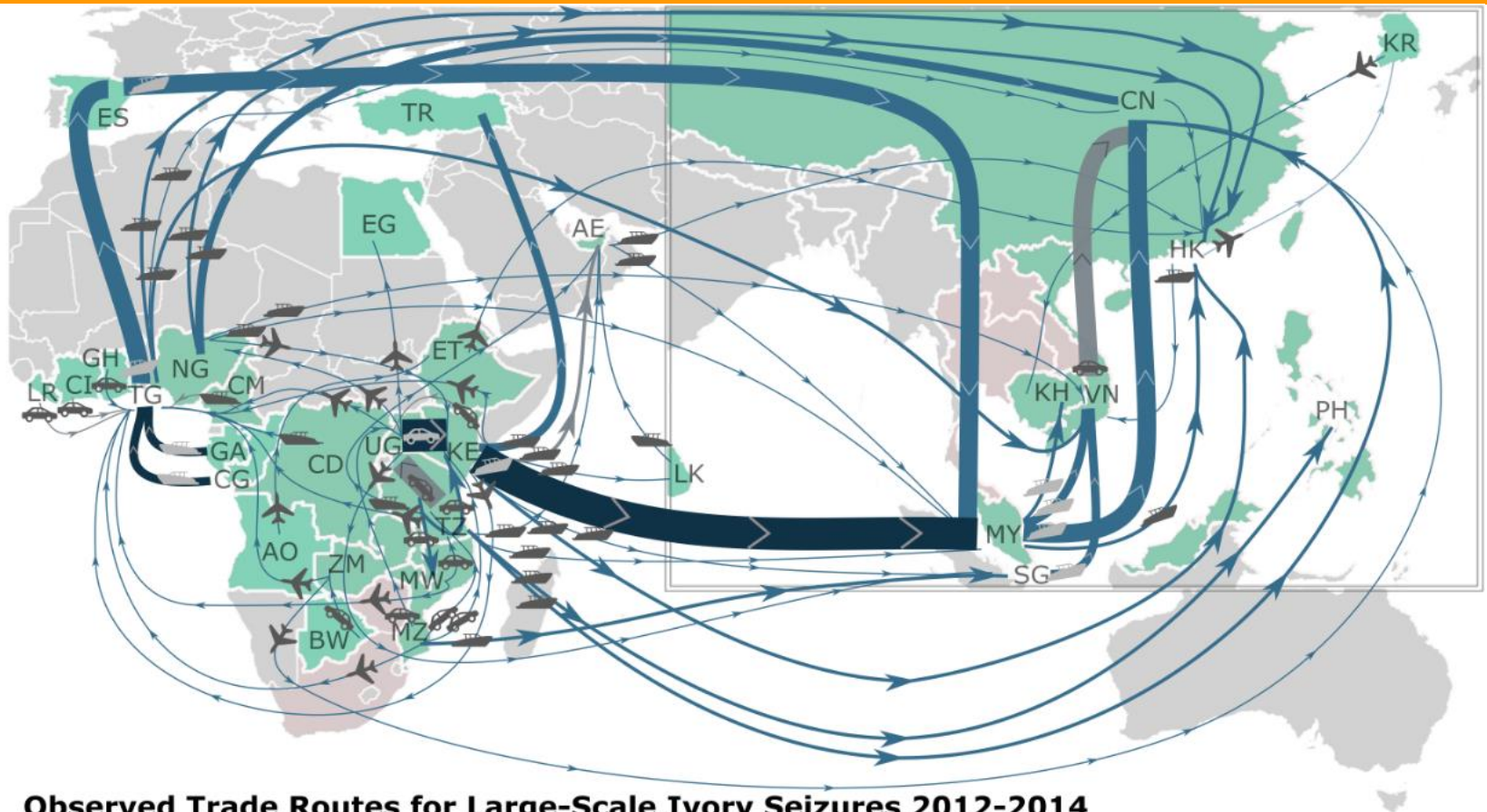
Illegal ivory trade: Global trends ivory activity



Illegal ivory trade: Global trends ivory weight

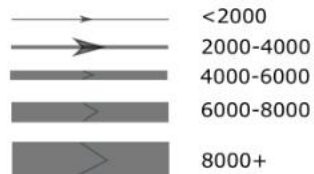


Ivory routes

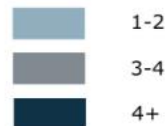


Observed Trade Routes for Large-Scale Ivory Seizures 2012-2014

Width = Quantity of ivory (kg)



Line colour = Number of seizures



Icon = Mode of transport



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



Conclusions

Databases:

- Source of useful information
- Basis for various analyses to inform decisions
- Supporting tool to fight illegal trade
- Efficiency of the tool depends on the quality and quantity of gathered data

“It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.”

— Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes



Thank you for your attention!

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