

**Thailand Submits Progress Report  
on Implementation of Revised National Ivory Action Plan to CITES**

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, Thailand completed and submitted the second progress report on the implementation of the revised National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) to the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on time.

At the 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in July 2014, concerns were raised on the limited progress made by Thailand regarding the implementation of its NIAP. The meeting resolved that Thailand's NIAP must be revised and submitted to CITES Secretariat by the end of September 2014. Progress reports must also be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, respectively. The revised NIAP needs to ensure the enforcement of laws that would more effectively regulate domestic ivory trade, possession and issuance of trade licenses, as well as clamp down on the illegal ivory market.

In response to the recommendations made by the 65<sup>th</sup> CITES Standing Committee Meeting, Thailand has submitted the following: (1) a revised NIAP on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014, which includes: the enactment of appropriate laws and regulations, the establishment of a new registration system for ivory traders and legal possession of ivory products, supervision and law enforcement; (2) a progress report on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015; and, (3) a final report on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

The progress report submitted this time summarized the progress made in implementing the revised NIAP during the previous six-month period (October 2014 – March 2015) which highlights in particular success in accelerating the legislation process to enable the enactment of two primary laws and seventeen subordinate laws such as *amendment of the Wild Animals Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2535 (1992)* in order to prevent the illegal possession of wildlife specimens, carcasses and wildlife products and *enactment of the Ivory Trade Act B.E. 2558 (2015)* to control the trade, export, import and possession of ivory or ivory products from domesticated Thai elephants.

Thailand has also increased its supervision and law enforcement mechanisms and raised public awareness not to import, export, sell and buy illegal ivory and ivory products within the country.

The above actions are in line with Thailand's commitment to preventing, combatting and eradicating illegal ivory trafficking. Various approaches have been taken to conserve and protect elephants, a well-loved and respected symbol of Thailand, under the obligations of CITES.

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