



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/124

Geneva, 7 November 2023

CONCERNING:

CITES Illegal Trade Database dissemination platform

1. Up to October 2023, over 116,000 seizure records reported by Parties and territories in their Annual Illegal Trade Reports (AITR) were recorded in the CITES Illegal Trade Database maintained by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on behalf of the CITES Secretariat.
2. The Secretariat is pleased to inform Parties that the CITES Illegal Trade Database dissemination platform is now available for use by Parties. The dissemination platform enables direct access to data recorded in the CITES Illegal Trade Database for which the reporting Party indicated that it should be made available to Parties for research and analysis of wildlife and forest crime as it affects them, and to the members of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) for ICWC global research and analysis studies on wildlife and forest crime. Where specified by the reporting Party that the data should not be made available for these purposes, access to the data is restricted and it is only accessible to the Secretariat and the reporting Party when using the dissemination platform.
3. Data related to seizures of elephant specimens that the reporting Party indicated should be made available to the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) will be extracted from the CITES Illegal Trade Database. The Secretariat will prepare it for submission to ETIS to support the monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens as provided for in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens*.
4. The CITES Illegal Trade Database dissemination platform is password-protected and its use restricted to representatives from governmental agencies. Only authorized users from governmental agencies nominated by Parties and ICWC partners will be granted access to the dissemination platform. Users will be verified by the CITES Secretariat before access is granted. There is no limit to the number of users for which a Party could request access.
5. Applications to register dissemination platform users should be submitted online to the CITES Secretariat using the registration tab available on the CITES Illegal Trade Database home page (<http://citesdata.un.org/>).
6. When logging into the CITES Illegal Trade Database through the dissemination platform, authorized users will be required to agree to the Terms and Conditions of Use of data from the CITES Illegal Trade Database. These Terms and Conditions of Use are included in the Annex to the present Notification.

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

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7. The value of the CITES Illegal Trade Database is becoming increasingly evident as more data is recorded in it. With its dissemination platform now enabling Parties and ICCWC partner organizations to directly access data recorded in the database, the Secretariat trusts that the database will become over time a powerful tool to draw upon to support research, analyses, decision-making and the development of appropriate law enforcement responses to wildlife crime.

Terms and Conditions of Use of the CITES Illegal Trade Database

Data Use and Accuracy

Data from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Illegal Trade Database must be treated as official governmental data with a restricted and confidential classification. Data extracted from the CITES Illegal Trade Database and used must be securely managed and stored in accordance with applicable national governmental policies and directives governing the use and storage of such data. For security reasons, data must be deleted from any devices when no longer needed.

In accordance with CITES Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP 19) on *National reports*, the following Users have access to the data in the CITES Illegal Trade Database unless specified by the Party submitting the data (the reporting Party): Parties and International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) partner organizations.

Users accessing the CITES Illegal Trade Database and using data from the database agree to only use this data to conduct research and analysis in accordance with the aforementioned Resolution: The Party who submitted the data can use the data contained in the CITES Illegal Trade Database for any purpose (in this context, the reporting Party is considered to be the owner of the data). Users from other Parties may only use the data for research and analysis of wildlife and forest crime as it affects them. Members of ICCWC may only use the data for ICCWC global research and analysis studies on wildlife and forest crime.

The data remains the property of the reporting Party. Users may not share or pass on the data to third parties without explicit consent of the reporting Party; the data must never be used for commercial purposes.

The User of the data must obtain prior informed consent from the reporting Party, should the need arise to publish such data or make it available in the public domain. In such cases, proof that prior consent was obtained must be submitted to the CITES Secretariat (info@cites.org). Any alterations or aggregations made to or using data from the CITES Illegal Trade Database and intended for publication, dissemination or placement in the public domain, must be accompanied by a statement from the author(s), clearly describing the nature of any alterations effected.

The CITES Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) strive for the highest level of accuracy and are committed to promptly correcting any errors. The two organizations do not guarantee or make any express or implied representations regarding the accuracy, reliability, correctness, fitness for use for a particular purpose, or otherwise, whatsoever, of any of the data in the CITES Illegal Trade Database.

The UNODC periodically incorporates, without notice, revisions, updates, and improvements to the content of this website according to the availability of sources but undertakes no obligation to do so, timeously or at all.

Cost of data from the CITES Illegal Trade Database

Data from the CITES Illegal Trade Database is made available free of charge, but in exceptional cases and if requested, the CITES Secretariat or UNODC may need to recover staff costs for handling complicated data queries.

Country or Area Designations

The designations employed and the presentation of the material within the CITES Illegal Trade Database do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations

concerning the legal status of any country, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontier or boundaries.

Recommended Citation

Any data from the CITES Illegal Trade Database used in papers, reports, publications or any other output will be given proper acknowledgement.

The following citation should be used: [CITES Illegal Trade Database] [Date accessed]

Translations

If a User creates a translation of this work, please add the following disclaimer along with the citation:

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The CITES Secretariat reserves the right to deny in its sole discretion any user access to this Platform or any portion thereof without notice. In the event of non-compliance with the terms and conditions applicable to the access and use of data from the CITES Illegal Trade Database, or inappropriate use of the data, access to the database can be withdrawn and the user will be informed about the termination.

Security

Any confidential information provided to the Platform by users is held with the utmost care and security and is not used in any manner or in any additional site-specific policies without users' explicit consent.

Notification of Amendments

The CITES Secretariat and UNODC reserve the right to amend this policy at their own discretion. Notifications of any significant amendment will be posted on this page.