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وزارة البلدية والبيئة
MINISTRY OF MUNICIPALITY
AND ENVIRONMENT



Mr. John E. Scanlon ,
CITES Secretary General ,
Geneva , Switzerland .

Subject : Standing Committee recommendation on new parties to be included in the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) process.

Dear Mr. Scanlon,

Thank you for your letter ref. JS/BYR/JSt dated 26 May 2017 concerning the review of information to decide whether or not to include Qatar in the NIAP process . The Management Authority of Qatar is pleased to provide the following additional information regarding actions and activities taken by Qatar to help the Secretariat to prepare its recommendation for the 69th meeting of the SC69 on this issue.

The State of Qatar has detailed the measures and actions it has taken with regard to implementation of CITES provisions concerning trade in ivory in the report it submitted to CITES Secretariat which has acknowledged receipt of it, as per the attached correspondence . Please see the attached file containing all documents concerning the required information and related to the issue.

Qatar has reported all seizures of ivory to ETIS on September 2014 and September 2015 , as per the attached ivory and elephant product seizure data collection forms and emails were sent by CITES Management Authority. The stockpile of the confiscated ivory is safely stored by the government for further action .

All seizures of ivory are discovered while on transit to destinations in Asia , and the seizures are always communicated to CITES Secretariat and CITES management authorities in destinations . And local press briefings were made to make public aware of the seizure and the violation . Qatar has no domestic ivory trade or shops selling carved ivory , or luxurious items made of ivory.

The information in the ETIS report are result of ivory being discovered in some Asian countries , which was carried on transit via Qatar . CITES Management Authority has wrote to Qatar Airways , as the carrier involved in transit of such consignments , to intensify its check of all consignments and hand held luggage in the source countries , from which there were repeated seizures of illegal ivory , to stop carrying illegal ivory. Also , reminded the Customs and the Airport security authorities to further increase their search of all consignments and luggage coming from countries suspected of being source of illegal ivory.

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Our efforts will continue with Qatar Airways to stop complete transit of ivory through our country , and will arrange a meeting with Qatar Airways , Customs and Airport Security departments to further strengthen our inspection and control over all consignments on transit.

We hope these information will help in preparation of the recommendation and the decision in the coming meeting of the Standing Committee , and appreciate your comments or any other requirement on this regard.

Best regards.

Omer Salem Al-Nuaimi,
Head of CITES Management Authority
Director of Protection and Wildlife Department,
Ministry of Municipality and Environment.

Ivory status in Qatar

1- Introduction

The State of Qatar has joined the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) , on 2001. The State of Qatar recognized the importance of the convention for wildlife conservation in the world . Qatar share the concern with the international community on conservation of the endangered wildlife species , such as the elephants, elephants ivory , rhinos , rhino horns and others.

2- Legislation

The State of Qatar has enacted law No. (50) of 2006 , for regulation of trade in specimens of endangered species of wildlife and their products. The law has designated Management Authority as enforcement and responsible agency in regulation of trade in all wildlife species.

3- Border control

Qatar CITES Management Authority has trained personnel for control of import and export of wildlife specimens through the airport , sea and land ports. The management authority officials work in coordination and cooperation with the customs and veterinary departments personnel , in Hamad International Airport , Abu Samra Passageway and Doha Sea Port. The employees work 24 hours on shifts.

4- Confiscations

Since the accession of State of Qatar to CITES , the following are the reported seizures of ivory :-

- 1- Five polished small elephant tusks of different sizes , arrived from Sudan without CITES permit in 2005.
- 2- Thirteen specimens of tourist souvenirs made of ivory , arrived from Sudan without CITES permit in 2005.
- 3- Ten specimens of polished elephant ivory arrived from Sudan without CITES permit in 2006.
- 3- Four specimens of worked elephant ivory arrived from Lebanon without CITES permit in 2006.
- 4- Two specimens of worked elephant ivory arrived from Thailand without CITES permit in 2008.
- 5- 156 kilograms of worked ivory arrived from Mozambique on transit to Vietnam without CITES permit in 2014.

5- Conclusions

Qatar CITES Management Authority work in cooperation with the Customs General Authority and the Airport Security Department , to control entry of ivory into Qatar . Qatar prohibit display and sale of ivory products in all markets over Qatar. Elephant ivory products consignments on transit are controlled and inspected by the Customs Authority at the airport.

Consignments without CITES permits are seized and seizure information are communicated to CITES Secretariat and CITES management authority of country of destination for their action.