



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2017/015

Geneva, 7 February 2017

CONCERNING:

Explanatory notes for the export quotas

Background

1. The Secretariat publishes every year on its website details of export quotas established for CITES-listed species.
2. The export quotas are of four types:
 - a) voluntary national export quotas communicated to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 15 a) of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates*, and paragraph 15 in the Annex to Resolution Conf 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas*;
 - b) export quotas recommended by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee;
 - c) export quotas for raw elephant ivory, submitted in compliance with paragraph 20 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens*; and
 - d) export quotas for Acipenseriformes established in accordance with paragraph 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish*.
3. Unless otherwise specified, the quotas published on the website were established by the Party concerned.
4. The publication of quotas on the CITES website does not imply endorsement by the Secretariat. Voluntary export quotas are established by the Parties and the Secretariat has no indication as to whether these quotas are based on the determinations that Parties are required to make in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, namely that exports should not be detrimental to the survival of the species.
5. Quotas established by the Conference of the Parties are marked with '*'. Those resulting from recommendations of the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee in the context of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on the *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* are marked with '+
6. Quotas established represent the maximum number of specimens that are authorized for export in the current calendar year (January to December) unless otherwise indicated.
7. Unless otherwise specified, quotas refer to specimens of wild origin.

Export permits

8. Management Authorities are referred to paragraph 15 b) of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) concerning references to quotas on export permits. Each export permit issued for specimens of a species subject to an export quota should indicate the total number of specimens exported to date (including those covered by the permit) and the annual quota for the species, in the following format:

1250/4000 (200X)

In this example 1,250 specimens of the species concerned have been authorized to be exported to date **(including those on the current permit)**, out of an annual quota of 4,000 in the year 200X. This information should be provided in block 11a of the standard permit form [see Annex 2 to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17)]. By implication, Management Authorities should keep a running total of all exports authorized for species subject to quotas.

9. When submitting their nationally established export quotas, and when issuing permits, Parties should follow the standard nomenclatures contained in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17) to indicate the names of species. An easy reference to these names is provided to all Parties in the *Checklist of CITES species* as well as in the [database of CITES-listed species](#) accessible through the CITES website.
10. The terms used on permits to indicate the types and sources of the specimens being traded and the purpose of the trade should follow those indicated in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) and in the [Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports](#).
11. Where, for any species, separate annual export quotas have been established according to the source of the specimens, for example wild specimens ('W') and ranched specimens ('R'), the information specified on each export permit should refer to the export quota in relation to the source, and not to the total export quota for the species.
12. When the established export quota for a species refers only to one source, (e.g. 'W'), Parties should not accept specimens from another source (e.g. 'C') as part of the same quota.
13. The Secretariat will recommend to potential importing countries the rejection of permits that do not, where appropriate, include the details referred to in paragraph 15 b) of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17).

Further improvements to the establishment and management of quotas

14. The Secretariat recommends that Parties make quotas as specific as possible, i.e. to refer to a number or other restrictions (weight, measure, age class, etc.), to indicate a requirement for tagging or labelling where applicable, and to describe precisely the type of specimens to be exported (e.g. live specimens, hunting trophies, etc.) and their source (e.g. wild taken, ranched or bred in captivity).

Updating quotas during the current year

15. The Secretariat will publish additional quotas and amendments to quotas on the CITES website throughout the year. It will be clearly indicated where additions or changes have been made, and on what date.
16. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2008/053 of 22 August 2008.