QATAR

CITES NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Prepared as requested by the 77th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

Party: Qatar

Reporting period: June 2020- June 2023

Prepared by:

Wildlife Development Department

State of Qatar

PART A: Synopsis of NIAP implementation

The State of Qatar joined the CITES Convention not long ago, and became a party to the Convention in the year 2001, and it was a pioneer in keeping pace with other countries in setting strict laws to prevent wildlife crimes. And considering that the country is witnessing rapid economic growth and the expansion of tourism and travel through Hamad International Airport, it was natural that this road would be a passage for illegal trade sometimes in some types of Qatari life, including ivory.

The State of Qatar was classified among the countries affected by the illegal trade in ivory, category (C). Therefore, the CITES Management Authority of Qatar was keen to present its plan to combat the ivory trade early, and that was in the year 2018. It made progress in some measures according to the progress report that it submitted to the 73rd session of the Standing Committee. And The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is still working in cooperation with the relevant authorities to implement all items.

Qatar's keenness on full commitment and firm desire to combat wildlife crime is evident through several annual activities before and after submitting its plan on combating ivory crime, including its hosting of the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties and a series of sessions and meetings held periodically and continuously with partners and stakeholders, and at the same time affirming its commitment to full cooperation and absorption of all observations to complete the rest of the procedures.

Progress since the last report submitted to the Committee's 74th meeting:

The National Action Plan for Ivory in Qatar includes 15 actions to be implemented, and five (5) of these have already been implemented since the submission of our first progress report in April 2018. Five actions are now achieved, or substantially achieved, Actions related to B3, B4, B5, C1, and C2. that were on track have also been achieved

- The first report of the State of Qatar made progress in achieving 5 procedures. And in the second report, there is success in achieving 5 other procedures. And Qatar has been keen to continue giving these measures a priority in order to continue achieving the desired results. At the present stage, much has been achieved with regard to procedures B3, B4, B5, C1 and C2, including:

- Qatar has sought to raise the efficiency of the concerned personnel at Hamad International Airport, so most of the law enforcement officers receive appropriate training on a regular basis. The CITES Management Authority was able to test the extent of benefiting from these programs through its monthly follow-up of the extent of carrying out daily tasks, and it also sought to cooperate with the relevant authorities within the airport to the continuous coordination to keep those trained crews in the same current locations without change.

- The interest in combating wildlife crime was in the highest state authorities in the State of Qatar, so we find that the training program for the year 2021 included training on the CITES Convention and combating wildlife crime, and this was in the context of the state program that covered other topics such as judicial control, standardized electronic inspection, etc.
- The airport work crews are still doing their work in inspecting people and baggage in accordance with the regulations and systems that are keen to achieve satisfaction for travelers and arrivals, and at the same time conducting the inspection in an accurate and smart manner. At this stage, the baggage detection control system was activated.
- In cooperation with the Wildlife Protection Department staff, there are visits to the airport and random inspections carried out by the staff of the Wildlife Protection Department to ensure the performance of the crews that were trained inside the airport. This had a positive impact, as the confiscation of ivory until June 2023 amounted to 769,984 kilograms.
- Qatar is keen to continue fruitful cooperation with the source countries in exchanging information about ivory. And this may be reinforced through a joint operations room to report on the detection of crime.
- Since the training program for the year 2021 targeted the judicial control authorities, and there is media participation in all training activities and events inside Hamad International Airport, therefore all cases of confiscation are published on social media, and they follow up on cases referred to the legal authorities to decide on them.

Despite the delay in writing some reports on illegal trade, as well as ivory stocks, due to the change in the work crews regarding the performance authority of CITES. However, the inventory of ivory continues on an annual basis,

(Annex I Stocktaking of elephant ivory and rhino horn confiscated by the Department for the period from January 2020 – June 2023)

PART B: Summary evaluation of actions (assigned progress ratings)

			PROGRESS R	ATING		
PILLAR	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
1. 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 aircraft 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.				
2. National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration	B.2 Organize training sessions/workshops for enforcement authorities working at HIA, to raise awareness about wildlife crime and strengthen capacity to combat it, in particular on topics such as international policies	B.1 Establish a formal collaboration mechanism to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between different departments				

