



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/078

Geneva, 11 July 2023

CONCERNING:

Taxonomy and nomenclature of African elephants (*Loxodonta* spp.)

1. In accordance with paragraph a) of Decision 19.275, the Secretariat is seeking the perspectives of Parties and other stakeholders on the potential effects of recognizing African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) as a separate species to African savannah elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) for CITES purposes.
2. Pursuant to paragraph b) of Decision 19.275, the Secretariat is developing a list of all current Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties that would be impacted by such a change of nomenclature and invite Parties and other stakeholders to indicate in their responses the potential impacts of recognising *L. cyclotis* as a separate species for CITES purposes on Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties.
3. The Secretariat draws the Parties' attention to document [AC32 Doc. 46](#) that provides an update on the latest developments on the taxonomy and nomenclature of African elephants (*Loxodonta* spp.).
4. The Secretariat further recalls that, at its 32nd meeting, the Animals Committee "acknowledged the scientific merit of recognizing the two species of African elephants, recognizing that hybrids and mixed-species groupings occur, and noted that a relevant nomenclature standard reference for these animals be further deliberated intersessionally, with the outcomes of deliberations reported back to its 33rd meeting." The Animals Committee further "requested the Secretariat to include in the Notification described in Decision 19.275, paragraph a), a request for suggested publications that can serve as nomenclatural standard reference for African elephants." [see executive summary [AC32 Sum. 3 \(Rev. 1\)](#)]
5. Parties are invited to send their comments and suggested publications that can serve as nomenclatural standard reference for African elephants to juan.vasquez@cites.org before **10 August 2023**.