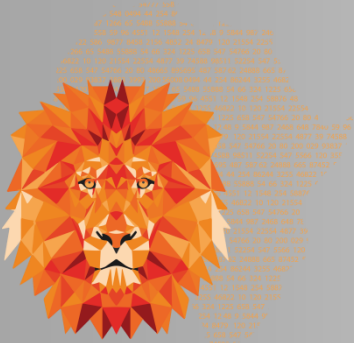


The African Lion Database

ALD Manager: Samantha Nicholson (samanthan@ewt.org.za)



The African Lion Database

- Most researched big cat species - uncertainty about how many there are and where they can be found in Africa
 - This info is important because the more we know about a species the better we can protect them
 - Data has historically been siloed in various institutions and had limited conservation impact
 - Largely attributed to a lack of a single repository
- ↓
- A range-wide ALD would provide a solution to the shortcomings.



- In October 2018, the Endangered Wildlife Trust was tasked with creating and hosting the ALD
- The EWT is a South African NGO
- Financially supported by the Lion Recovery Fund, National Geographic and the United States Fish and Wildlife Services
- Undertaken on behalf of the broader conservation community (including Range States) and under the auspices of the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group



Broadly, the ALD aims to:

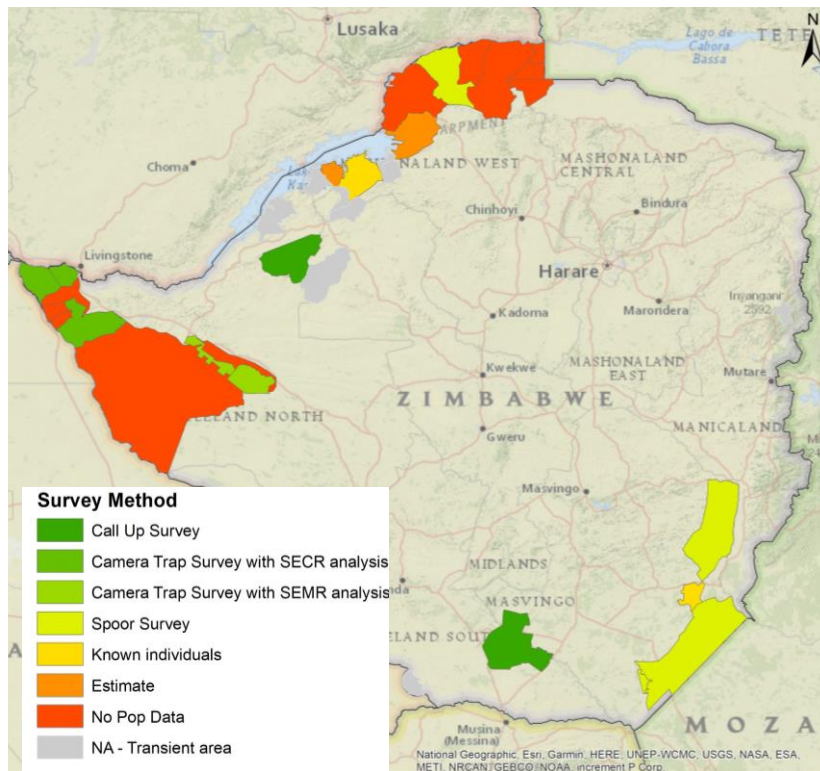
- 1) Assist the continuous assessment of the status of lion populations
- 2) Inform range countries and national and international institutions about the status of lions
- 3) Disclose the reliability of information and identify knowledge gaps
- 4) Help to continuously improve the monitoring of lions
- 5) Inform conservation planning and resourcing for the species.



