



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2009/004

Geneva, 3 February 2009

CONCERNING:

Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory

1. The Secretariat reminds Parties of the considerable time, money and effort that have been devoted to the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) and encourages them to submit reports on all seizures of ivory and other elephant products.
2. An electronic version of the ETIS *Data collection form* and *Explanatory notes* to report seizures of ivory and other elephant products are attached.
3. Reports may be submitted for inclusion in ETIS in printed or electronic form to the CITES Secretariat for passing to TRAFFIC, or directly to TRAFFIC. To ensure that any such information will be included in the forthcoming analysis of ETIS data for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, 16-28 January 2010, Parties should ensure that their submissions reach TRAFFIC by 15 May 2009. TRAFFIC's contact details are:

TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa
c/o WWF Southern Africa Regional Programme Office

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4. Alternatively, TRAFFIC will also accept electronic or printed spreadsheets of elephant product seizure information as long as they contain the minimum set of data required for entry into ETIS. With reference to the data collection form, the minimum information required to enable entry of a seizure case into ETIS is:
 - (Question 1) source of data;
 - (Question 2) date of seizure AND the agency or authority responsible for the seizure;
 - (Question 4) location of the seizure; and
 - (Question 9) number and/or volume of ivory seized by type (i.e. raw, semi-worked or worked ivory); or
 - (Question 10) number and/or volume of non-ivory elephant product seized.
 5. Cases that are reported without the above information cannot be entered into ETIS and TRAFFIC will have to seek further details from the appropriate authorities.
 6. Parties are also encouraged to include other important information, if known, particularly (Question 5) country of origin, (Question 6) country of export/re-export and (Question 7) country of destination/import for the elephant products seized, as this information serves to strengthen any subsequent analysis of the ETIS data.
 7. Parties are reminded that ETIS includes records of elephant product seizures that have occurred since 1989. Thus, Parties are encouraged to review and provide information on seizures that have occurred in the past but that have not been reported to ETIS yet.
 8. Parties are advised that they should also communicate the absence of ivory or other elephant product seizures within the course of a year. Indeed, a report that no seizures have been made is far more useful than not communicating any information at all.
 9. In reporting ivory seizures, Parties are asked to pay particular attention to the need to identify the type of ivory involved. ETIS recognizes three types of ivory: 'raw ivory', 'semi-worked ivory' and 'worked ivory'. Definitions of these ivory types are found in the *Explanatory notes*. Failure to indicate the precise type of ivory seized is the most common problem preventing data entry of ivory seizure cases and clarifying this issue with Management Authorities usually takes considerable time.
 10. Finally, Parties that have not yet reviewed their latest ETIS Country Report are advised to do so and provide updated information where appropriate.
 11. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2006/077 of 21 December 2006.