

Ministry of Municipality and Environment
Environmental Protection & Wildlife Dept.



وزارة البلدية والبيئة
إدارة الحماية والحياة الفطرية

Mr. John E. Scanlon
CITES Secretary General
Geneva , Switzerland.
Email : info@cites.org

تاريخ: 2018/03/21



Subject : National Ivory Action Plan of Qatar.

2018/74479

Dear Mr. Scanlon,

With reference to the recommendation agreed by the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting (SC 69, Geneva , November 2017) to include Qatar in the NIAP process, and further to your correspondence concerning the Secretariat technical mission to Qatar.

Please find attached herewith the National Ivory Action Plan document of Qatar , developed in accordance to the Guidance and template for the development of NIAP .

As our country is affected by illegal ivory trade as transit country for movement of illegal ivory from source countries in Africa , through our international airport, to destinations in Asia , the actions and measures described in the NIAP will largely focus at Hamad International Airport (HIA) , to improve existing control and inspection measures being applied with regard to the hand held and check in luggage of transit travelers.

Please inform us your assessment and recommendations for performing the required actions.

Best regards.


Omar Safem Al-Nuaimi,
Head of CITES Management Authority,
Director of Protection and Wildlife Department
Ministry of Municipality and Environment,
State of Qatar.



Pillar	Action	Baselines (B) and indicators (I)	Milestones	Responsible national agency	Cost, funding availability and needs
Legislation and regulations	A.1 Initiate implementation of article (15) of Law No.(15) of 2002 on Civil Aviation , which stipulate for the right of representatives of Customs, Public Security to search aircrafts and any person or cargo , and refer any violation case to the concerned authority to deal with it according to its established rules and regulations.	<p>B: Wildlife crime is penalized according to provisions of Law No.(5) of 2006 on Regulation of trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora , and their products.</p> <p>I: Arrest and prosecution of wildlife crimes offenders transiting through Hamad International Airport (HIA).</p>	<p>M1:30/07/2018 Review of actions taken on cases of seizure of illegal wildlife trade at Hamad International Airport (HIA).</p> <p>M2: 31/12/2018 Meetings to discuss regulations implementation issues and cases occurred at HIA.</p> <p>M3:31/05/2019 Recommendations to address gaps and improve implementation of arrest of offenders and prosecutions.</p>	General Authority of Customs / Airport Security Department /Ministry of Municipality and Environment .	<p>Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not applicable: X<input type="checkbox"/></p>
National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration	B.1.Establish a formal collaboration mechanism to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between different departments operating at Hamad International Airport (HIA), with a role in combating wildlife crime, in particular ivory and rhinoceros horn trafficking transiting through Qatar.	B: Mechanism to facilitate the quick and timely exchange of information between different departments operating at HIA, about the seizure of illegal ivory or rhinoceros horns in transit are not in place.	<p>M1:31/08/2018 Implementation of the agreed mechanism presented in the Annex to this plan commence .</p> <p>M2 : 31/07/2018 Activities have been completed to inform all</p>	General Authority of customs/ Airport Security Depart/ Capital Police Department ..	<p>Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>X</p>

		I: Cooperation and collaboration among different departments at HIA routinely occurs and is supported by a formal collaboration mechanism	staff from different departments operating at HIA about newly agreed mechanism , and they are operating in accordance with it		
B.2. Organize training sessions / workshops for enforcement authorities working at HIA to raise and awareness about wildlife crime and strengthen capacity to combat it, in particular on topics such as international policies governing wildlife trade, the detection and identification of illegal wildlife consignments, ivory and rhinoceros horn recognition and identification, applicable legislation and protocol to follow.	B: Enforcement authorities working at HIA have limited knowledge about the serious nature of wildlife crime, and have limited training in the recognition and identification of ivory and rhinoceros horn.	I: Enforcement authorities working at HIA are aware of and trained in detecting and responding to wildlife crime, in particular ivory and rhinoceros horn trafficking transiting through Qatar.	M1:31/ 07/ 2018 At least one training workshop for employees operating in HIA has been completed. M2:31/12/2018 At least two training workshops for employees operating in HIA has been completed .	Ministry of Municipality and Environment .	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B.3.Strengthen capacity amongst officers working at HIA, through the provision of operational handbooks and identification manuals.	B: Officers working at HIA do not have access to operational handbooks and identification manuals that can assist them in recognizing and identifying both raw and worked ivory and rhinoceros horn.	I: Officers working at HIA have access to good quality operational handbooks and identification manuals that can assist them in recognizing and identifying both	M1:30/04/2019 Develop handbooks and information materials on ivory and rhino horns identification.	Ministry of Municipality and Environment .	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>

		raw and worked ivory and rhinoceros horn			
	B.4.Scale up enforcement operations at HIA targeting passengers, luggage and cargo, moving between key countries identified as source and destination countries for illegal wildlife specimens, in particular ivory and rhinoceros horn, moving from Africa to Asia, by planning and conducting at least two operations at HIA, by 31 December 2019.	B:The existing control system is not adequate to seize all illegal wildlife products transiting through HIA. I: All illegal shipments are seized at HIA before leaving to final destinations.	M1:31/12/2019 At least two operations are planned and conducted at HIA.	General Authority of customs	
	B.5.Increase the number of inspections targeting high risk flights, including random inspections and operations.	B:No planned inspections are conducted , but routine inspection is in place. I: Number of inspection increased by 50% .	M1:31/12/2018 At least 4 planned inspections are conducted. M2 : 31/05/2019 Meetings of stakeholders to discuss and evaluate effectiveness of agreed mechanism of work	Airport Security Department/ General Authority of Customs	
International and regional enforcement collaboration	C.1. Initiate collaboration and joint initiatives with CITES Management Authorities in source countries to strengthening controls to prevent the illegal transport of ivory from these countries on flights that transit Qatar.	B: No collaboration exist with CITES Management Authorities in source countries, to deter the smuggling of ivory and rhinoceros horn from such countries on flights that transit Qatar.	M1:30/07/2018 Engage with MAs in source countries to strengthen controls at their air exits points.	Ministry of Municipality and Environment .	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p>C.2.-Networking and engage with NIAP focal points in other countries participating in the NIAP process, to promote the sharing of best practices and identification of common challenges.</p>	<p>I: I: Joint initiatives have been launched in collaboration with CITES Management authorities in source countries are in place, to deter the smuggling of ivory and rhinoceros horn from such countries on flights that transit Qatar.</p> <p>B : Information on measures and actions taken by countries affected by transit of illegal ivory participating in NIAP process is lacking.</p> <p>I:Information is available and used for improvement of our applied actions and measures.</p>	<p>M1: 30/07/2018 Engage with focal points to obtain information on best practices and challenges .</p> <p>M2 : 31/03/2019 Meeting with stakeholders to discuss practices from other countries for possible use.</p>	<p>Ministry of Municipality and Environment .</p>	<p>Costs : Not applicable.</p>
<p>C.3.Review mechanisms in place to support collaboration with countries of source or destination to combat wildlife crime and, in particular, ivory trafficking, to ensure timely exchange of information and intelligence and promote follow-up investigations across the entire illegal trade chain</p>	<p>B:Engagement in support of follow up investigations in countries of source or destinations rarely occurs at international level.</p> <p>I: Engagement in support of follow up investigation in countries of source or destination routinely occur in cases of wildlife crime that involves criminal activities beyond national borders.</p>	<p>M1:31/05/2018 Start exchange of information on investigation on illegal wildlife trade . especially ivory trafficking.</p>	<p>Ministry of Municipality and Environment .</p>	<p>Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Outreach, public awareness and education	D.1. Engage the ROUTES partnership and Qatar Airways to support the development of posters and videos to raise awareness about illegal trade in wildlife, for display in prominent public areas at HIA.	B: Awareness raising materials are lacking and rarely available.	M1:30/04/2019 Engage with QA to develop awareness materials for travellers and airport staff.	QATAR airways	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		I: : Efforts to increase awareness are based on well-developed and up-to-date awareness raising materials and/or campaigns, are widespread and include information on the severity and impacts of wildlife crime.			
	D.2. Work with Qatar Airways to support the development of videos to raise awareness about and discourage crimes involving wildlife, to be made available as part of the Qatar Airways in-flight entertainment program.	B: There is no specific awareness materials on illegal ivory and Rhino horns trade.	M1: 31/12/2018 Production of at least one video on illegal wildlife trade.	QATAR airways/ Ministry of Municipality and Environment	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		I: Awareness available on crimes involving illegal wildlife trade.			
	D.3. Publicize seizures and subsequent prosecutions in main stream media and on governmental social media platforms.	B: Information on seizure of illegal wildlife is available on local newspapers.	M1: 04/2019 Engage with the Public Relations Department for publicizing about ivory seizures and prosecution cases.	Ministry of Municipality and Environment	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		I: Cases of seizures of illegal trade in ivory and Rhino horns and prosecution, are spread through all mass media.			
Reporting	E.1. Improve the seizure reporting mechanism to ensure timely reporting of	B: Not all ivory seizures are reported to ETIS as required by the	M1: 31/05/2018		Costs:

