



# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/004

Geneva, 10 January 2023

CONCERNING:

## Elephant ivory stocks: marking, inventories and security

1. The purpose of this Notification is to remind Parties about the provisions of paragraph 7 e) of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) on *Trade in elephant specimens* that contain, amongst other provisions, the following.
  - a) a recommendation to mark elephant ivory tusks and cut pieces;
  - b) a deadline of **28 February** each year for the submission of an inventory of government-held ivory stock and significant privately held ivory stocks, and the reasons for any significant changes in the stockpile compared to the preceding year.
2. The request to submit an inventory is directed to "Parties in whose jurisdiction there is an ivory carving industry, a legal domestic trade in ivory, an unregulated market for or illegal trade in ivory, or where ivory stockpiles exist, and Parties designated as ivory importing countries".
3. In the same Resolution, the Conference of the Parties also directs the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to provide technical assistance to Parties to support, where requested, the security and registration of government-held ivory stockpiles.
4. Parties that wish to seek the assistance of the Secretariat in securing and registering stockpiles, as foreseen in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) are invited to contact the Secretariat directly.
5. Annex 1 to the present Notification contains an extract from Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP18) with the full text of the provisions referred to above.
6. A model table that can be used by Parties for reporting their inventory of ivory to the Secretariat by **28 February 2023** is contained in Annex 2 to the present Notification.
7. Parties are also invited to include information on the ivory stocks destructed during the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in particular the volume of raw and worked ivory and how it was disposed of.
8. The Secretariat published the summary data based on the inventories submitted by Parties for 2021, disaggregated to regional but not country level, including the total ivory stockpiles by weight on the CITES website ([https://cites.org/eng/prog/terrestrial\\_fauna/elephants](https://cites.org/eng/prog/terrestrial_fauna/elephants)).
9. The present Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2022/076 of 25 October 2022.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

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[cites.org](https://cites.org)

EXTRACT FROM RESOLUTION CONF. 10.10 (REV. COP18)  
REGARDING MARKING OF IVORY AND TRADE IN ELEPHANT SPECIMENS

**Regarding marking**

2. RECOMMENDS that whole tusks of any size, and cut pieces of ivory that are both 20 cm or more in length and one kilogram or more in weight, be marked by means of punch-dies, indelible ink, or other form of permanent marking, using the following formula: country-of-origin two-letter ISO code, the last two digits of the year / the serial number for the year / and the weight in kilograms (e.g. KE 00/127/14). It is recognized that different Parties have different systems for marking and may apply different practices for specifying the serial number and the year (which may be the year of registration or recovery, for example), but that all systems must result in a unique number for each piece of marked ivory. This number should be placed at the 'lip mark', in the case of whole tusks, and highlighted with a flash of colour;

**Regarding trade in elephant specimens**

7. FURTHER URGES those Parties in whose jurisdiction there is an ivory carving industry, a legal domestic trade in ivory, an unregulated market for or illegal trade in ivory, or where ivory stockpiles exist, and Parties that may be designated as ivory importing countries, to ensure that they have put in place comprehensive internal legislative, regulatory, enforcement and other measures to:
  - a) regulate the domestic trade in raw and worked ivory;
  - b) register or license all importers, exporters, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers dealing in raw or worked ivory;
  - c) introduce recording and inspection procedures to enable the Management Authority and other appropriate government agencies to monitor the movement of ivory within the State, particularly by means of:
    - i) compulsory trade controls over raw ivory; and
    - ii) comprehensive and demonstrably effective stock inventory, reporting, and enforcement systems for worked ivory;
  - d) .....; and
  - e) maintain an inventory of government-held stockpiles of ivory and, where possible, of significant privately held stockpiles of ivory within their territory, and inform the Secretariat of the level of this stock each year before 28 February, *inter alia* to be made available to the programme Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) for their analyses, indicating the number of pieces and their weight per type of ivory (raw or worked); for relevant pieces, and if marked, their markings in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution; the source of the ivory; and the reasons for any significant changes in the stockpile compared to the preceding year;
11. DIRECTS the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to provide technical assistance to Parties to:
  - a) .....
  - b) support, where requested, the security and registration of government-held ivory stockpiles and provide practical guidance for the management of these stockpiles

MODEL INVENTORY FOR THE DECLARATION OF AN IVORY STOCK

The following table gives an example that could be used to provide a full inventory.

GOVERNMENT-HELD STOCKS OF ELEPHANT IVORY							
For RAW IVORY							
Identification number (tusk number)	Date received (dd.mm.yyyy)	Country of origin (country name or 'unknown')	Type of specimen (e.g. whole tusk or broken piece)	Acquisition (e.g. seized, confiscated, found or PAC <sup>1</sup> )	Weight (kg)	Length (cm) (straight line from base to tip)	Circumference at widest part (cm)
data	data	data	data	data	data	data	data
data	data	data	data	data	data	data	data

For WORKED IVORY						
Description	Date received (dd.mm.yyyy)	Country of origin (country name or 'unknown')	Source (e.g. seized or confiscated)	Weight (kg)	Length (cm)	
data	data	data	data	data	data	
data	data	data	data	data	data	

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<sup>1</sup> Problem Animal Control.

PRIVATELY HELD STOCKS OF ELEPHANT IVORY							
For RAW IVORY							
Identification number (tusk number)	Date received (dd.mm.yyyy)	Country of origin (country name or 'unknown')	Type of specimen (e.g. whole tusk or broken piece)	Acquisition (e.g. seized, confiscated, found or PAC <sup>2</sup> )	Weight (kg)	Length (cm) (straight line from base to tip)	Circumference at widest part (cm)
data	data	data	data	data	data	data	data
data	data	data	data	data	data	data	data

For WORKED IVORY					
Description	Date received (dd.mm.yyyy)	Country of origin (country name or 'unknown')	Source (e.g. seized or confiscated)	Weight (kg)	Length (cm)
data	data	data	data	data	data
data	data	data	data	data	data

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<sup>2</sup> Problem Animal Control.