CITES Implementations:

Turkiye has been a party of the CITES Convention since 1996. CITES National Regulation was published on 27.12.2001 and was revised in 2019. According to National Legislation Project, Turkey take place in Category A or 1, meaning Turkish Legislation meets the requirements for implementation of CITES.

According to CITES National Regulation; **Management Authority** is; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, **Scientific Authority** is the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and **Enforcement Authorities** are Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Trade.

The trade (export, import and re-export) of the specimen listed in the CITES annexes is controlled with certification by the related to Management Authorities. **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry -General Directorate of Nature Conservation and Nationals Parks is a coordinator and a focal point of CITES Convention in Turkey.** Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs-General Directorate of Nature Conservation and Nationals Parks is responsible for information flow, coordination, cooperation with different government branches. Information is shared between the different government branches in order to support the exchange of evidence among different government branches and agencies in illicit trafficking in wildlife cases.

At the same time General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks is the main Management Authority. The main Management Authority deals with the general coordination, co-operation, communication between Secretariat, Parties, Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities and the other Institution and organizations. It prepares the annual and biannual reports regularly.

The game and wildlife in Turkey is also being managed by General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Sustainability is our essential principle for the management of game and wildlife. Sustainable management, therefore, is only possible with the establishment of protection and exploitation balance.

Enforcement Authorities:

Ministry of Trade has the following tasks:

- -To request CITES documents before any Customs clearance of CITES specimens
- -To prevent illegal trade of CITES species
- -To fulfill the duties and process related to border controls

General Directorate of Customs Enforcement of Turkey is one of four law enforcement authorities in Turkey and it is authorized and responsible for preventing, detecting and investigating all kinds of smuggling attempts through the lands and territorial waters of Turkey.

Turkish Legislation gives Customs Administrations to legal powers to cope with CITES goods smuggling and bio-smuggling. In the case of the smuggling of CITES goods, the penal provision referred to in Article 3/(paragraph 7 and 8) of the Anti-Smuggling Law No. 5607 can be applied:

"A person who exports/imports the goods forbidden by law is sentenced to imprisonment from six months to two years and a judicial fine up to five thousand days."

DG Customs Enforcement of Turkey has long been improving its capacity and ability to fight against CITES goods smuggling by increasing awareness, using training programs, enhancing its technical capabilities with hi-tech tools, systems and databases, and developing its legal capacity.

In our efforts against CITES goods smuggling we benefit from WCO tools and assistance such as CEN which provides valuable tools such as seizures database and communication opportunities with our counterparts from different WCO member countries.

Partnership with other countries' law enforcement authorities and international organizations is another important component of our CITES goods smuggling strategy. We have strong relations and a fruitful collaboration with international law enforcement agencies and other countries.

Turkish Customs have close cooperation with regarding to exchange of information and experience sharing with those international bodies such as INTERPOL, EUROPOL, and SELEC and customs authorities in bilateral, regional and global bases.

As in many countries, we use some tools such as risk analysis techniques and scanning technologies at customs. We use WCO's risk analysis compendiums for the member states in our training programs and teach the beginners how to identify and assess high risk indicators. Enforcement units have several databases and programs to evaluate and control the risks at border crossing points. One of the most useful tools here is the pre-arrival passenger program for airway passengers. Thanks to the program, we can receive advanced passenger information from airlines and have the opportunity to conduct analyses before they arrive at our airports. We also use national and international intelligence resources and some informing resources. In addition, we conduct routine controls to ensure continuous surveillance at border gates.

The classes of biological protection and CITES topics into are included to the training programs for both new and senior officers and Customs Authority cooperate with the experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to teach identification techniques. Customs Authority is trying to increase the awareness levels and capabilities of customs enforcement officers regarding biological protection and CITES items.

Customs controls are conducted by means of risk-based methods on almost all declaration procedures such as summary declarations (pre-arrival declaration), customs declarations (SAD), TIR/Transit carnets, NCTS declarations and express cargo declarations.

Risk profiles targeting risky shipments or declarations are set by Department of Risk Analysis which is overseen by the DG of Risk Management, Liquidation and Revolving Fund based in Ankara. These profiles are created for suspicious transactions, countries or economic operators such as consignee, consigner or customs brokers etc. Denunciations can also be turned into risk profiles to warn the customs officers on the field. Customs Risk Analysis System hosts more than 1.000 central risk profiles. Smugglers including violators of CITES-listed species can be subjected to risk profiles at any time in Turkish Customs.

The Ministry of Interior, through the **Turkish National Police and the General Command of Gendarmerie** has the following tasks:

- -To control and monitor the illegal trade
- -To support the Customs border controls

The trade monitoring and database system:

The trade monitoring and database system was established to issue the CITES permits and certificates electronically. CITES Database program has been working to issue CITES Permits since January 1, 2016.

Trainings on CITES

Turkey has gradually increased wildlife protection activities. The number of trainings given to customs inspectors and police have been increased recent years.

CITES Training Programs/ Awareness Increase

- **-CITES Training programs are performed** by the Management Authority for customs inspectors several times (7 or 8)in a year.
- **-CITES Training programs are performed** by the Management Authority for 50 police 2 times a year.
- -CITES Management Authority (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) has 81 Provincial Directorates. **In-service training on CITES is performed** by the Management Authority for the staff of 81 Provincial Directorates once a year.

IMPROVEMENTS and NEW GOALS:

Turkey has gradually increased wildlife protection activities.

- -The number of trainings given to customs inspectors and police have been increased recently.
- -Turkish CITES Database Program was integrated with "Single Window System" of Ministry of Trade to easify the trade control. Thus customs inspectors will be able to check CITES Permits and documents quickly.
- **-Turkish CITES Regulation was revised in 2019.** It was published in the Official Gazette dated July 20,2019. The revised Regulation includes integration above.
- -ID Manual Books, brochures and posters were distributed to customs inspectors by the Management Authority. (ID Manual Books contain information on Ivory)
- We are trying to strengthen the capacity of CITES implementations by establishing a CITES office at İstanbul Customs.
- National Operation was organized to increase the awareness. Operation Plan covered 17 different cities. (in January, February and March 2020) Within the scope of the operation; the training programs was provided for the personnel of the provincial directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, customs personnel and police. The passengers and cargo

departments were checked at customs points. Within the scope of the operation, The leather companies and pet shops were inspected. The specimens without documents were confiscated and given an administrative penalty.

NIAP:

Turkey has gradually increased wildlife protection activities. As in many countries, we use some tools such as risk analysis techniques and scanning technologies at customs. We use WCO's risk analysis compendiums for the member states in our training programs and teach the beginners how to identify and assess high risk indicators. Enforcement units have several databases and programs to evaluate and control the risks at border crossing points. One of the most useful tools here is the pre-arrival passenger program for airway passengers. Thanks to the program, we can receive advanced passenger information from airlines and have the opportunity to conduct analyses before they arrive at our airports. We also use national and international intelligence resources and some informing resources. In addition, we conduct routine controls to ensure continuous surveillance at border gates.

As the Main Management Authority; we have planned to establish a CITES Office at Customs in Istanbul Airport to strength of capacity on CITES implementations and ensure the prevention of the illegal trade in wild flora and fauna species.

Smuggling is a global problem not only for our country but also for all countries in the world. We are supporting ETIS and NIAP process to protect elephant populations and we will take more measures to prevent the smuggling. However, Turkey is not a range state for elephants and do not have a legal domestic market for ivory. Turkey is mostly a transit country in those smuggling cases and is not an importer of ivory.

In this context; your suggestion regarding Turkey's inclusion in the C category of NIAP, we think is not appropriate.





























































