

This document has been submitted by Namibia.



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

Control system for worked ivory in Namibia

Background

The production of high-value modern jewellery pieces containing traditional ivory amulets, known as 'ekipas' is well-established in Namibia. Such items have thus far used antique ekipas considered as pre-Convention ivory. Much of Namibia's cultural heritage has been lost through the export of such pieces, and it is evident that the supply of antique ekipas has become severely limited. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), has accordingly designed a system for the legal production of new ekipas in collaboration with the jewellery industry of Namibia. CITES approval is sought for the export of items of modern jewellery of high value, involving ekipas permanently mounted in precious metals and other materials and rendered uniquely identifiable through a combination of engraved marks, documentation and a photographic record of each item.

This trade will be based on a collaborative programme of Government, communities and the private sector. Exceptional jewellery design and manufacturing skills in the private sector in Namibia will be combined with traditional skills at community level. Apart from achieving value-addition to raw ivory, the industry will support elephant conservation, community-based natural resource management, revive traditional knowledge and cultural heritage and provide a framework for transfer of skills from the private sector.

Regulation of manufacturing of and trade in worked ivory in Namibia

Namibian legislation provides for all aspects regarding the possession, transport and trade in any item originating from elephants, including comprehensive controls over possession, import, export as well as procedures and requirements regarding the manufacturing and trade involving parts and derivatives of elephants. The following outlines the proposed system that will be put in place to regulate and control the proposed worked ivory industry within Namibia (in relation to Namibia's proposal to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties). These control measures fulfil the requirements for control of worked ivory recommended through Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP12).

Registration of carvers and jewellers

MET will invite reputable private sector companies and community-groups who have a working relationship with MET through the Federation of Namibian Tourism Associations and MET's community-based natural resource management programme to participate in the development of a highly controlled ivory carving industry under MET supervision. MET will register all participating

carvers and jewellers for the proposed worked ivory industry, and maintain comprehensive records for each registration (as it does for existing manufacturers of wildlife-based products). First-time applicants must satisfy MET that they have the required expertise and control measures to comply with all control measures and requirements. A registration will be valid for one year only, and renewal is conditional on compliance with all control measures established by MET.

Issuance of raw ivory

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism serves as the national repository for ivory that is State-owned or is placed into State custody. Elephant parts and derivatives in State ownership under MET management originate from natural mortalities, natural breakages and management practices and items forfeited to the State by a court of law. Ivory for the worked ivory industry will strictly originate from the national stockpile. Not more than 50 kg of ivory will be supplied to a registered carver at one time. A sample will be kept from each tusk, marked for potential forensic use.

At the time of issuing raw ivory to carvers, a uniquely numbered register will be provided to the carver (Annex 1), including details of the ivory supplied. This register will be in triplicate, where:

- the original (on security paper) will be taken by the carver;
- the second copy will be placed on the MET file of the particular registered carver, to facilitate control of report-back;
- the third copy will remain with MET, as a separate record of ivory issued.

Carvers

At any time, a registered carver must be able to account for every piece of ivory in his/her possession, by means of an original, valid and up to date "Register of ivory for ivory carvers" document, corresponding to the ivory in his/her possession. Only the original document, on security paper, will act as the permission to be in possession of the ivory in question, provided that it is properly signed and stamped.

The carver will be required to write in the details of the date when the ivory started to be worked, and details of every item that is produced, the unique carver's serial number allocated to that item (which must be engraved on the reverse side of each item), and the weight of each item. When an item is transferred to a registered jeweller, the date and details of such jeweller must be completed on the form, and endorsed with the jeweller's signature. When completed, this form serves as the report-back mechanism to MET required before any additional raw ivory can be issued to such registered carver. In this way, at no time would any registered carver be in legal possession of more than 50 kg of raw ivory. This report-back provides the opportunity to MET to check that the items produced do not exceed the possible volume of items expected from the legally supplied raw ivory.

Jewellers

Registered jewellers acquiring ekipas from registered carvers will be required to maintain a comprehensive register of every item obtained (Annex 2). This register will be provided to registered jewellers in a book form with numbered, self-carbonated duplicated pages, on security paper. Every item acquired must be entered into this register, and the registered carver must endorse the entries with a signature.

Each finished item has to be marked with a unique number to be engraved on the reverse side of the item in such a way that it is fully visible in the final product, and registered with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. At this point, each item will receive a certificate, which will include a photograph of the item in question (Annex 3).

The jeweller must then enter the relevant certificate number in the register. Hereafter, the certificate should accompany the item at all times, as proof of legal origin.

Only registered jewellers may offer ekipa jewellery items for sale. Their registration must be prominently displayed in the sale area. They must be able to produce on demand certificates or

register entries for each of the items in their possession. On sale of any item, the seller must provide to the purchaser the accompanying certificate.

Furthermore, jewellers will be required to maintain invoices of all sales of ekipa jewellery, including the date, name, residential address, country of the buyer, certificate number and retail price of the item(s) sold.

Permit issuance

Permits will only be issued on presentation of the items in question as well as their certificates. Certificate numbers will be included on export permits.

Computer-based data management system

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism will maintain a computer-based data management system to record all registered carvers and jewellers, as well as details of all certified items (including the photograph), and details of export of such items.

Carver and jeweller registers will be used for cross-checking to ensure compliance, and for law-enforcement.



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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

REGISTER OF IVORY FOR IVORY CARVERS

Raw ivory and register issued to: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Registration number: XXXXX

Signature

Date

Description (piece(s) / whole tusk)	Store Identification number(s)	Weight (kg)	Date started processing	Description of Item produced (round/oval/maximum dimension in mm)	Carver's serial number (unique)	Weight (g)	Jeweller			
							Date	Name	Registration number	Signature
					XX 0001					
					XX 0002					

The original of this document is valid permission for possession and transport of the above detailed items within Namibia.

Total weight of items produced		<i>For MET use only</i>
Weight of waste (weight of raw ivory – weight of worked ivory pieces)		

Cop13 Inf. 33 – p. 4

Raw ivory Issued by:
	Name (please print)	Signature	Date
Witness:
	Name (please print)	Signature	Date



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REGISTER FOR IVORY JEWELLERS

Registered carver from whom ekipas obtained				Details of Ekipa		Finished jewellery item
Date obtained	Name	Registration number	Signature of carver	Carver's serial number	Weight (g)	Certificate number

Cop13 Inf. 33 – p. 5

Example of certificate for worked ivory jewellery (to be produced on security paper)



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CERTIFICATE OF LEGAL ORIGIN

Certificate number
XXXXXXX

This certifies that the item described hereunder was legally produced in Namibia, and contains elephant ivory.

Description: Double-stranded necklace made with ostrich shells, with a single elephant ivory ekipa mounted in silver, and two cut tourmalines mounted in silver

Serial number of finished item XXXXXX

Registered jeweller: L. Minta (Registration number xxxxx)

Registered carver(s): S. Sembedi (Registration number xxxxx)