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John Scanlon
Secretary General
CITES Secretariat
International Environment House
Chemin des Anemones
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva
SWITZERLAND

Dear *Mr. Scanlon,*

RECOMMENDATIONS OF 62ND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING ON ELEPHANT CONSERVATION, ILLEGAL KILLING AND IVORY TRADE; RE: SC63DOC18

As we have already informed, we were unable to report by the set deadline of 1 January 2013 on the measures put in place to increase enforcement efforts to detect and deter the flow of illegal ivory in our territory and that we would be doing so in advance of the 63rd Standing Committee meeting and 16th Conference of the Parties.

We would like to report that, Kenya has made a significant number of enforcement efforts with regard to illegal ivory trade over the past year. We would like to report specifically on a number of measures that Kenya has put in place to try to prevent and deter illegal ivory trade as follows.

1. Deployment of Canine Unit (sniffer dogs) to major ports, both air and sea to detect and deter illegal trafficking of ivory. This effort has proven to be extremely successful in detecting ivory in illegal trade. There were several cases of illegal shipments detected by sniffer dogs in 2012. For example, a shipment of 62 pieces of ivory weighing 255kg, which were hidden in containers of avocado, and were sprayed with pepper and tobacco. The shipment was destined for Asia.
2. Kenya Revenue Authority Custom's enhancement of surveillance and detection through use of scanners to detect wildlife contraband. Again this measure has proven successful.
3. Intra-agency collaborative efforts in surveillance, proactive intelligence gathering and investigation to detect and net the criminals.
4. Strengthening prosecution of wildlife offences, including through the application of several national legislations (instead of using only the wildlife legislation), and backed up by Kenya's new Constitution.
5. Increased education and awareness amongst the judiciary and general public of Kenya that wildlife crime is a serious problem.

6. Collaboration with regional and international partners to strengthen intelligence and enforcement efforts.

To highlight on some of the significant results from this regional and international collaboration on wildlife law enforcement we would like to report that the two seizures referenced in CoP16 Doc 18, namely the 3rd January seizure in Hong Kong SAR of 1,323kg; and also the 16th January seizure in Kenya of 638 pieces weighing 3,827kg were made possible with close collaboration between the law enforcement agencies in Kenya and INTERPOL. Thanks to collaboration and a joint investigation between Kenya and INTERPOL on the first seizure, and thanks to sharing of intelligence information, we were able to uncover the second illegal shipment in Kenya before it left the port of Mombasa.

Though not recorded in SC63 Doc 18, a third and related significant seizure of ca. 1.8 tonnes to the above mentioned two seizures took place in Singapore also in January 2013, thanks to further collaboration between enforcement agencies in Kenya and INTERPOL.

Specifically with regard to the case of the seizure in Kenya, we are pleased to inform that, the criminals have been arrested and are scheduled for prosecution in the second week of March 2013. Further investigations are ongoing to strengthen the case, including gathering of statements from witnesses, collection of photographic evidence for the seizures and gathering of evidence on consignee's details of the already delivered containers in Singapore and Hong Kong.

A further measure that Kenya has begun working on in this regard is the use of forensic science. We are developing a forensic lab in Nairobi for ease of specimen identification and DNA analysis for enhanced prosecution. We believe that this important lab will be in operation beginning this July.

We have also undertaken specialised operations to detect and intercept any wildlife contraband and ensure successful prosecution. Kenya law enforcement agencies have dedicated units working on this issue. For example, Kenya was proud to be involved in the recently concluded multinational wildlife enforcement operation between Asia and Africa code-named COBRA.

Overall, Kenya would like to reassure the CITES Parties that Kenya as a country has invested a considerable amount of resources into wildlife law enforcement in general and in particular, elephant ivory and Rhino horn law enforcement. We take this matter extremely seriously, and recognise that wildlife crime and in particular that involving ivory, requires collaboration, high-tech equipment and sophisticated forensic technology. Kenya has committed to undertaking all of these measures and look forward to a continued and enhanced level of collaboration with other Parties and wildlife law enforcement agencies.

Yours *Sincerely,*



FK
WILLIAM K. KIPRONO, MBS
DIRECTOR