	PROGRESS RATING						
PILLAR	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced	
	governing wildlife trade , the detection and identification of illegal wildlife consignments , ivory and rhinoceros horn recognition and identification, applicable legislation and protocol to follow.	operating at Hamad International Airport (HIA), with a role in combating wildlife crime, in particular ivory and rhinoceros horn trafficking transiting through Qatar.					
	B.3 Strengthen capacity among officers working at HIA , through the provision of operational handbooks and identification manuals.	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					

			PROGRESS R	ATING		
PILLAR	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
		December 2019. B.5 Increase the number of inspections targeting high risk flights , including random inspections and operations				
3. International and regional enforcement collaboration	C.3 Review mechanism 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.	C.1 Initiate collaboration and joint initiatives with CITES Management Authorities in source countries to strengthen controls to prevent the illegal transport of ivory from these countries on flights that transit Qatar C.2 Networking and engage with NIAP focal points in other countries participating in the NIAP process, to promote the sharing of best	· ·			

			PROGRESS R	ATING		
PILLAR	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
		practices and identification of common challenges				
4. Outreach, public awareness and education	 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. D.3 Publicize seizures and subsequent prosecutions in main stream media and on governmental social media platforms. 	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 area at HIA.				
5. Reporting	E.1 Improve the seizure reporting mechanism to ensure timely reporting of all ivory seizures to ETIS, in accordance with Resolution Conf.10.10 (Rev.CoP17).	E.2 Maintain an inventory of government-held stockpiles of ivory, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf.10.10 (rev.CoP17)				

	PROGRESS RATING							
PILLAR	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced		
	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.11017(Rev.CoP17) on National reports	paragraph 6.e) , and inform the Secretariat of the level of this stock each year before 28 February.						

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i>)
PILLAR 1: Legislation and re	gulations	
A.1 Initiate implementation of article (15) of law No. (15) of 2002 on Civil Aviation, which stipulate for the right of representative of the 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.	substantially achieved,	Qatar's CITES Management Authority has held meetings with the Legal Affairs Departments at the Civil Aviation Authority and General Authority of Customs , the Airport Security Department and the Passageways Passports Department of the Ministry of Interior , and has arranged for implementation of procedures for arrest and prosecution of transit passengers accused of transport of illegal wildlife at HIA.
PILLAR 2: National level enfo 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.	Substantially achieved	 Qatar's CITES Management Authority together with the stakeholders operating at HIA has established permanent committee and designated focal point from each party to facilitate actions to be performed in combat of all types of wildlife crimes, including trafficking of illegal elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns transiting through Qatar. .

B.2 Organize training sessions / workshops for enforcement authorities working at Hamad International Airport (HIA) to raise 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.	Achieved	 Two training workshops were held by CITES management authority to strengthen the capacity and raise awareness among employees of the different stakeholders involved in combat of wildlife trafficking in State of Qatar. The first workshop was held for three days in July 2018, and was attended by 30 employees from the Customs General Authority, Airport Security Department, Animal Resources Department and new employees recruited for CITES Enforcement Authority. While the second workshop was held in March 2019 and was attended by 26 employees from the aforementioned department, including 11 employees from Qatar Museums Authority. The workshops was organized on combat of illegal wildlife trade focusing on understanding of CITES as legal mechanism for combat of illegal international wildlife trade. Sessions dealt with CITES introduction, CITES appendices, species, identification of wildlife species in trade, CITES permits and certificates implementation of CITES products on trade in endangered wildlife species and their products. The efficiency of the staff at Hamad International Airport was raised periodically, and the CITES management authority was able to test the extent of benefiting from these programs through its monthly follow-up of the extent of carrying out daily tasks. The interest in combating wildlife crime was in the highest state authorities in the State of Qatar, so we find that the training program for the year 2021 included training on the CITES Convention and combating wildlife crime, and this was in the context of the state program that covered other topics such as judicial control, unified electronic inspection, etc.
B.3 Strengthen capacity among officers working at HIA , through the provision of operational handbooks and identification manuals.	Achieved	 A identification manual and operational handbook on NIAP implementation process at HIA has been prepared , Handbook of Common Traded Species listed in CITES - Middle East and North Africa region version has been prepared by IFAW and it was used in training
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		Qatar has written to CITES Secretariat seeking advice on scaling up an enforcement operation at Hamad International Airport (HIA) , and arrangement is going on to conduct enforcement operation under advice of AIRCOP project .

