

China is providing the following information to the Secretariat as a response to the Notification to the Parties No. 2019/061 dated November 1, 2019.

### **China's response to the Notification to the Parties No. 2019/061**

Great attention has been given to issue of the totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) since 2015 by the Chinese Government and a wide range of measures have been taken by line ministries, such as the Bureau of Fishery Management, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, General Administration of Customs etc. to address illegal trade in totoaba products in China. An inter-agency operation was organized to inspect the fishery product markets in Guangdong Province in southern China. The participating departments included marine and fishery, customs, market management, and the regional office of China CITES Management Authority. No totoaba bladders were offered for sale in the markets by either clandestine or regular patrols of the markets. High vigilance is maintained to continue regulate the relevant markets and any offenders will be punished duly. It turned out that most of the fishery product dealers are not aware of the conservation status of totoaba and the trade in its products is illegal in China. To raise public awareness, posters about totoaba were produced and disseminated in the markets of fishery products. Training has been provided to the front-line law enforcement officials on the rapid identification of totoaba and its products. Awareness campaigns were conducted to urge the general public not to purchase and consume totoaba bladder with the intention to promote a pattern of green consumption. To curb the increasing occurrence of illegal trade of totoaba products on the internet, cooperation has been struck with Alibaba and other major internet service providers to jointly police the cyber shops and platforms to block all the offer of sale of totoaba products on the internet. Any seizure of totoaba products and subsequent prosecution of traffickers were widely covered by the mass and social media to deter potential offenders. It has communicated with the relevant departments of the United States and

Mexico many times, and a tripartite meeting with the United States and Mexico was held to strengthen cooperation in jointly combating the totoaba illegal trade and conserving the totoaba resources.

Since the last time we reported the totoaba cases information before CoP18, China has never stopped cracking down on the wildlife illegal trade. If any, new cases information will be submitted in due course with the annual illegal trade report.