



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2014/037

Geneva, 11 August 2014

CONCERNING:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Suspension of imports of sport-hunted trophies of African elephant taken in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe

1. This Notification is being published at the request of the United States of America.
2. The United States wishes to inform CITES Parties that it has suspended imports of:
 - a) sport-hunted trophies of African elephant taken in the United Republic Tanzania during calendar year 2014; and
 - b) sport-hunted trophies of African elephant taken in Zimbabwe on or after 4 April 2014.
3. The United States has advised that, based on its review of available information, it is unable to make the positive findings required under CITES to allow the import of African elephant sport-hunted trophies taken in the United Republic of Tanzania during calendar year 2014. In addition, the United States has been unable, in accordance with the U.S. Endangered Species Act special rule for the African elephant (a stricter domestic measure), to make a determination that "the killing of the animal whose trophy is intended for import would enhance survival of the species." As the United States was unable to make these required findings, imports of elephant trophies taken in the Tanzania during 2014 are suspended. The United States will reevaluate this decision for calendar year 2015 or upon receipt of new information that demonstrates an improved situation for elephants in the United Republic of Tanzania.
4. As the elephant population of Zimbabwe is in Appendix II, with regard to sport-hunted trophies, no finding is required by the State of import under CITES. However, the same finding that is required under the United States Endangered Species Act for the import of elephant trophies from the United Republic of Tanzania must also be made for elephant trophies from Zimbabwe. The United States has advised that, at this time, it does not have sufficient information to make the required finding. Therefore, until additional information can be obtained and reviewed, and a positive finding made, the United States has established an interim suspension on the import of elephant trophies taken in Zimbabwe on or after April 4, 2014. A final determination of whether the suspension can be lifted will be made in July 2014.
5. For additional information on these decisions, please refer to the following web links:

United Republic of Tanzania - CITES non-detriment finding posted at:

<http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/non-detriment-finding-2014-elephant-Tanzania.pdf>;

U. S. Endangered Species Act enhancement finding posted at:

<http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/enhancement-finding-2014-elephant-Tanzania.PDF>

Zimbabwe - U.S. Endangered Species Act enhancement finding posted at:

<http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/enhancement-finding-2014-elephant-Zimbabwe.PDF>