

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

Elephants

TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. As a result of discussions with representatives of African elephant range States immediately prior to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat believes it is appropriate that the *Action plan for the control of trade in African elephant ivory* (Annex 2 to the Decisions adopted at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the related Decision 13.26) be renewed and amended. A draft action plan, for consideration at CoP14, is attached.

*Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~. Proposed new text is underlined.*

### **ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONTROL OF TRADE IN AFRICAN ELEPHANT IVORY**

1. All African elephant range States<sup>1</sup>, and other Parties and non-Parties with an ivory carving industry or internal trade in ivory that is unregulated, should urgently:
  - a) prohibit the unregulated domestic sale of ivory (raw, semi-worked or worked). Legislation should include a provision which places the onus of proof of lawful possession upon any person found in possession of ivory in circumstances from which it can reasonably be inferred that such possession was for the purpose of unauthorized transfer, sale, offer for sale, exchange or export or any person transporting ivory for such purposes. Where regulated domestic trade is permitted, it should comply with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) (Trade in elephant specimens);
  - b) issue instructions to all law enforcement and border control agencies to enforce existing or new legislation rigorously; and
  - c) engage in public awareness campaigns publicizing existing or new prohibitions on ivory sales.
2. ~~Parties should, by 31 March 2005, report to the Secretariat on progress made. Such reports should include details of seizures, copies of new legislation, copies of administrative instructions or orders to enforcement agencies and details of awareness campaigns. The Secretariat should report on Parties' progress at the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee. The Secretariat shall, by 31 August 2007, distribute to all Parties and non-Parties that have been identified in the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) report for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as being affected by illicit trade in ivory a questionnaire relating to the control of trade in ivory. Questionnaires should be returned to the Secretariat by 31 December 2007.~~
3. ~~In the interim, the Secretariat should work with the relevant countries in Africa to provide any technical assistance that may be necessary to aid the implementation of this action plan.~~
4. ~~The Secretariat should also engage in efforts to publicize the present action plan and the subsequent halting of domestic ivory sales in individual African countries through contacting relevant organizations such as airlines and IATA. It should also, via ICPO-Interpol and the World Customs Organization, communicate with the heads of police and Customs authorities in Africa, advising them of this initiative. Furthermore the Secretariat should request all Parties worldwide to publicize the action plan, particularly to discourage persons who are travelling to Africa from purchasing raw, semi-worked or worked<sup>2</sup> ivory and to encourage border control authorities to be alert to illegal imports of ivory and to make every effort to intercept illicit movements of ivory.~~
- 5 3. All elephant range States are recommended to cooperate with existing relevant research projects studying the identification of ivory, especially by supplying relevant samples for DNA and other forensic science profiling.
- 6 4. The Secretariat should seek the assistance of governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in supporting the work to eradicate illegal exports of ivory from the African continent and the unregulated domestic markets that contribute to illicit trade. The Secretariat shall also, if requested, work with the relevant countries in Africa and Asia to provide technical assistance for the implementation of this action plan. It shall provide similar assistance to any other Parties that have an ivory carving industry or internal trade in ivory. The Secretariat shall also continue its work, in conjunction with national, regional and international law enforcement organizations and networks (such as the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, ICPO-Interpol,

<sup>1</sup> *Except any Party for which an annotation in the Appendices authorizes trade in worked ivory.*

<sup>2</sup> *Except Parties where the export of worked ivory for non-commercial purposes is lawful.*

Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the World Customs Organization) to assist in combating illicit trade in ivory.

- ~~7~~ 5. ~~At the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat should seek the agreement of the Parties that it would, from 1 June 2005, ensure that work is undertaken, including *in situ* verification missions where appropriate, From 1 January 2008, the Secretariat shall undertake work to assess, on a country by country basis, progress made with the implementation of the action plan. Where appropriate, this shall include *in situ* verification missions. Priority should be given to those Parties assessment of States that are identified during research by the Secretariat and through other appropriate sources of information to have active and unregulated internal markets for ivory or to be significantly affected by illicit trade in ivory. Particular Ppriority should be given to Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Nigeria, Thailand and any other country identified through ETIS as being significantly affected by illicit trade.~~
6. Where an elephant range State fails to submit by 31 December 2007 the questionnaire referred to in point 2 above, the Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties advising that the Conference of the Parties recommends that Parties not authorize commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with the State in question. Such a recommendation shall remain in force until a completed questionnaire is received by the Secretariat.
7. In cases where relevant Parties or non-Parties are found not to implement this action plan, or where significant quantities of ivory is are found to be illegally sold, the Secretariat ~~should~~ shall, following consultation with the Standing Committee, issue a Notification to the Parties advising ~~them~~ that the Conference of the Parties recommends that Parties not authorize commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with the State in question.
- ~~9.~~ ~~The Secretariat should continue to monitor all domestic ivory markets outside Africa to ensure that internal controls are adequate and comply with the relevant provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12) on Trade in elephant specimens. Priority should be given to China, Japan and Thailand, with particular attention being paid to any Party that has notified the Secretariat that it wishes to authorize imports of ivory for commercial purposes.~~
- ~~108.~~ The Secretariat ~~should~~ shall report upon the implementation of the action plan at each regular meeting of the Standing Committee.