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Mr. Johannes Stahl ,
Enforcement Support Officer (Consultant) ,
CITES Secretariat ,
International Environment House , Chemin de Anemones,
CH-1219 Chatelaine , Geneva , Switzerland .
E-Mail : johannes.stahl@cites.org

**Subject : Qatar's National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP)
progress report (Revised Version).**

Dear Mr. Stahl,

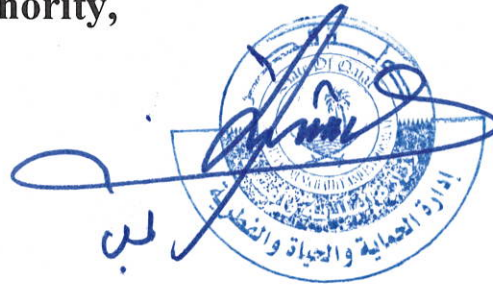
Thank you very much for your message on evaluation of our progress report on NIAP implementation .

Please find attached herewith revised version for your evaluation.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Thank you and best regards.

Talib Khalid R. Al-Hajri ,
Director of Protection and Wildlife Department,
Head of CITES Management Authority,
State of Qatar.





CITES NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Prepared for the 73rd meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

Party: QATAR

Reporting period: June 2018- June 2020

Prepared for the 73rd meeting of CITES Standing Committee

by the Protection and Wildlife Department at the Ministry of Municipality
and Environment

PART A: Synopsis of NIAP implementation

This is the second progress report to be submitted by State of Qatar since it started implementation of its NIAP process in April 2018. At its 70th meeting (SC70) , CITES standing Committee on SC70 Doc.27.4-p.19 and 20 has made recommendations after review and evaluation of our progress report submitted to CITES Secretariat in July 2018 on implementation of the national ivory action plan.

In line with recommendation 92. of Document SC70 Doc.27.4 – p.19 and 20 , we have already started exchange of information with Mozambique , after participation in NIAPs representatives meeting in Mozambique in May 2018 , as being the main source country of illegal ivory on transit through our country. On the sideline of Mozambique meeting discussions were conducted with representatives of CITES Management Authorities in source countries on exchange of information concerning illegal transport of ivory from their countries.

The annual illegal trade reports of 2017 and 2018 , ETIS ivory seizure report , elephant ivory stockpile and State of Qatar annual reports were all submitted on time as required.

According to the evaluation of our progress report , in recommendation 94 Qatar was given an overall rating of ' partial progress , this of course due to the short period of implementation from April 2018 – June 2018.

Generally , there has been good progress in the implementation of our national ivory action plan as most of the priority actions had been achieved , and no cases of seizure of elephant ivory and ivory products transited through Qatar, were reported on ETIS data mentioning Qatar as transit country for the period from 2018 -2019 as stated by ETIS database Manager .

Main progress

- 1- Qatar's national ivory action plan had 15 actions to be implemented , five (5) out of these actions were already achieved since our first progress report submitted in April 2018 . Now 5 actions have been achieved or substantially achieved While the remaining 5 actions are on track . They are actions B. 3 , B.4 , B.5 , C.1 and C.2 .
- 2- On national level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration, training workshops were conducted for employees working at Hamad International Airport (HIA), being the main airport in the country.

- 3- A draft of guidebook on identification and implementation of NIAP process has been prepared and printing is under process and will be provided for employees working at HIA to assist them in identification of wildlife specimens , in particular elephant ivory and rhino horns , and the operational procedures to be followed in case of detection of such specimens without the required documents .
- 4- A meeting was held on 09/10/2019 with stakeholders operating at Hamad International Airport . The meeting established a formal collaboration mechanism by nomination of a official from each department to be as focal point to facilitate speedy exchange of information on seizure cases at the airport.
- 5- The annual illegal trade reports for 2017 and 2018, and elephant ivory stockpile report were submitted to CITES Secretariat on time .
- 6- Therefore , the State of Qatar may be considered has made good progress and its NIAP is achieved and shall exit the NIAP process as stipulated in step 5 of the Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. Cop 17). While , the training at national level will continue to build capacity on combat of illegal wildlife trade .

