



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/057

Geneva, 1 June 2018

CONCERNING:

CHINA

Stricter domestic measures on ivory trade in  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

1. This Notification is being published at the request of China.
2. The Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China wishes to inform CITES Parties that it is going to implement a three-step plan to phase out the trade in elephant ivory by the end of 2021, and to impose heavier penalties to enhance deterrent against illicit trade in endangered species.
3. The details of the three step plan are as follows:
  - Step 1: The import and re-export of all elephant hunting trophies and those non pre-Convention ivory items<sup>1</sup> will be banned from 1 May 2018. The relevant penalties will be increased significantly to a maximum fine of HK\$10,000,000 and imprisonment for 10 years. The new penalties will apply to all CITES-listed species including elephants.
  - Step 2: The import and re-export of pre-Convention ivory (except for antique ivory<sup>2</sup>) will be banned from 1 August 2018. Import of antique ivory will require an import permit in addition to an export permit.
  - Step 3: The local trade in elephant ivory (except antique ivory) will be banned from 31 December 2021/
4. For further information or clarification, contact the CITES Management Authority of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China at [hk\\_cites@afcd.gov.hk](mailto:hk_cites@afcd.gov.hk).

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<sup>1</sup> Such as the individually marked and certified ekipa incorporated in finished jewelry of the population of Namibia, and ivory carvings of the population of Zimbabwe, when being imported, exported or re-exported for non-commercial purposes.

<sup>2</sup> An antique ivory is defined as a piece of elephant ivory that had been removed from the wild and significantly altered from its natural state for jewelry, adornment, art, utility or musical instrument before 1 July 1925 (i.e. 50 years before CITES entered into force on 1 July 1975), and was acquired before that date by a person in this condition requiring no further carving, crafting or processing to effect its purpose. It does not include an elephant hunting trophy.