



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2019/041

Geneva, 7 August 2019

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. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, to track the 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. Section 4 in Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) states that:

*All Parties, through their CITES Management Authorities, following liaison with appropriate law enforcement agencies, should provide information on seizures and confiscations of ivory or other elephant specimens in the prescribed formats either to the Secretariat or directly to TRAFFIC within 90 days of their occurrence. In addition, law enforcement agencies in States not-party to the Convention are requested to provide similar information.*
3. An electronic version of the ETIS *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.
4. 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 the agency or authority responsible for the seizure;
  - Question 4: Location of discovery;
  - Question 9: Ivory type and quantity; and/or
  - Question 10: Type and quantity of non-ivory elephant products.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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 have not yet been reported to ETIS.
8. 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 usually takes considerable time.
9. Parties are advised to also communicate the absence of ivory or other elephant product seizures within their territories during the past year to ETIS.
10. Parties are requested to submit any outstanding ETIS reports by **31 October 2019**, to ensure that data from such reports can be included in the upcoming analysis of ETIS data for 2018. TRAFFIC's contact details are:

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c/o IUCN – South Africa Office

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11. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2017/074 of 14 December 2017.