



# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2024/019

Geneva, 15 January 2024

CONCERNING:

## Elephant ivory stocks: marking, inventories and security

1. The purpose of this Notification is to remind Parties of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on *Trade in elephant specimens* containing, amongst others, the following provisions<sup>1</sup>:
  - 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 stockpiles and significant privately held ivory stockpiles, 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. Parties wishing to seek the assistance of the Secretariat in securing and registering stockpiles, as foreseen in Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) are invited to contact the Secretariat.
4. As reported to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat has developed an electronic database to compile ivory stockpile data with the generous financial support of Switzerland. Parties are invited to use the Excel table provided in Annex 2 to the present Notification, if possible, when submitting their data. This will greatly facilitate the inclusion of new data in the database. The Secretariat has developed a video in [English](#) and [French](#) to assist Parties in using the new reporting format.
6. Parties are requested to submit the information no later than **28 February 2024 to [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org) with a copy to [trezza@un.org](mailto:trezza@un.org), indicating the number of the present Notification in the subject line of the email.** Parties are also invited to include information on the ivory stocks destroyed during the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, in particular the volume of raw and worked ivory and how it was disposed of. Finally, in line with recommendation agreed at SC77, Parties are invited to indicate if they have no stockpiles of ivory.

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<sup>1</sup> The provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) referred to are contained in Annex 1 to the present Notification.

7. The Secretariat published the summary data based on the inventories submitted by Parties for 2022, 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)).
8. The present Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2023/004 of 10 January 2023.

EXTRACT FROM RESOLUTION CONF. 10.10 (REV. COP19)  
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