



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2014/045

Geneva, 10 October 2014

CONCERNING:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Stricter domestic measures regarding import of African elephant ivory

1. This Notification is being published at the request of the United States of America.
2. The United States wishes to inform the CITES Parties that it has recently made changes to its stricter domestic measures governing the import of African elephant ivory. Under the new provisions, effective from 15 May 2014, import into the United States of African elephant ivory is prohibited, except in the following cases:
 - a) Raw or worked African elephant ivory may be imported by an employee or agent of a Federal, State, or tribal government agency for law enforcement purposes;
 - b) Raw or worked African elephant ivory may be imported for genuine scientific purposes that will contribute to conservation of the species;
 - c) Worked African elephant ivory may be imported as part of a musical instrument, provided that:
 - i) the ivory was legally acquired prior to 26 February 1976;
 - ii) the ivory has not been transferred from one person to another for financial gain or profit since 25 February 2014;
 - iii) the person or group who is importing the instrument qualifies for a CITES musical instrument certificate; and
 - iv) the musical instrument is accompanied by a valid CITES musical instrument certificate or an equivalent CITES document that meets the requirements of CITES Resolution Conf. 16.8, including that:
 - A. the certificate/document includes a statement that the specimen covered by the certificate/document, which allows multiple cross-border movements, is for non-commercial use and may not be sold, traded or otherwise disposed of outside the certificate/document holder's State of usual residence; and
 - B. the instrument is securely marked or uniquely identified so that authorities can verify that it is the instrument referred to on the certificate/document.
 - d) Worked African elephant ivory may be imported as part of a travelling exhibition, provided that:
 - i) the ivory was legally acquired prior to 26 February 1976;

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- ii) the ivory has not been transferred from one person to another for financial gain or profit since 25 February 2014;
 - iii) the person or group who is importing the worked ivory qualifies for a CITES travelling exhibition certificate; and
 - iv) the item to be imported is accompanied by a valid CITES travelling exhibition certificate or an equivalent CITES document that meets the requirements for travelling exhibitions in Section VI and Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16), including that:
 - A. the certificate/document indicates that the specimen is part of a travelling exhibition;
 - B. the certificate/document includes a statement that the specimen covered by the certificate/document may not be sold or otherwise transferred in any State other than the State in which the exhibition is based and registered, and that the certificate/document is non-transferable; and
 - C. the item is securely marked or identified in such a way that border officials can verify that it is the item referred to on the certificate/document;
 - e) Worked African elephant ivory may be imported for personal use as part of a household move or as part of an inheritance, provided that it:
 - i) was legally acquired prior to 26 February 1976;
 - ii) has not been transferred from one person to another for financial gain or profit since 25 February 2014; and
 - iii) is accompanied by a valid CITES pre-Convention certificate; and
 - f) Legally taken sport-hunted trophies of African elephant, including the ivory, may be imported into the United States, although additional restrictions and requirements may apply depending on the country of origin. (See, for example, Notification to the Parties No. 2014/037 of 11 August 2014.)
3. For additional information, please refer to the following web links:
Director's Order 210 is posted at: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/do210.pdf>
Frequently Asked Questions regarding trade in African elephant ivory are posted at: <http://www.fws.gov/international/travel-and-trade/ivory-ban-questions-and-answers.html>
4. For further information on restrictions and requirements for import of African elephant ivory into the United States, contact the CITES Management Authority of the United States at managementauthority@fws.gov.