



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/042

Geneva, 18 May 2020

CONCERNING:

Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS):  
questionnaire on data collection

1. The Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) was established under Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens* to track the trends in the illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens, 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. Pursuant to Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) regarding '*Monitoring illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens*', Parties "*should provide information on seizures and confiscations of ivory or other elephant specimens in the prescribed formats either to the CITES Secretariat or directly to TRAFFIC within 90 days of their occurrence*".
3. Under paragraph 23 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18), the Conference of the Parties "*urges Parties to collect samples from large-scale ivory seizures (i.e. a seizure of 500 kg or more) that take place in their territories, preferably within 90 days of the seizure or as soon as allowed under judicial processes, and provide these to forensic and other research institutions capable of reliably determining the origin or age of the ivory samples in support of investigations and prosecutions*".
4. Under paragraph 24 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18), the Conference of the Parties "*recommends that Parties share with the Secretariat and source countries information on the origin or age of seized ivory specimens arising from forensic analysis of samples to facilitate investigations and prosecutions, and for analysis by MIKE and ETIS in their reporting to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties*".
5. At its 70th meeting (SC70; Sochi, October 2018), the Standing Committee took note of the report of the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup (document [SC70 Com.18](#)), which states:

*The MIKE and ETIS Subgroup noted the update on ETIS implementation presented by the ETIS Director of TRAFFIC. The Subgroup expressed its appreciation for the diligent work done by TRAFFIC (ETIS) and supported the request by TRAFFIC to undertake a formal assessment relating to ETIS data collection. The Subgroup noted that TRAFFIC will collaborate with the CITES Secretariat on the design, content and distribution of a questionnaire in this regard.*
6. This assessment will assist in informing future approaches to the bias adjustment that forms part of the analytical framework<sup>1</sup> used by ETIS to analyse seizure data.
7. Thanks to funding from Germany, a consultant was engaged to develop a questionnaire on data collection for ETIS. The questionnaire developed has been reviewed and finalized by TRAFFIC and the CITES Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> Underwood, F. M., Burn, R. W., & Milliken, T. (2013). Dissecting the Illegal Ivory Trade: An Analysis of Ivory Seizures Data. *PLoS ONE*, 8(10), e76539. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0076539>

8. Parties are invited to complete the questionnaire available in the Annex to the present Notification and submit their responses **by 18 June 2020** to TRAFFIC at the following email address: [etis@traffic.org](mailto:etis@traffic.org).
9. Parties may also complete the questionnaire online at the following link: <https://arcg.is/0LWqgy>.
10. TRAFFIC will report on its assessment relating to ETIS data collection to the MIKE-ETIS Subgroup at the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee.
11. In addition, Parties' responses will be shared with the CITES Secretariat in the context of its implementation of [Decision 18.19](#) on the Review of the ETIS Programme.