



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2015/044

Geneva, 3 August 2015

CONCERNING:

Monitoring the illegal trade in ivory

1. The Secretariat reminds Parties to report every seizure of illegal elephant ivory made within their territories to the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS). ETIS was established under the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in elephant specimens, to track trends in the illegal trade in ivory and to provide an information base to support decision-making on management, protection and enforcement needs of elephants. ETIS is managed for CITES by TRAFFIC.
2. An electronic version of the *Data collection form* to report seizures of ivory and other elephant products to ETIS, and *Explanatory notes*, are presented in the Annexes to this Notification.
3. The *Data collection form* can be submitted directly to TRAFFIC in printed form or electronically for inclusion in ETIS. Alternatively it can be submitted to the CITES Secretariat for passing to TRAFFIC. Electronic or printed spreadsheets of elephant product seizure information can also be submitted, as long as they contain the minimum set of data required for entry into ETIS. With reference to the data collection form, the minimum information required to enable data entry of a seizure case into ETIS is:
 - Question 1: Source of data;
 - Question 2: Date of seizure AND agency responsible for seizure;
 - Question 4: Location of discovery;
 - Question 9: Ivory type and quantity; and
 - Question 10: Non-ivory elephant products.
4. Cases that are reported without the above information cannot be entered into ETIS and in such cases, TRAFFIC will have to seek further details from appropriate authorities.
5. Parties are encouraged to include other important information if known. This information serves to strengthen any subsequent analysis of the ETIS data, particularly information on:
 - Question 5: Country of origin;
 - Question 6: Country of export/re-export; and
 - Question 7: Country of destination/import.
6. Parties are reminded that ETIS includes records of elephant product seizures that have occurred since 1989. Thus, Parties are encouraged to review the seizure data that have been submitted to ETIS in the past, and to submit information on any seizures of ivory that have occurred since 1989, but that have not been reported to ETIS yet.

7. In reporting ivory seizures, Parties are asked to pay particular attention to the need to identify the type of ivory involved. ETIS recognises three types of ivory: 'raw ivory', 'semi-worked ivory' and 'worked ivory'. Definitions of these ivory types are found in the *Explanatory notes* to the present Notification. Failure to indicate the precise type of ivory seized is the most common problem preventing data entry of ivory seizure cases and clarifying this issue with Management Authorities often takes considerable time.
8. Parties are advised to also communicate the absence of ivory or other elephant product seizures within their territories during the past year to ETIS.
9. Parties are requested to submit any outstanding ETIS reports by **30 October 2015**, to ensure that data from such reports can be included in the upcoming analysis of ETIS data for 2014. TRAFFIC's contact details are:

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa
c/o WWF Zimbabwe Office.

Mailing address: P.O. Box CY 1409
Causeway
HARARE
Zimbabwe

Street address: 10 Lanark Road
Belgravia
HARARE
Zimbabwe

Tel: +263 (4) 25 25 33/4

Email: etis@traffic.org

10. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2014/052 of 18 November 2014.