



CITES SC66 NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT Parties of 'primary concern'

Prepared for the 66th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

Party: HONG Kong SAR, China

Reporting period: July 2014 – August 2015

PART A: Synopsis of NIAP implementation

Progress to date

The National Ivory Action Plan of Hong Kong SAR has been carried out in accordance with the work plan and the targets are generally met or achieved. All eight actions are assessed as 'substantially achieved'.

Following up with the previous assessment on regulation of ivory trade, which was rated unclear, we have suitably revised the actions and set more concrete and measurable targets. In the reporting period we have been carrying out stock check to the licensed premises to update the stock in the market available for sale. A total of 208 shops were visited so far, which met our target of 180 shops by August 2015. Circular letters were also sent to licensees to remind them the strict legislative and licensing control of ivory in Hong Kong. Surprise inspections were also carried out to licensed ivory shops and non-licensed art and craft shops to check for any irregularities. The number of shops inspected was 274 which is more than the target of 180 shops.

Enforcement agents of Hong Kong including the Customs and Excise Department and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department keep vigilant in combating smuggling of endangered species including ivory from entering Hong Kong. Apart from the strategies and high-tech equipment reported in the NIAP, sniffer dogs trained to detect endangered species including ivory were deployed to various import and export control points, resulting in a number of successful seizures of. We continue to participate in international joint enforcement operation including Cobra III

and ivory samples from major seizures were also taken for DNA analysis to help mapping out the smuggling route. The actions under “enforcement” are assessed as substantially achieved.

We fully recognize the importance of publicity and education in conserving endangered species. Continuous effort is maintained in educating the general public and traders about conservation and trade regulation through various activities. Also, to reaffirm our commitment in protecting elephants and curbing trade in illegal ivory, the HKSAR Government has decided to destroy the illegal ivory confiscated under our enforcement action. A total of 20.7 tonnes of ivory has been disposed of by incineration so far.

Future outlook

The HKSAR Government is committed to the protection of endangered species including elephants, and abides by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in regulation of trade in endangered species including elephants.

The Hong Kong SAR CITES Management Authority (MA) is carrying out comprehensive stock checks to the remaining licensees that possess ivory for commercial purpose and incineration of confiscated ivory is also on-going and they are both on track of completion.

The enforcement agents of Hong Kong will endeavor, as always, to combat smuggling of endangered species including ivory in future. We also recognize the importance of international cooperation and will strive for the opportunity to participate in international enforcement operation and keep close contact with other counterparts in intelligent exchange. We will also keep monitoring the local ivory market to check any irregularities from time to time and continue the effort in carrying out publicity and education activities to our target audience. We will continue our unwavering efforts to implement the CITES and maintain our enforcement momentum. We will keep on enhancing public awareness on protection of endangered species through public education and publicity.

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

CATEGORY/PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING			
	Substantially achieved	On track	Challenging	Unclear
1. [Regulation of Trade]	1.1 Legislation and licensing control 1.2 Compliance monitoring			
2. [Enforcement]	2.1 Import Control 2.2 Intelligence exchange 2.3 International collaboration 2.4 Capacity building			
3. [Publicity and Disposal of Ivory]	3.1 Publicity and Education 3.2 Incineration of confiscated ivory			

PART C: Detailed evaluation of actions

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and <i>comments</i>)
CATEGORY 1: [Regulation of trade]		
1.1 [Legislation and licensing control]	[substantially achieved] <u>SC65 rating:</u> [unclear]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hong Kong SAR CITES Management Authority (MA) is conducting a comprehensive stock check to all licensed premises keeping ivory for commercial purpose. As at the end of August 2015, 214 premises were inspected since mid 2014. Cases of premises with irregularities were followed up. • The CITES MA issued a circular letter to the ivory traders reminding them of the strict legislative and licensing control on ivory in Hong Kong in January 2015.
1.2 [Compliance monitoring]	[Substantially achieved] <u>SC65 rating:</u> [Unclear]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the stock check inspection, surprise inspection were conducted to both licensed shops selling ivory as well as other arts and crafts shops to check if there are any irregularities. • A total of 274 licensed shops selling ivory and non-licensed art and craft shops were inspected up to the end August 2015. Cases of shops with irregularities were followed up.
CATEGORY 2: [Enforcement]		
2.1 [Import and export control]	[Substantially achieved] <u>SC65 rating:</u> [Substantially achieved]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CITES MA works closely with Hong Kong Customs to combat smuggling of ivory. From July 2014 to August 2015, there were a total of 185 seizures that involved about 1.86 tonnes of ivory. A total of 62 persons were convicted. • Hong Kong Authorities joined the Operation COBRA III as a member of China in May 2015. A total of 16 seizures that related to smuggling of endangered species were recorded, including 3 cases with a total of 75 kg of ivory seized. • Sniffer dogs were trained to detect endangered species including ivory. They were deployed at import and export control points. A total of 22 seizures were detected by sniffer dogs between July 2014 and August 2015. • To enhance monitoring of pre-Convention ivory imported to Hong Kong, starting from 14 September 2015, pre-Convention tusk and large cut piece (that are both 20 cm or more in length and one kilogram or

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		more in weight) are fixed with a tamper-proof hologram at the time of import inspection. Also, photos of pre-Convention ivory tusks and cut piece are included in the re-export permits.
2.2 [Intelligence exchange]	<p>[Substantially achieved]</p> <p>SC65 rating: [Substantially Achieved]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong Authorities participated in Operation COBRA III as reported in 2.1 • Ivory seizures were reported to CITES through ETIS.
2.3 [International collaboration]	<p>[Substantially achieved]</p> <p>SC65 rating: [Substantially Achieved]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong Authorities participated in Operation COBRA III as reported in 2.1 • CITES MA continued to take samples from major ivory seizure cases and provided them to a designated forensic laboratory to trace the origin of the elephant population. In addition to two batches of ivory samples sent out for analysis, three more batches of ivory samples that the seizures came from Kenya and Tanzania were collected. It is expected that the outcome of the analysis would help to locate the affected elephant population.
2.4 [Capacity building]	<p>[Substantially achieved]</p> <p>SC65 rating: [N/A, new item]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep abreast of the international practices, skills and knowledge of wildlife enforcement, the CITES MA sent enforcement officers to participate in international training workshops related to wildlife crime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Investigators Training Course 8-19 Dec 2014 organized by The International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) • <i>Workshop on “Controlled deliveries of Illegal traded Wildlife Products” 26-28 January 2015 organized by World Customs Organization</i>
CATEGORY 3: [Publicity and Disposal of Ivory]		
3.1 [Publicity and education]	<p>[Substantially Achieved]</p> <p>SC65 rating: [On track]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We enhanced the publicity targeting at the general public and relevant stakeholders. Examples include organising roving exhibition in public libraries, setting up displays and notices at airport and land control points, organising talks and training to inbound and outbound tourist guides. Moreover, a radio announcement in the public interest on the control of ivory was launched in February 2015 , and a new poster focusing on the control over ivory has recently been produced. • Also, trader education was strengthened through meeting with trade associations / representatives,

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		shop visits and circular letters.
3.2 [Incineration of confiscated ivory]	<p>[Substantially Achieved]</p> <p>SC65 rating: [N/A, new item]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reaffirm our commitment in protecting elephants and curbing trade in illegal ivory, the HKSAR Government has decided to destroy the illegal ivory confiscated under our enforcement action. Since May 2014, a total of 15 batches of ivory totaling about 20.7 tonnes have been disposed of by incineration.