



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



March 26, 2015

Subject: Update on Suspension on Imports of Specific African Elephant Trophies

Background: Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Service is responsible for ensuring that imports of CITES listed wildlife are legally acquired and that trade does not threaten the stability of wild populations. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) further specifies that the import of an African elephant trophy must enhance the survival of the species.

The Service announced, in April, 2014, that it was unable to make positive findings under CITES and/or the ESA with respect to the continued importation of African elephant trophies taken in Tanzania and Zimbabwe during the 2014 harvest. Import of African elephant trophies taken on or after April 4, 2014 in Zimbabwe, and on or after January 1, 2014 in Tanzania, was suspended in 2014. The Service announced today that the suspension for Zimbabwe has been extended into 2015, and indefinitely into the future. The Service expects to announce a decision on the import of sport-hunted elephant trophies taken in Tanzania during calendar year 2015 prior to the hunting season (July 1, 2015).

Action: Service wildlife inspectors will continue to not clear imports of African elephant trophies taken in Tanzania during calendar year 2014. Inspectors will also not clear imports of African elephant trophies taken in Zimbabwe on or after April 4, 2014. Under this trade suspension, the Service will refuse entry to such trophies and allow re-export at the importer's expense. Inspectors may also seize and seek forfeiture of shipments if the importation violates other wildlife trade laws and regulations.

Importers, brokers, and others involved with such shipments are advised to forego importation into the United States to avoid loss of the shipment or the cost of re-export.

This trade suspension does not apply to elephant trophies legally taken in Tanzania and Zimbabwe in 2013 or previous years. However, shipments must include appropriate documentation of the year in which the elephant was hunted.

You may obtain more information about this decision in this [news release](#) and [Q&A](#) document.

This bulletin supersedes and replaces the April 4, 2014 Public Bulletin.

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