all ivory seizures to ETIS, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17)	provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17).	Engage with the General Authority of Customs for timely reporting of ivory seizure cases.	Ministry of Municipality and Environment .	Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	I: 100% reports to ETIS on ivory seizures			
E.2.Maintain an inventory of government-held stockpiles of ivory and, where possible, of significant privately held stockpiles of ivory, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) paragraph 6. e), and inform the Secretariat of the level of this stock each year before 28 February.	B: Inventory of all national ivory stockpile not conducted.	M131/12/2018 Conduct inventory of held stockpile of ivory and report to the Secretariat. M2 : 31/03/2019 Report ivory stockpile to the Secretariat .	Ministry of Municipality and Environment	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	I:Ivory stockpile is reported to the Secretariat.			
E.3.Submit an annual illegal trade report to the Secretariat by 31 October each year, covering the actions in the preceding year and in accordance with the report format distributed by the Secretariat, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 in Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>National reports</i> .	B:Annual illegal trade report is submitted on time each year.	M1:04/2019 Report on 31 October 2018 on illegal trade to the Secretariat.	Ministry of Municipality and Environment	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	I:100% reporting of all illegal trade cases.			

Annex 1: National Ivory Action Plan of Qatar.

Consultations with relevant stakeholders :

As Qatar has been included in the NIAP process for being a transit country for illegal trade in ivory , the development of NIAP entailed involvement of authorities operating in Hamad International Airport (HIA) , being the only international airport in the country . These included General Authority of Customs , Airport Security Department , besides Qatar Airways as the airliner on which the illegal ivory had been transported through Qatar to other destinations.

Meetings were held with these stakeholders and resulted in development of mechanism of coordination and framework for exchange of information concerning seizure of illegal wildlife specimens at HIA, attached to NIAP as Annex 3.

CITES Secretariat has undertaken a mission to Qatar by the Chief of Enforcement Support , Mr. Barend Janse Vanrensburg , from 25 to 27 February 2018. The Chief of Enforcement Support participated in meeting with representatives of the concerned departments operating at HIA , and discussed and commented on the draft of the NIAP prepared by the CITES Management Authority in consultation with the other stakeholders. Also , had a visit to the passengers transit point and check in luggage screening points at HIA , and was briefed by Airport Security official about the measures and processes being applied at these transit points.

The NIAP draft together with the mechanism of work were reviewed and commented on by the Chief of Enforcement Support for submission to the Secretariat as required. Amendments were made on NIAP draft document and comments were taken into account.

