



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2014/047

Geneva, 15 October 2014

CONCERNING:

Directory of illegal trade in rhinoceros horn focal points

1. In accordance with Decision 16.89, paragraph a), adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Secretariat convened a CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force in Nairobi, Kenya, on 28 and 29 October 2013. The Task Force developed strategies and proposed actions to improve international cooperation and to combat the growing trend in rhinoceros poaching and the associated illegal trade in rhinoceros horn.
2. A copy of the document containing the strategies and proposed actions was made available to Parties as an Annex to Notification to the Parties No. 2014/006, of 23 January 2014. In the section under "Strategies and actions", paragraph 2 b) is directed to all range, transit and destination States implicated in the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn as follows:

All countries implicated in the illegal trade of rhinoceros horn as a range, transit or destination State should:

...

- b) In accordance with relevant information regulating the exchange of information and national protocols, appoint a national focal point for matters related to the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn to facilitate increased collaboration and timely communication. The focal point should be responsible for the facilitation of initial contacts between relevant enforcement agencies within his or her country, and the authorities from the requesting country, on matters related to rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn trade. CITES Management Authorities are encouraged to engage with their national law enforcement agencies to identify a national focal point, and to provide their contact details to the CITES Secretariat by 28 February 2014. The CITES Secretariat will prepare a consolidated list of all focal points and make it available to the law enforcement community through the CITES Enforcement Authorities Forum, EUROPOL, INTERPOL, UNODC, WCO and other appropriate channels, such as Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs).*
3. The Secretariat reported on the implementation of paragraph 2 b) of the strategies and proposed actions at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65, Geneva, July 2014). At that meeting the Committee adopted the following recommendation, contained in document SC65 Com. 3 as paragraph n) i):
 - n) in relation to the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force and Decision 16.84 a) and b):
 - i) urge all Parties that have not provided the Secretariat with the contact details of their national focal points on matters related to the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn, as described in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report of the Secretariat (SC65 Doc. 43.2), to do so by 15 August 2014;**

4. A Directory of the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn focal points provided by Parties to date has been prepared by the Secretariat and is contained in the Annex to the present Notification.
5. Parties are invited to distribute the Directory of focal points within the law enforcement community. The Secretariat will also make it available to the law enforcement community.
6. Parties implicated in the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn as a range, transit or destination State that have not yet responded to the Secretariat's request to provide a focal point are invited to do so at their earliest convenience.