

Can I import African elephant ivory items for noncommercial purposes?

Certain noncommercial imports are allowed when specific criteria are met:

You may import a *worked* African elephant ivory item into the United States for the *noncommercial* purposes listed below if it was **legally acquired** and removed from the wild prior to the listing of the African elephant under CITES (February 26, 1976):

- sport-hunted trophies (limited to two per hunter per year).
- law enforcement specimens
- *genuine* scientific specimens.
- Worked ivory that was **legally acquired** and removed from the wild prior to February 26, 1976 and is either:
 - Part of a household move or inheritance;
 - Part of a musical instrument; or
 - Part of a traveling exhibition.

The import of *raw* African elephant ivory is prohibited except:

- as part of a lawfully taken personal sport-hunted trophy (limited to two per hunter per year),
- law enforcement specimens, or
- genuine scientific specimens.

You must obtain an ESA permit for import of an African elephant sport-hunted trophy. To apply for an import permit, submit application form [3-200-19](#). Instructions are on the form.

We do not require an ESA import permit for ivory items imported as part of a household move, inheritance, musical instrument, or traveling exhibition.

All ivory items must be accompanied by a valid CITES document from the country of export. You can find contact information for CITES offices at the following website: <http://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp>

All wildlife (including parts and products) imported into or exported from the United States for any purpose must be declared to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement. Contact [the port](#) you intend to use for more information.

If the item is an antique, it must enter through an endangered species “antique port.” U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) designated 13 ports for the entry of antiques made of ESA-listed species on September 22, 1982 (19 C.F.R. 12.26). The following ports are authorized: Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York; Baltimore, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Miami, Florida; San Juan, Puerto Rico; New Orleans, Louisiana; Houston, Texas; Los Angeles, California; San Francisco, California; Anchorage, Alaska, Honolulu, Hawaii; and Chicago, Illinois.

What requirements must be met to import African elephant ivory as part of a household move or inheritance?

African elephant ivory can be imported for personal use as part of a household move or inheritance provided the ivory was **legally acquired** and removed from the wild prior to the listing of the African elephant under CITES (February 26, 1976), and the item is accompanied by a valid CITES pre-Convention certificate. Items are considered part of a household move if they are household effects included when moving your residence to or from the United States provided you own the item and are moving it for personal use and you import your household effects within one year of changing your residence from one country to another.

A CITES pre-Convention certificate should be obtained from the country of export. You can find contact information for CITES offices at the following website: <http://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp>

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What requirements must be met to import African elephant ivory as part of a musical instrument?

Worked African elephant ivory can be imported as part of a musical instrument provided that the ivory was [legally acquired](#) and removed from the wild prior to the listing of the African elephant under CITES (February 26, 1976), and the musical instrument containing elephant ivory is accompanied by a valid CITES musical instrument certificate or an equivalent CITES document that meets the requirements of [CITES Resolution Conf. 16.8](#). Raw African elephant ivory cannot be imported as part of a musical instrument.

A CITES musical instrument certificate or an equivalent CITES document should be obtained from the musician's country of usual residence. You can find contact information for CITES offices at the following website: <http://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp>

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What requirements must be met to import African elephant ivory as part of a traveling exhibition?

Worked African elephant ivory may be imported as part of a traveling exhibition, such as a museum or art exhibit, provided the ivory was [legally acquired](#) and removed from the wild prior to the listing of the African elephant under CITES (February 26, 1976), and the item containing elephant ivory is accompanied by a valid CITES traveling exhibition certificate or an equivalent CITES document that meets the requirements of [50 CFR 23.49](#). Raw African elephant ivory cannot be imported as part of a traveling exhibition.

A CITES traveling exhibition certificate or an equivalent CITES document should be obtained from the country where the exhibit originates. You can find contact information for CITES offices at the following website: <http://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp>

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