



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2017/042

Geneva, 2 June 2017

CONCERNING:

NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLANS (NIAP) PROCESS

Decision of the Standing Committee

1. The *Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plans Process*, contained in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens* direct the Standing Committee, on the basis of recommendations from the Secretariat, to determine whether it is appropriate for a Party to participate in the NIAP Process and request that Party to develop a NIAP. Such determinations can also be made by postal procedure.
2. The *Guidelines* specify that the foundation for identifying Parties to participate in the NIAP Process is the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) report submitted to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. The ETIS report submitted to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) identified Japan, Malawi, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Togo, and the United Arab Emirates as possible new Parties to participate in the NIAP Process.
4. Following CoP17, in accordance with Decision 17.75, the Secretariat commenced the process of identifying new Parties to participate in the NIAP process, and prepared recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.
5. Having reviewed the recommendations from the Secretariat, the Standing Committee agreed the following decisions by postal procedure on 16 May 2017:
 - a) Japan should not participate in the NIAP process at this time.
 - b) Malawi should be included in the NIAP process as a Party of primary concern and requested to develop a NIAP.
 - c) A decision on whether or not Qatar should participate in the NIAP Process and be requested to develop a NIAP should be deferred until the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC69).
 - d) A decision on whether or not Singapore should participate in the NIAP Process and be requested to develop a NIAP should be deferred until SC69.
 - e) South Africa should not participate in the NIAP process at this time.
 - f) A decision on whether or not Sri Lanka should participate in the NIAP Process and be requested to develop a NIAP should be deferred until SC69.
 - g) Togo should be included in the NIAP process as a Party of primary concern and requested to develop a NIAP.
 - h) The United Arab Emirates should not participate in the NIAP process at this time.

6. The Parties concerned by this decision have been contacted directly by the Secretariat about its follow-up. The National Ivory Action Plans Process will be discussed further at the forthcoming 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, November 2017).