Future outlook

Qatar has been identified by CITES Standing Committee in its 69th meeting (SC 69) in category (C) as a “party of importance to watch “ affected by illegal trade in ivory .

Since Qatar is affected by transit movement of illegal ivory from source countries , strong actions and measures taken by source countries of elephant ivory and ivory products at their airports , together with the actions taken by Qatar Airways to tackle illegal wildlife trade , see attachment 1 in the annex , are expected to reduce incidents of smuggling of elephant ivory and ivory products from the sources countries.

While continuous strict follow up of procedures outlined in NIAP implementation mechanism , and continuous building capacity programs will certainly lead to stopping of transit of illegal ivory through Qatar.

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

PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
	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	B.4 Scale up enforcement operations at HIA targeting passengers , luggage and cargo , moving between key countries			

PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
	<p>governing wildlife trade , the detection and identification of illegal wildlife consignments , ivory and rhinoceros horn recognition and identification, applicable legislation and protocol to follow.</p> <p>B.3 Strengthen capacity among officers working at HIA , through the provision of operational handbooks and identification manuals.</p>	<p>operating at Hamad International Airport (HIA) , with a role in combating wildlife crime , in particular ivory and rhinoceros horn trafficking transiting through Qatar.</p> <p>B.5 Increase the number of inspections targeting high risk flights , including random inspections and operations</p>	<p>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.</p>			
3. International and regional enforcement collaboration	<p>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</p>	<p>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..</p>	<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>			

PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
	Achieved trade chain.					
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	E.2 Maintain an inventory of government-held stockpiles of ivory, in accordance with the provisions of				

PILLAR	PROGRESS RATING					
	Achieved	Substantially achieved	On track	Partial progress	Pending completion of another action	Not commenced
	<p>Conf. 10.10 (Rev.CoP17).</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Resolution Conf. 10.10 (rev.CoP17) paragraph 6.e), and inform the Secretariat of the level of this stock each year before 28 February.</p>				

PART C: Detailed evaluation of actions

ACTION		EVALUATION		SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and comments)	
PILLAR 1: Legislation and regulations					
<p>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.</p>		<p>substantially achieved,</p>		<p>Qatar's CITES Management Authority has held meetings with the Legal Affairs Department 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.</p>	
PILLAR 2: National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration					
<p>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.</p>		<p>Substantially achieved</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and comments)
<p>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.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 specimens in trade , CITES permits and certificates implementation of CITES procedures with emphasis on implementation of Qatar's NIAP requirements and legal procedure according to our national law on regulation of trade in endangered wildlife species and their products.
<p>B.3 Strengthen capacity among officers working at HIA , through the provision of operational handbooks and identification manuals .</p>	<p>On track</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft of identification manual and operational handbook on NIAP implementation process at HIA has been prepared , and printing process delayed by the printing press company due to the restrictions imposed by the lockdown concerning spread of COVID-19 ..
<p>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</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>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 .</p>

ACTION		EVALUATION		SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and comments)	
from Africa to Asia , by planning and conducting at least two operations at HIA by 31 December 2019.					
B.5 Increase the number of inspections targeting high risk flights , including random inspections and operations.			On track		<i>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.</i>
PILLAR 3: International and regional enforcement collaboration					
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			On track		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>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 .</i> • <i>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 .</i>
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 .			On track		<i>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.</i>

ACTION		EVALUATION		SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and comments)	
<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>Substantially achieved</p>		<p>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.</p>	
<p>PILLAR 4: Outreach, public awareness and education</p>					
<p>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.</p>		<p>Achieved</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
<p>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.</p>		<p>Achieved</p>		<p>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.</p>	
<p>D.3 Publicize seizures and subsequent prosecutions in main stream media</p>		<p>Substantially achieved</p>		<p>Usually, in all seizure cases of illegal wildlife trade, the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, represented by the Department of Protection and Wildlife, as designated CITES Management Authority for Qatar, call for</p>	