Population data

Inform about the status and trends of the species

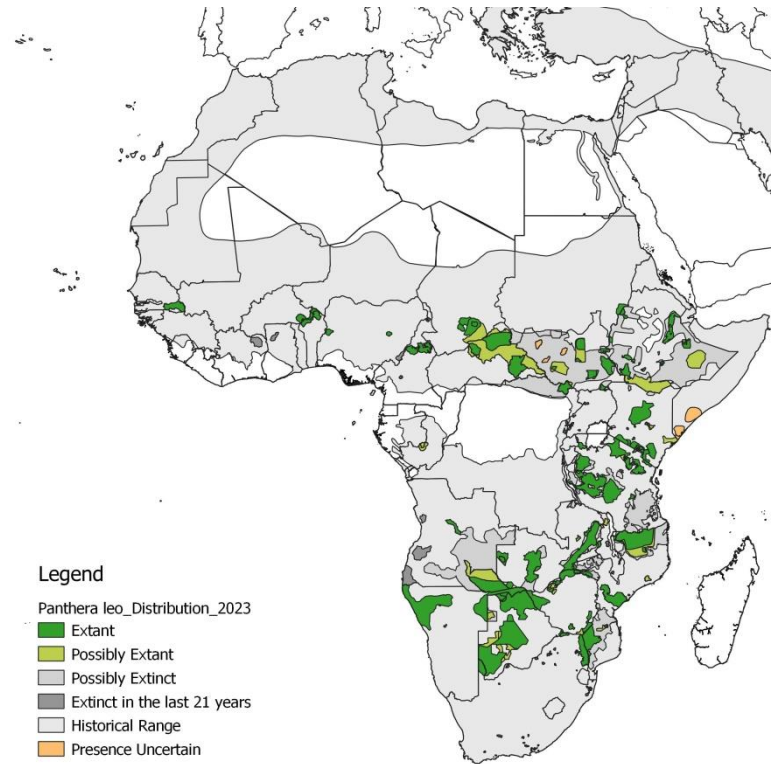
- Survey data
- Strict rules (e.g., no extrapolations) and procedures for data handing
- Dynamic



Distribution data

Provide the most up-to-date range map

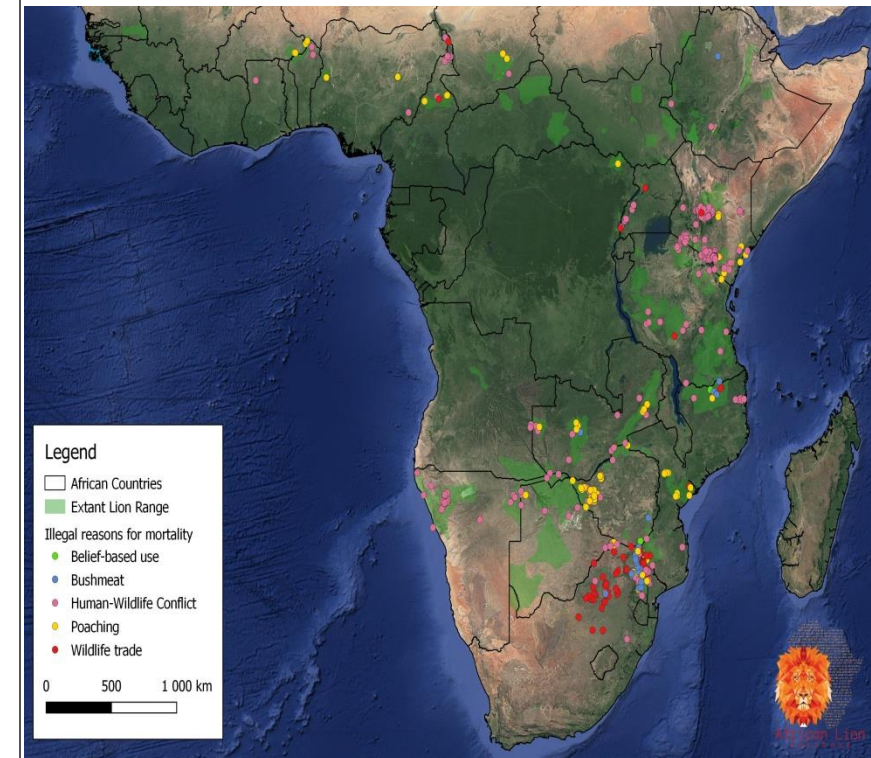
- Survey work or ad hoc sightings
- Rules and procedures for data handing (e.g., new areas need evidence)
- Polygon and point data
- Managed using ArcGIS