at least two operations at HIA by 31 December 2019.	substantially achieved,	
B.5 Increase the number of inspections targeting high risk flights , including random inspections and operations.	substantially achieved,	 CITES Management Authority has arranged with the Aviation Security Department and the Airport Security Department, to carry double inspection of luggage coming from key countries identified as source country for ivory and destined to countries identified as final destination for smuggled ivory. In cooperation with the staff of the Wildlife Protection Department, there are visits to the airport and random inspections carried out by the staff of the Wildlife Protection Department to ensure the performance of the crews that were trained inside the airport. This had a positive effect, as ivory confiscations amounted to (769.984 kg).
PILLAR 3: International and regional	enforcement collabora	tion
C.1 Initiate collaboration and joint initiatives with CITES Management Authorities in source countries to strengthen controls to prevent the illegal transport of ivory from these countries on flights that transit Qatar	Substantially achieved	 Representatives of Qatar's CITES Management Authority have participated in Mozambique meeting, and has met with representatives of CITES management authorities from source countries, and discussed with them and urged their cooperation to prevent transport of illegal wildlife from their countries. Qatar CITES management authority is planning to work with Qatar Airways in source countries, in particular Mozambique and South Africa, to launch activities that can help to work with CITES authorities in these countries to prevent transport of illegal ivory.
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	Substantially achieved	This activity is on track as we are considering to engage with NIAP focal points in other transit countries ,similar to our case , participating in NIAP process , to benefit from their practices and know how they address the challenges.

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.	Substantially achieved	Qatar's CITES Management Authority with the stakeholders operating at HIA has developed mechanism for timely exchange and sharing of information with ivory source and destination countries , included as part of our NIAP implementation procedures .
PILLAR 4: Outreach, public awarenes	s 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.	Achieved	Qatar Airways has signed memorandum of understanding and teamed up with ROUTES(Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species), to share intelligence and improve detection and disrupt wildlife trafficking activities.
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 Qatar Airways in –flight entertainment program.	Achieved	. Qatar Airways has completed awareness program and training for its staff covering CITES requirements , illegal wildlife trafficking . Also, Qatar airways has completed development of videos , in-flight magazine , in-flight entertainment system , and posters on screens across Hamad International Airport (HIA) , as actions for raising passengers awareness on illegal wildlife trafficking .
D.3 Publicize seizures and subsequent prosecutions in main stream media and on governmental social media platforms	Substantially achieved	 Usually, in all seizure cases of illegal wildlife trade, the Ministry of Environment and Climate change, represented by the Department of Protection and Wildlife, as designated CITES Management Authority for Qatar, call for press conference to be attended by all representatives of local newspapers, and special interviews are hosted by the national television channels.

			• The training program for the year 2021 targeted the judicial control authorities, and there is media participation in all activities and training events inside Hamad International Airport. Therefore, all cases of confiscation are published on social media, and they follow up on cases referred to legal authorities for adjudication.
PILLAR 5: Reporting			
E.1 Improve the seizure reporting mechanism to ensure timely reporting of all ivory seizures to ETIS, in accordance with Resolution Conf.10.10(Rev.CoP17)		Substantially achieved.	All cases of ivory seizure were reported by CITES Management Authority in time to ETIS through the Ivory and elephant product seizure data collection form.
E.2 Maintain and inventory of government 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.	Achieved		Inventory of all government held ivory rhinoceros horns stockpiles was completed in February 2019. Annual reports were submitted to CITES Secretariat before 28 th February 2019. It is planned to destroy some of the stockpile on special environment celebration event , and retain part of it for retaining and education purposes.
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 National reports.	Achieved		• The annual illegal trade report for the year 2018 has been submitted to CITES Secretariat on time.

Part D Annexes:



Wildlife Development Department

Annex I Stocktaking of elephant ivory and rhino horn confiscated by the Department

for the period from January 2020 – June 2023

Department of Animal Wildlife Development

No.	Specimens	No/Quantities	Weight	Source	Date
			((kg		
1-	Rhino horns	4 pieces	11 kg20g	South Africa	05/01/2020
2-	Rhino horns	12 pieces	22kg1g	South Africa	31/01/2022
3-	Rhino horns	25 pieces	46kg 12g	Zimbabwe	28/04/2022
4-	claws and fangs	-	5kg88g	zimbabwe	28/04/2022
5-	Rhino horns	-	44kg7g	South africa	15/06/2022
6-	lvory rings	-	9kg400g	Oghanda	31/01/2023

Annex II attachments: Media coverage of training events, news, photos of the trained crews, training materials (training manual)

Attachment 1 : <u>Supplementary information on actions taken by Qatar Airways</u> to tackle Illegal Wildlife Trade

Zero Tolerance

Qatar Airways have developed a

Transportation of Wildlife and Animal Welfare Standard that includes zero tolerance on illegal transportation of wildlife and wildlife products



Actions completed for Training

➢ All Cargo acceptance staff are trained in Live Animal Regulation and CITES requirements for endangered species.

➢ Role specific e-learning package has been rolled out to all relevant personnel, with more than 9000 staff completing the course.



Actions completed for Awareness

Staff Awareness:

• An awareness session covering the impacts of illegal wildlife trade; modes of transportation and commonly used routes by traffickers; and actions taken by Qatar Airways to combat illegal wildlife transportation was delivered to -400 staff.

Passenger Awareness:

- Qatar Airways has raised passenger awareness through articles on the importance of preventing illegal wildlife trade in our inflight magazine (attachment 2).
- Qatar Airways has also included video on the impact of illegal wildlife trade in the Qatar Airways inflight entertainment system.
- A targeted illegal wildlife e-poster campaign has been implemented for passengers travelling through HIA (attachment 3).

Improved detection

> The booking system has been enhanced to better capture CITES category, purpose of transport. Approval is required for all endangered species before booking by centralized Special Loads Team.

> A purpose built reporting form has been developed and implemented to capture all animal related incidents, which are assessed and corrective actions taken.

Sniffer dogs have been deployed at high risk station to identify illegal wildlife and dedicated screening process has been implemented.

Other achievement

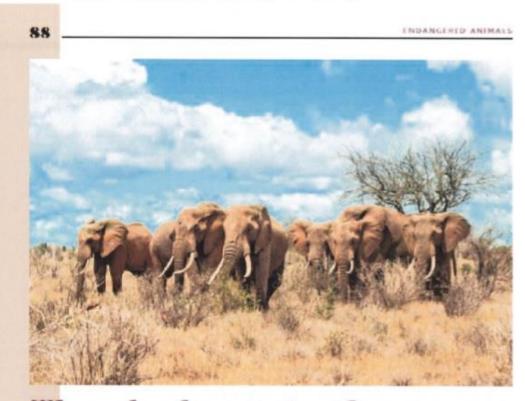
Qatar Airways is the first airline to be independently assessed and achieve a new industry standard for the prevention of illegal wildlife trafficking in aviation.

Illegal Wildlife Trade Assessment was developed by IATA with support from The Royal Foundation and USAID's ROUTES (Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species).

The Assessment is based on the commitments within the United for Wildlife's Buckingham Palace Declaration, which Qatar Airways signed in March 2016.



Attachment 2: Article in Qatar Airways inflight magazine



The elephants in the room

Qatar Atrways has joined forces with ROUTES to tackle the tilegal trafficking of wildlife

Us automs hing that fewer than half a million African elephanis remain in the wild, compared to fise million just 100 years ago.

The loss of habitat and migratory routes through the encroachment of expanding human populations into wikilitie areas has had amajor impact, as has the human elephant conflict. But the major driver of recent decline has been the industrial scale massacre of elephants is supply toory into trade. Close to 55 African elephants are killed every day. Each year, poachers kill mary thousands of African elephants for their twory. The toory trade is global but twory is

Inenvory trade is global but tvory to largely similigited to Asta where it is carved into ornamental objects that are in high demand. The good news is that Quar Arrways has a zero tolerance policy towards the tilegal transportation of endangered wildlife through its network and proadly supports the global response to the filegal wildlife trade.

Quiar Atroops has teamed up with ROLIDS inclusing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Indangered Species to share titted tyence, improve detection and disrupt wildlife irafficking activities, ROLIDS helps address wildlife poaching and wildlife traffickers exploiting the increasing connectivity of global transportation.

