



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2015/061

Geneva, 20 November 2015

CONCERNING:

Global forensic capacity to address illegal trafficking in wildlife

1. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted the Decision 16.78 on *Monitoring of illegal trade in ivory and other elephant specimens (Elephantidae spp.)* of which paragraph b) states that the Secretariat shall:
 - b) *examine and advise about existing DNA-based and forensic identification techniques for sourcing and ageing ivory, identify relevant forensic facilities and research institutions, and consider the need for further research in these areas;*
2. At its 65th meeting (SC65, Geneva, July 2014), the Standing Committee in relation to document SC65 Doc. 42.1 on *Elephant conservation, illegal killing and ivory trade*, endorsed Recommendation f) in document SC65 Com. 7 as follows:
 - f) *request the Secretariat to compile a list of appropriate forensic-analysis facilities capable of reliably determining the age or origin of ivory, or both, for distribution to the Parties;*
3. In Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP16) on *Compliance and enforcement*, under *Regarding additional actions to promote enforcement*, the Conference of the Parties recommends that Parties:
 - i) *promote and increase the use of wildlife forensic technology . . . , in the investigation of wildlife crime offences;*
4. A number of other decisions adopted at CoP16 encourage the increased use of forensic analysis to support the implementation and enforcement of CITES. These include among others Decisions 16.84 paragraph d) and 16.89 paragraph b) on *Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae spp.)*, Decision 16.102, paragraph b) on *Snake trade and conservation management (Serpentes spp.)* and Decision 16.136 paragraph a) i) on *Sturgeons and paddlefish (Acipenseriformes spp.)*.
5. To promote and increase the use of wildlife forensic science in the investigation of wildlife crime offences, the CITES Secretariat, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, will undertake a global review of laboratory capacity, in close cooperation with the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science. This work will not only be of benefit in the context of elephants, but also for combating other wildlife crimes more effectively. The purpose of this work is to identify facilities involved in the development or application of identification techniques, in a forensic context, to support law enforcement and to combat illegal trafficking in CITES-listed species.
6. To ensure that a comprehensive review is conducted and to facilitate the provision of information, a questionnaire was prepared which is contained in the Annex (in English only) to the present Notification. The Secretariat invites all Parties to disseminate the questionnaire to any forensic facilities and research institutions that may exist within their territories. The questionnaire is intended to be completed directly by these forensic facilities and research institutions. It can be completed and submitted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wildlifeforensics> (in English only), or submitted to the Secretariat via email at info@cites.org.

7. The information submitted by individual facilities and institutions through the questionnaire will remain confidential and no information will be made public without prior consultation and explicit consent from such facilities and institutions. The submitted information will be used as a first step in conducting the global review of forensic capacity to address illegal trafficking in wildlife, and further consultations with facilities and institutions that submitted completed questionnaires will be conducted as part of this review.
8. Completed questionnaires should be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 31 December 2015.

GLOBAL FORENSIC CAPACITY TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE

The questionnaire can be completed online and submitted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wildlifeforensics> or submitted to the Secretariat via email to info@cites.org. Parties are requested to submit completed questionnaires no later than 31 December 2015.

1. Has your laboratory ever carried out a test that has been used as evidence in a court of law during a wildlife crime investigation? YES NO DON'T KNOW

2. **Casework / Research.** Does your laboratory carry out research or legal casework for the types of biological materials listed? Please tick all that apply.

	<i>Casework</i>	<i>Research</i>	<i>Neither</i>
Terrestrial animal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic animal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timber	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhinoceros horn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elephant ivory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)			

3. **Techniques.** Please tick the casework techniques used in your laboratory for each of the sample types listed.

	<i>Morphology/ Anatomy</i>	<i>DNA analysis</i>	<i>Immunoassay</i>	<i>Chemical profiling</i>	<i>Stable Isotopes</i>
Terrestrial animal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic animal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timber	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhinoceros horn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elephant ivory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)					

4. **Applications.** For wildlife crime investigations, which identification questions can your laboratory address? Please tick all that apply.

	Species	Geographic Origin	Individual	Parentage	Age	None
Terrestrial animal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic animal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timber	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhinoceros horn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elephant ivory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)						

5. Cooperation with other countries. Is your laboratory able to carry out wildlife forensic casework for other countries? YES NO

If yes, please specify:

6. Reference materials. What type of reference materials does your laboratory use to characterise samples in casework? Please tick all that apply.

Physical sample authenticated at your lab
 Physical sample authenticated by a 3rd party
 Electronic data generated at your lab
 Electronic data obtained from an external database

7. Quality Assurance. For casework, what Quality Assurance standards does your laboratory work to? How are you audited? Please tick all that apply.

<i>Audit:</i>	External audit	Internal audit
ISO 9001	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ISO 17025	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GLP/GMP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SWGILD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None/ research only (please specify)		

8. Staff training for forensic casework (if no casework is performed, tick N/A)

	Yes	No	N/A
a) Do staff receive training in forensic practice?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the lab maintain a staff training record?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Are staff certified to perform forensic casework?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Do lab staff participate in regular proficiency testing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Future plans. Are there plans for your laboratory to expand its capabilities in the next 3 years? Please tick all that apply

Improving Quality Assurance
 Developing new techniques
 Increasing staff levels
 Other/ further information:

10. Contact details

Institute name:

Address:

Principal contact:

Role:

Email:

Telephone:

Thank you for completing this survey. Please email the completed version to info@cites.org