**PIKE**

MIKE monitors relative poaching levels using the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE), which is calculated as the number of illegally killed elephants found divided by the total number of elephant carcasses encountered by patrols or other means (e.g. community reports, researchers, etc), aggregated by year for each site. Coupled with estimates of population size and natural mortality rates, PIKE can be used to estimate numbers of elephants illegally killed, as well as poaching rates (i.e. the proportion of the total elephant population illegally killed).

While PIKE provides a robust measure of broad-scale poaching trends, it may be affected by a number of potential biases related to data quality, variation in carcass detection probabilities, variation in natural mortality rates and other factors. Hence results need to be interpreted with some caution. However, the fact that the trend information presented below is in good agreement with quantitative information available from other sources, such as the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) and the African Elephant Database of the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group, gives confidence as to the robustness of the results.