Mortality data

Understand more about the anthropogenic threats to lions

- Funding from USFWS
- Anthropogenic mortality only
- Specific questions regarding removal of body parts



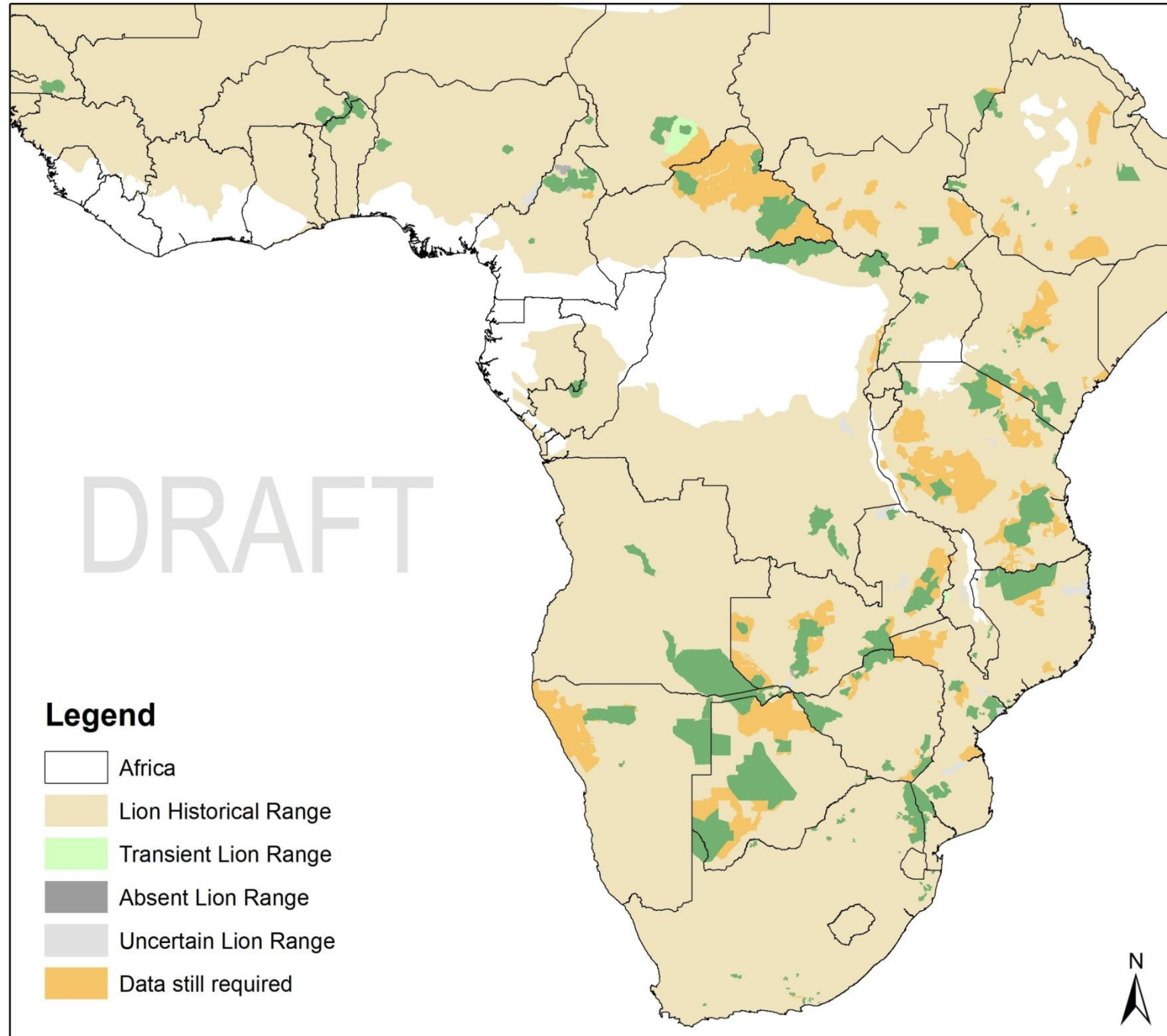
Data submissions

- ALD: samanthan@ewt.org.za
- Data submitted to the ALD
 - Data templates
 - Organizational reports
 - Peer reviewed publications
- Data submitted still belongs to the data provider with the requested data sharing restrictions
- All data is referenced to the data provider



ALD Progress

- 54% of African lion range is captured
- 849 pop records from 393 lion areas
- 18,553 records from across lion range (1800s – present)
- 2,459 anthropogenic lion mortality records