NIAP approval

This NIAP is approved in accordance with the provisions of Step 2, paragraph a)3.iii) of the Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plans Process , contained in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf.10.10 (Rev.CoP17) on Trade in elephant specimens , as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

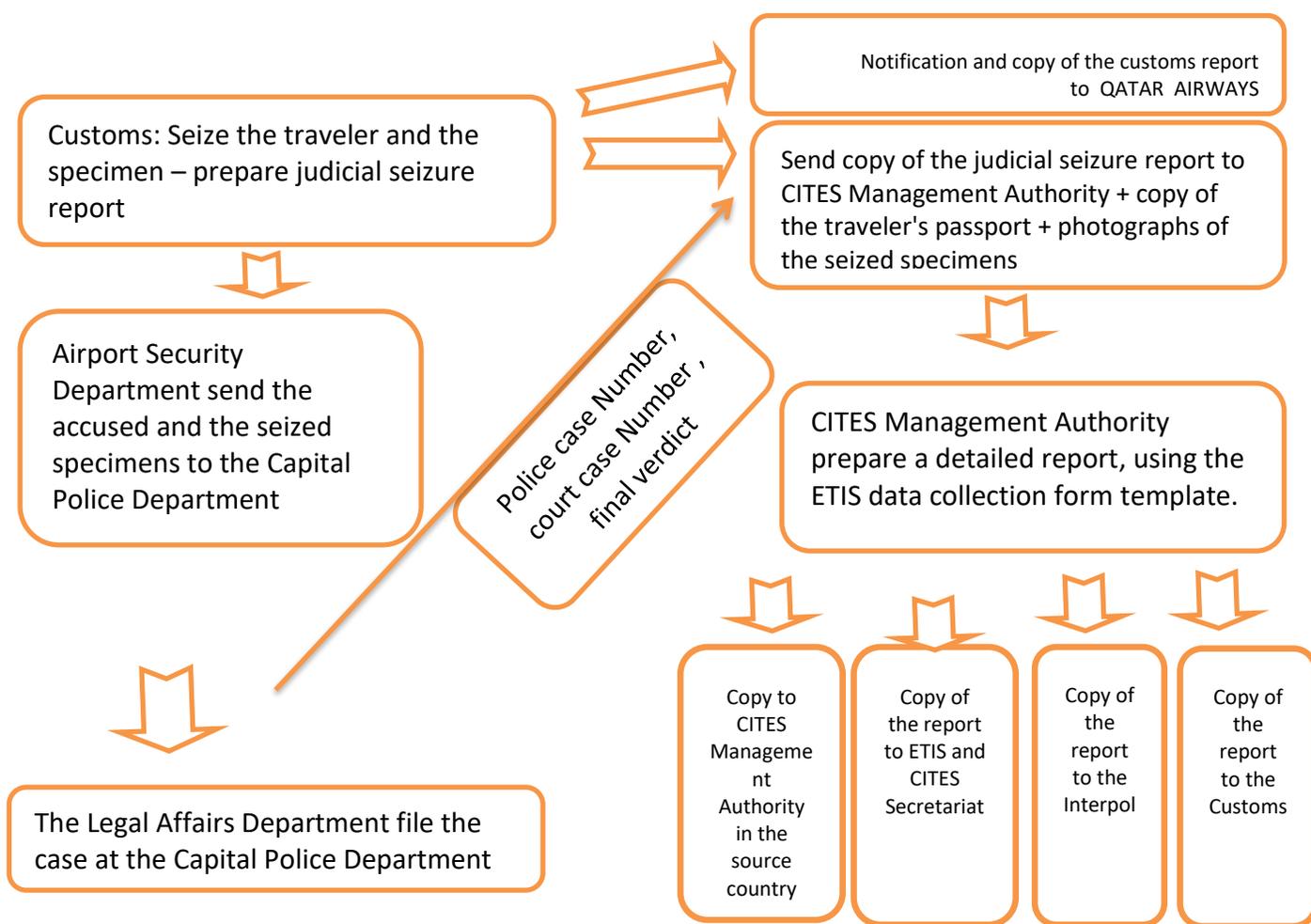
Ahmed Mohammad Alsada
Assistant Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs.

