



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2024/068

Geneva, 30 May 2024

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 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 the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), 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 to 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 analyzed 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 accordance with 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](#) and paragraphs 55 – 62 in Annex 2

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to document [SC77 Doc. 63.1 \(Rev. 2\) – Appropriateness of ETIS data](#)). 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 2023 ETIS records by 27 June 2024**. 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. Party Management Authorities that originally submitted the record to ETIS are requested to respond to the inquiry within three 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 three weeks.
8. Parties with no access to [ETIS Online](#) and that cannot register to the data portal can provide an email address to 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. Parties are encouraged to examine seizure records related to their country or territory on ETIS Online, and address any open inquiries submitted by other Parties during the last ETIS data validation cycle that was initiated through the publication of [Notification to the Parties No. 2023/082](#). Records with open inquiries can be identified by a "Yes" appearing in the column *Under Review* in the results page of the *To Review, Validated, and Implicated Records* page. Details of any inquiry(ies) related to the specific seizure records can be further examined under the seizure *Review* link and inquiry-specific *View* links appearing at the top of the detailed seizure record page.
10. TRAFFIC is available to support Parties in using ETIS Online to submit and review seizure inquiries and to register to the website. Please contact etis@traffic.org for further information.