ACTION	EVALUATION	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS (and comments)
and on governmental social media platforms		press conference to be attended by all representatives of local newspapers , and special interviews are hosted by the national television channels.
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 : Annex of supporting information

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

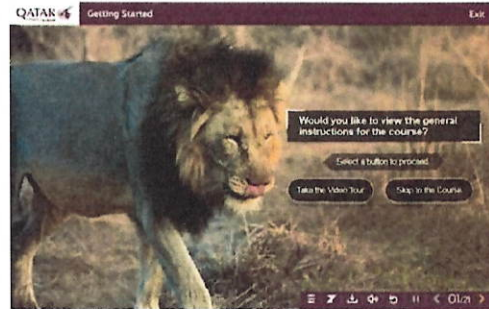
Zero Tolerance

- 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.





The elephants in the room

Qatar Airways has joined forces with ROUTES to tackle the illegal trafficking of wildlife

It's astounding that fewer than half a million African elephants remain in the wild, compared to the million just 100 years ago.

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

The ivory trade is global but ivory is largely smuggled to Asia where it is carved into numerous objects that are in high demand.

The good news is that Qatar Airways has a zero tolerance policy towards the illegal transportation of endangered wildlife through its network and proudly supports the global response to the illegal wildlife trade.

Qatar Airways has teamed up with ROUTES (Routing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species) to share intelligence, improve detection and disrupt wildlife trafficking activities. ROUTES helps address wildlife poaching and wildlife traffickers exploiting the increasing connectivity of global transportation.

Qatar Airways also maintains strong ties with United for Wildlife. Created by the Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry,

United for Wildlife aims to unite the world's leading wildlife charities such as the World Wildlife Fund and the Wildlife Conservation Society to create a global movement for change.

Make sure you know what you are carrying on board, and never transport any animals or products illegally.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- Avoid purchasing illegal wildlife products when travelling
- Pay attention to labelling and avoid buying products that you are not sure about
- Learn more about wildlife conservation by visiting our website: www.qatarairways.com/ufw

Attachment 3: Posters that have been deployed on screens across HIA



Meeting of representatives of stakeholders operating at Hamad International Airport for review and follow up of NIAP implementation.



Participants at capacity building workshop for law enforcement officers working at Hamad International Airport .



Public lecture on raising awareness about wildlife crimes and CITES regulations.



Inventory of government held stockpile of elephant ivory



ETIS Database Manager's letter stating that no seizure data involving Qatar for the period 2018-2019

Rajab Y. Abdulla

From: Omar S. Al-Nuaimi
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:17 AM
To: Rajab Y. Abdulla
Subject: FW: Cases of ivory and elephant products seizures

From: Mailbox - etis [mailto:etis@traffic.org]
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 1:29 PM
To: Omar S. Al-Nuaimi <osnuaimi@mme.gov.qa>
Subject: Re: Cases of Ivory and elephant products seizures

Dear Mr. Al-Nuaimi,

Thank you for your email requesting for data of elephant product seizures that have transited through your country from 2018-2019, for review of your National Ivory Action Plan .

I would like to inform you that ETIS currently has no data on Qatar for this period, as the seizure data for this period is incomplete. Many countries such as China, Hong Kong, Ethiopia and Mozambique often note Qatar in their data, however, they are late in submitting 2018 data. I am happy to send you a report of what you are requesting for once we have received sufficient data for 2018.

With best regards,

Louisa Sangalakula

ETIS Database Manager

From: Omar S. Al-Nuaimi <osnuaimi@mme.gov.qa>
Sent: 08 September 2019 08:56
To: Mailbox - etis <etis@traffic.org>
Cc: Rajab Y. Abdulla <RYAbdulla@mme.gov.qa>
Subject: Cases of ivory and elephant products seizures

Please inform us cases of ivory and elephant products seizures transited through Qatar reported from 2018 -2019 , for review of our National Ivory Action Plan .

Best regards.

Omar S. Al-Nuaimi,
Head of CITES Management Authority,
State of Qatar.