NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/069

Geneva, 16 June 2023

CONCERNING:

Call for information and reporting from all Parties, especially transit and destination countries of totoabas (Totoaba macdonaldi)

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties to CITES adopted, inter alia, Decisions 18.292 (Rev. CoP19) and 19.75 on Totoabas (Totoaba macdonaldi), as follows:

   Directed to Parties in collaboration with relevant stakeholders

   18.292 (Rev. CoP19) Parties affected by illegal fishing and trafficking of totoabas, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, are encouraged to:

   a) fully implement the measures and activities outlined in the online Meeting of Range, Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba agreed outcomes document, as relevant to them, to prevent and combat this illegal trade;

   b) draw upon the secure law enforcement communication channels and tools provided by INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization to share information on seizures and arrests associated with totoaba specimen trafficking;

   c) engage in awareness-raising activities on the illegal trade in totoaba, and its severe implications for the conservation of vaquitas (Phocoena sinus), including demand reduction campaigns, as well as activities to eliminate supply and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba, taking into consideration the measures and activities outlined in the Meeting of Range Transit and Consumer States of Totoaba agreed outcomes document under the heading Opportunities to eliminate supply and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba; and

   d) provide financial and in-kind support for the implementation of the study called for in Decision 18.294 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph c) to be presented before the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee.

   ...
**Directed to Parties**

19.75 Parties are encouraged to:

a) support efforts related to the recovery and monitoring of wild populations of totoaba and vaquita;

b) make every effort to support Mexico in the implementation of Decision 18.293 (Rev. CoP19); and

c) support efforts to eliminate supply of and demand for illegally sourced specimens of totoaba to address and prevent their illegal trade.

2. The Conference of the Parties also adopted Decision 18.294 (Rev. CoP19), paragraph a), which directs the Secretariat to seek information from Parties on their implementation of Decision 18.292 (Rev. CoP19). Further, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 19.76 directed to transit and destination countries affected by totoaba specimen trafficking, encouraging these Parties to report to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee on their implementation of Decisions 18.292 (Rev. CoP19) and 19.75.

3. With the present Notification, the Secretariat seeks information and invites reporting from Parties in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned Decisions. The Secretariat encourages in particular all Parties mentioned in paragraph 37 of document SC74 Doc. 28.5 to report, i.e. Canada, China including Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and Viet Nam.

4. Parties are invited to submit their reports to the Secretariat no later than 31 July 2023.