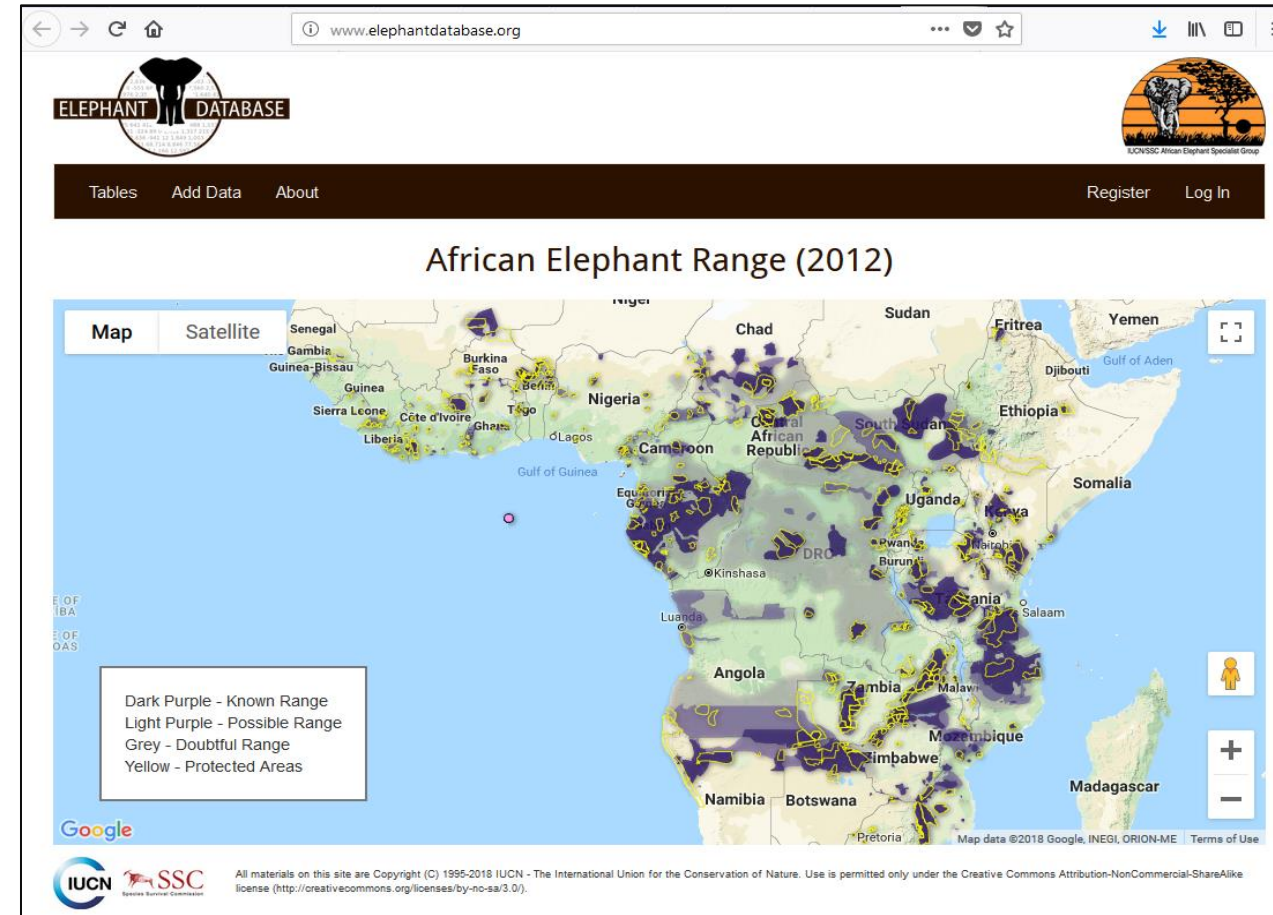
Outlook: ALD Online Platform

Data input/management:

- Online data input through providers or by data base manager
- Data review/verification (similar to Elephant Database)
- Referencing data
- Data, database and platform management

Data output:

- Public:
 - Generic data summaries
 - Generic interactive maps (polygons), e.g. Red List categories
 - Data resources (e.g. publications)
 - Acknowledgements (contributors)
- Private (data owner):
 - Data download (own and shared)
 - Queries (own and shared)



The future of the ALD

- Continue to work closely with Range States, scientists, conservation organisations, if agreed: CITES-CMS ACI
- Launch the ALD platform
- Explore the feasibility of including other species into the ALD
- Source further funding for the ALD



ALD Manager: Sam Nicholson
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- **Acknowledgements:** Lizanne Roxburgh,
Hans Bauer, Peter Lindsey

Chairs of IUCN SSC CatSG: Urs Breitenmoser &
Christine Breitenmoser-Würsten



The ALD and the ACI

Result 11.2. The African Lion Database is developed and operational. <i>Indicator: (1) The African Lion Database is operational and contains the relevant up to date data.</i>	13.88(b)	48.249(d)
Activity 11.2.1. Support the development, establishment and continued functioning of the African Lion Database.		
Result 11.3. The African Lion Database is expanded into an African Carnivore Database. <i>Indicators: (1) The African Carnivores Database is operational and contains the relevant up to date data, and (2) long-term funding is secured to maintain and curate the database.</i>	13.92(a)(iv)	
Planned action	CMS	CITES
Activity 11.3.1. Expand the African Lion Database to an African Carnivores Database and compile, in cooperation with the ACI Range States and other relevant partners, the relevant data for the ACI species.	13.92(a)(iv)	
Activity 11.3.2. Secure long-term funding for the maintenance of the African Lion / African Carnivores Database.	13.92(v)	

Is it possible to make the ALD to the “CITES-CMS ACI ALD”?

If yes: What is the framework and the conditions from the RS?

