



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2013/044

Geneva, 24 September 2013

CONCERNING:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Destruction of ivory stockpile

1. On 8 October 2013, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service plans to crush and destroy approximately 5.4 tonnes of elephant ivory that was seized for violations of national wildlife laws, including CITES-implementing legislation. The material will include raw and carved whole tusks, smaller carvings, and other elephant ivory items abandoned or forfeited to the Fish and Wildlife Service as a result of its criminal investigations as well as its anti-smuggling efforts at ports of entry over the past 25 years.
2. The destruction of this ivory stockpile is part of a series of actions that are planned by the United States to draw attention to the increased level of poaching and illegal trade that is threatening wild populations of elephants, rhinoceroses and other species, and to strengthen efforts to crack down on these criminal activities. These actions are part of a coordinated effort by the United States Government to implement President Barack Obama's Executive Order on Combating Wildlife Trafficking, which, among other things, creates a Presidential Task Force charged with developing and implementing a National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking. For more information on the Executive Order, see: [www.fws.gov/international/advisory-council-wildlife-trafficking](http://www.fws.gov/international/advisory-council-wildlife-trafficking).
3. The United States has requested the Secretariat to inform CITES Parties that they are invited to support their action on 8 October by destroying their own stockpiles of confiscated ivory or other illegally traded CITES specimens to demonstrate that all CITES Parties stand together in the global effort to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade.