



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2017/045

Geneva, 15 June 2017

CONCERNING:

Disposal of confiscated live specimens
Online survey

1. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2017), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 17.8 on [Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species](#). The three annexes to the Resolution provide guidelines for the disposal of confiscated live animals and plants.
2. At the time of the adoption of the Resolution, the Parties adopted Decision 17.118 directed to the Secretariat which requests the Secretariat to:
 - a) *subject to the availability of external funding, develop a questionnaire to be distributed to Parties or gather information by other means, such as a workshop or oral interviews, which would review the use and usefulness of the guidelines contained in three annexes to the Resolution Conf. 17.8 on Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species for Parties in disposal of confiscated live animals and plants as well as evaluate current practice;*
 - b) *subject to the availability of external funding, conduct an analysis of available data on the disposal of confiscated live animals and plants collected through inter alia the biennial reports or other special reports; and*
 - c) *submit this information to the Standing Committee for its consideration.*
3. The Secretariat has developed a questionnaire which aims to review the use and usefulness of the guidelines contained in three annexes and to evaluate current practice in disposal of confiscated live animals and plants. Thanks to a generous financial contribution of the Government of Switzerland, the questionnaire has been developed as an online survey. This should allow more Parties to respond and should facilitate the analysis of the responses by the Secretariat.
4. The online survey is primarily addressed to the Management Authority and the customs authorities in each Party. However, the knowledge and experience of any person involved in the disposal of confiscated live specimens can potentially be useful and there can be more than one response from one Party. Representatives of international non-governmental organizations are also invited to take part in the survey.
5. The online survey is available in the three languages and can be accessed here: <http://citesdisposalsurvey.questionpro.com>. You will need to create a username and a password for accessing the survey. More details on the survey are available in the survey itself.
6. Please provide your responses at your earliest convenience and no later than **16 July 2017**. Any questions on the survey can be addressed to the CITES Secretariat at sofie.flensburg@cites.org.