NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2013/048

Geneva, 30 October 2013

CONCERNING:

New *Checklist of CITES species*

1. The Secretariat is pleased to announce the launch of the new edition of the *Checklist of CITES species*. This edition includes the changes to standard nomenclature and to the Appendices adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, 2013) and has been enhanced with a number of innovative options and services to facilitate its use and complement other CITES-related information and data resources.

2. Now available exclusively on the Internet, the Checklist can be searched online, printed off as a PDF in two volumes (the *Index of CITES species* and the *History of CITES listings*), or downloaded in other formats that are suitable for use with data and information systems: JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) and CSV (Comma-Separated Values).

3. Parties can query the Checklist and retrieve information according to different criteria, including by CITES Appendix, region, country or territory, or any combination thereof. It is also possible to tailor the PDF outputs of the *Index of CITES species* to contain all records held in the database or any subset selected by the user. The history of listing is displayed on screen for each taxon and can be printed off in one single document covering all taxa. The new platform the Checklist is based on will also make it possible to update it in real time, for instance to reflect amendments to Appendix III or changes to reservations made between meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Users will thus be ensured of always having access to the most recent data.

4. The Checklist is currently fully available in English and partially available in French and Spanish. Work on the translation into these last two languages is currently in progress.

5. A number of additional services are planned for the second version of the Checklist to be launched before the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. For example, the Secretariat is working with UNEP-WCMC to develop Web services to allow Parties to 'pull' species scientific and common names and the relevant Appendix number directly into CITES electronic permits and certificates. This will reduce the risk of introducing errors and simplify workflow. Web services will also allow Parties to 'pull' data from the Checklist into their national checklists, thereby ensuring harmonization of information on CITES-listed species among different checklist electronic systems.

6. The new database version of the CITES Checklist is available at: http://checklist.cites.org.

7. The Secretariat is grateful to the European Union for its financial support, which has made possible the development of this new resource.