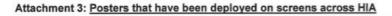
Qutar Attways also maintainsstrong ties with United for Wildlife. Greated by the Regal Foundation of the Dalae and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, United for Wildlife aims to unify the world's lealing wildlife charities such as the World Wildlife Fund and the Wildlife Conservation Society to create a global

movement for change. Male sure you know what you are carrying on board, and newer transport any animals or products illegally.

WHAT YOU CAN DO.

- Avoid porthasing illegal wildlife products when traviling
- Pay attention to labelling and avoid buying products that you are not
- sure about
- team more about wildlife conservation

by visiting our partners' exhibition united/one/diffeorg root-oper transhipor





Attachment 4: Awareness materials: a guide to measures to combat illegal trade in wildlife



Attachment 5: Some pictures of the workshops and training that took place at Hamad International Airport 2021 and 2022



Attachment 6: Pictures of recent confiscations (January 2023)



Attachment7: News about combating wildlife crimes via Qatar Airways



22 September 2021, 11:00 (+03)

Qatar Airways Extends USAID ROUTES Partnership to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

22 September 2021

DOHA, Qatar — Qatar Airways has extended its participation in the USAID ROUTES (Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species) Partnership, reinforcing its commitment to combat illegal trafficking of wildlife and its products.

Qatar Airways, a founding member of the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce, signed the historic Buckingham Palace Declaration on 2016, aimed at taking real steps to shut down the routes exploited by traffickers of the illegal wildlife trade, to move their products. Subsequently in May 2017, the airline went on to sign the first Memorandum of Understanding with the ROUTES Partnership. In May 2019, Qatar Airways became the world's first airline to achieve certification to the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Assessment. The IWT Assessment certification confirms that Qatar Airways has procedures, staff training and reporting protocols in place that make the smuggling of illegal wildlife products more challenging.

The Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Assessment was developed by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), with the support of ROUTES, as part of IEnvA - IATA's environmental management and evaluation system for airlines. Compliance with the IWT IEnvA Standards and Recommended Practices (ESARPs) enables airline signatories to the United for Wildlife Buckingham Palace Declaration to demonstrate that they have implemented the relevant Commitments within the Declaration.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "The illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade threatens our global biodiversity, and poses a risk to health and safety, particularly in marginalised communities. We are taking measures to disrupt this illicit trade in order to conserve biodiversity and safeguard our delicate ecosystems. We remain committed with other aviation industry leaders to emphasise our zero-tolerance policy towards illegal trafficking of wildlife and its products, and we join the ROUTES Partnership in saying – 'It Doesn't Fly With Us'. We will continue to work with our stakeholders to raise awareness and improve detection of illegal wildlife activities to protect these creatures that we value."

Mr. Crawford Allan, the ROUTES Partnership Lead, welcomed the leadership Qatar Airways has shown in efforts to prevent wildlife trafficking saying: "Through its actions on raising awareness, training and including wildlife trafficking within its policies, Qatar Airways has demonstrated its commitment to the Buckingham Palace Declaration and to the goal of the ROUTES Partnership. I am proud to see that Qatar Airways is continuing these efforts and being part of a growing number of companies to say It Doesn't Fly With Us."

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that wildlife crime is a threat not only to the environment and biodiversity, but also to human health. Despite restricted travel, reports of illegal wildlife seizures over the past year have revealed that traffickers are still taking their chances to smuggle contraband through the air transport system. Qatar Airways recognises that with support from the USAID ROUTES partnership, the air transport industry can move towards a greener planet that includes ecosystems and wildlife conservation, essential parts of a thriving wildlife economy with and for local communities.

As an inaugural signatory to the Buckingham Palace Declaration in March 2016 and a founding member of the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce, Qatar Airways has a zero-tolerance policy towards the transportation of illegal wildlife and their products. Qatar Airways Cargo launched the second chapter of its sustainability programme WeQare: Rewild the Planet earlier this year, focused on transporting wild animals back to their natural habitat, free of charge. The cargo carrier's initiative to preserve wildlife and rewild the planet is aligned with the airline's commitment to fight wildlife trafficking and illegal trade of wild animals and thereby protect the environment and planet Earth. #ItDoesntFlyWithUs

@ROUTESPartners