

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/082

Geneva, 13 July 2023

CONCERNING:

Monitoring the illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens -
Validation of ETIS data

1. The Secretariat reminds Parties that, in line with Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, Annex 1 on *Monitoring illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens*, elephant ivory or other elephant specimen seizures made at an international border, or at a domestic level should be reported to the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS).
2. ETIS was established under the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) to monitor the pattern and scale of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens. ETIS is managed and coordinated by TRAFFIC in consultation with the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat.
3. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19), including amendments to Annex 1 on *Monitoring illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens*.
4. The Secretariat would like to draw Parties attention to specific provisions relating to the data scope agreed by Parties in paragraph 2 of Annex 1 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) and to information relating to the data sources used by TRAFFIC.
 - a) Paragraph 2 in Annex 1 specifies the data relating to seizures of elephant specimens **to be collected by Parties** and consolidated and analysed by TRAFFIC in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat and the TAG.
 - b) The same section also provides for Parties to validate seizure data relating to their country through ETIS Online or in response to a Notification issued by the Secretariat on an annual basis prior to the analysis of the data.
 - c) In terms of the provision in the Resolution, TRAFFIC will include seizure data relating to a country in the analysis unless the Party indicates through ETIS Online or within the timeframe specified in the Notification that the data should not be included (see paragraph 6 and 8 of this Notification for the applicable deadlines).
5. Parties should note that TRAFFIC collects and includes seizure records that are not submitted by the CITES Management Authorities (non-Management Authority (non-MA) sources) in the seizure

database (see information document [CoP19 Inf 40](#)). It is therefore important that Parties review and validate the data because TRAFFIC will include these non-MA data in the analysis unless the Party concerned informs TRAFFIC that the data should not be included. If a Party does not respond within the timeframe specified, all data (seizure data submitted by Management Authorities or authorized agencies as well as non-MA sources) will be included in the analysis.

6. Parties are requested to **review and validate 2022 ETIS records by 3 August 2023**. Parties are also welcome to suggest amendments or submit an inquiry relating to records for any previous years.
7. Parties registered to [ETIS Online](#) can review and validate seizure records under the 'Outputs' menu:
 - a) For records of seizures made in country (*To Review Records*), Parties can approve the records to be included in future ETIS analyses if no issues are noted. Otherwise, Parties can use the available links to suggest amendments if any discrepancies are noted, or to provide a justification if they request that the record be deleted from the ETIS database.
 - b) For records of seizures that implicated the Party (*Implicated Records*), Parties can submit an inquiry that will notify the submitting Party, the Secretariat and TRAFFIC that an inquiry has been made. Management Authorities that originally submitted the record to ETIS are requested to respond to the inquiry within two weeks of email receipt to resolve any noted discrepancies. If the records were added by TRAFFIC from non-Management Authority sources, TRAFFIC will respond to the inquiry within two weeks.
8. Parties with no access to [ETIS Online](#) and that cannot register to the data portal can provide an email address to the Secretariat or TRAFFIC to request an emailed copy of ETIS records pending validation as well as implicating records. Files will be emailed as an Excel spreadsheet format to the email address provided. Parties are requested to respond with their validation **within three weeks** of receipt of the files. If no response is received, TRAFFIC will assume, as explained in paragraphs 4 and 5 above that the data are validated and will include the records in the ETIS analyses to the Parties.
9. The Secretariat notes the training video on how to use ETIS online is available at: https://etisonline.org/system/videos/etis-training-2023_03_28.mp4 and that TRAFFIC is available to provide further help on using ETIS Online and how to register to the website. Please contact etis@traffic.org for further information.