(Signature)

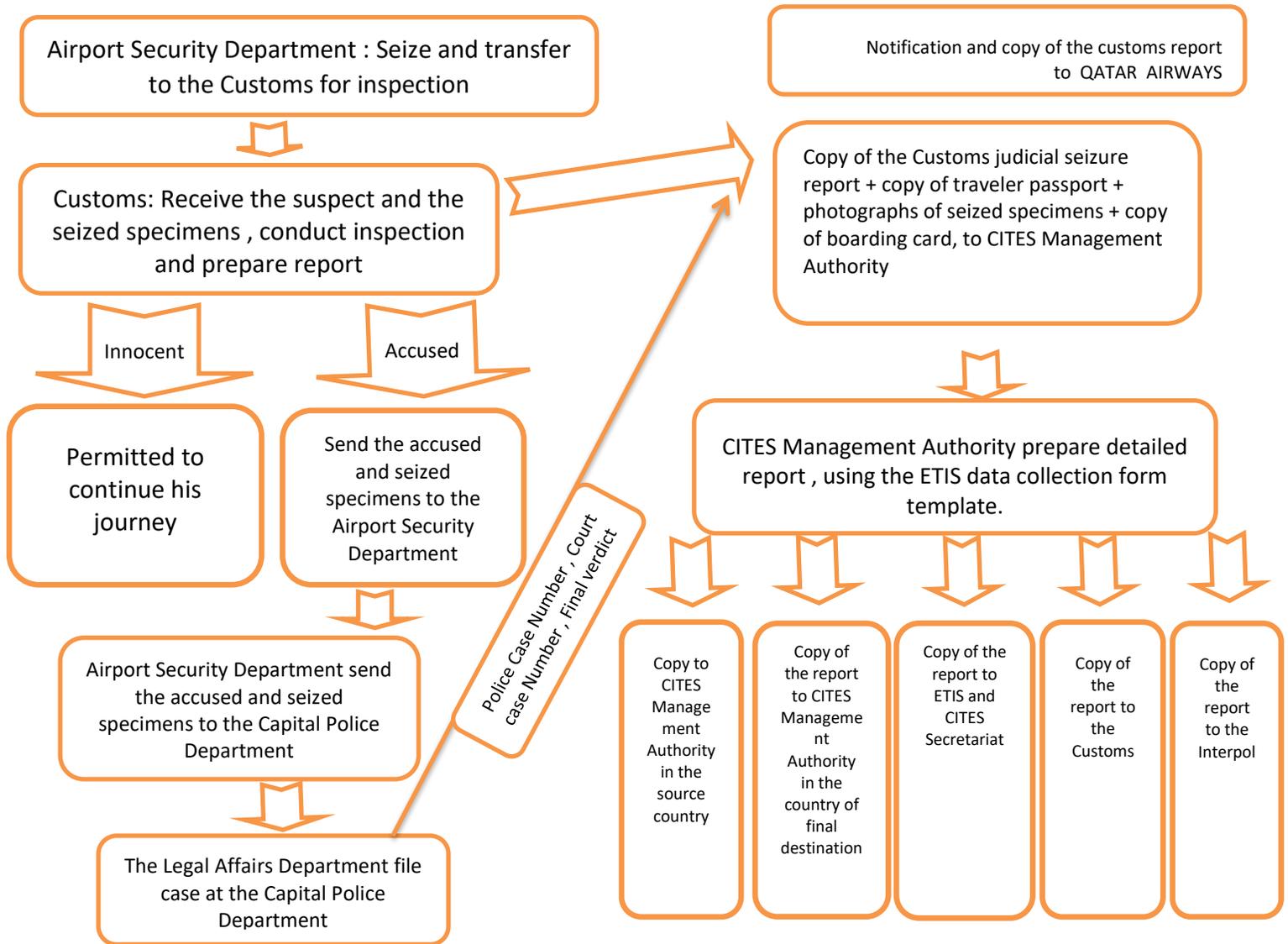


Annex 2: Mechanism of work and sharing of information between the national enforcement authorities operating in Hamad International Airport (HIA) , for implementation of the National Ivory Action Plan of Qatar.

1-Traveler entering Qatar with CITES specimens , and without CITES documents:



2- Transit passenger with CITES specimens , and without CITES documents:



3- CITES Cargo consignment entering Qatar without CITES documentation :

The same procedures will be applied as in the case of a traveler entering Qatar with CITES specimens, and without CITES documents

4- CITES cargo consignment in transit :