The ALD and the ACI

Blueprint for the ALD

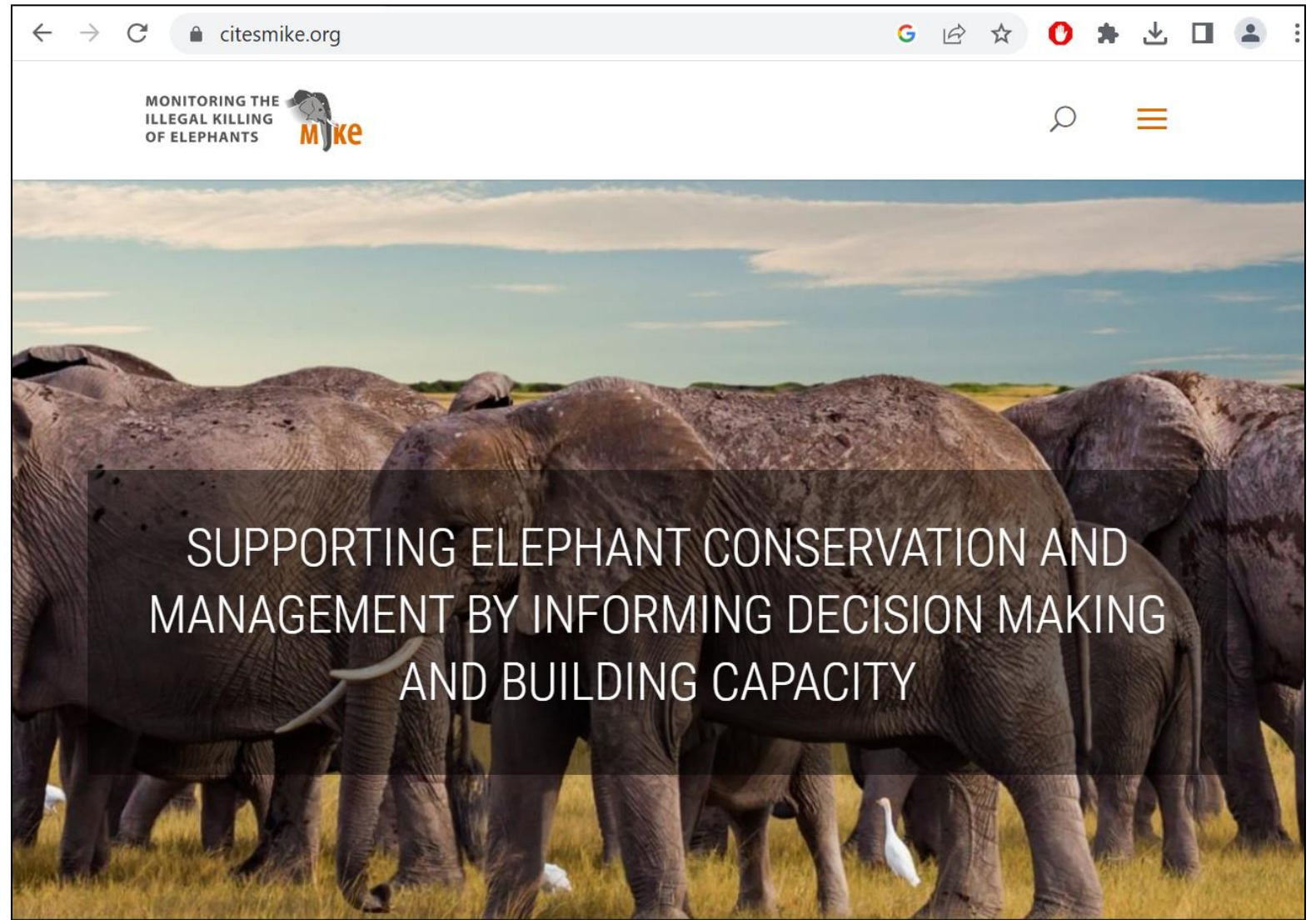
- Only publicly or authorised data
- Granted ownership
- Relatively broad owner/user group and
- Broad(er) application



The ALD and the ACI

Different approach:

- Based on a CITES Resolution
- More restricted use and access
- Only reports publicly available
- Targeted against illegal trade
- Strict control over the data



The ALD and the ACI



To be discussed:

1. Can we turn the ALD into a database where we share lion data that can broadly inform the conservation of lions, hence made be available in a (restricted) form that serves all institutions involved in lion conservation?
2. What would be the conditions of the Range Countries to share all or a limited amount of data?
3. What data could then be shared with whom? E.g.
 - Full access/control over own data
 - Limited access to “user shared data”
 - Only low-resolution and generalised information to the broad public
4. What is the role/responsibility of CMS and CITES in this?

Permissioned access

Terms of References drafted
by Working Group