



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/013

Geneva, 29 January 2018

CONCERNING:

### Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA

1. At its 17th meeting (Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted a set of Decisions on *Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA*, directing the Secretariat to undertake a study, as follows:
  - 17.89 *The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to:*
    - a) *undertake a review of relevant CITES provisions, resolutions and decisions, including Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives, to examine how Parties have applied the interpretation of Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) to wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA, under what circumstances wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA meet the current interpretation, and whether any revisions should be considered, with a view to ensuring that such trade does not pose a threat to the survival of CITES-listed species; and*
    - b) *report the findings and recommendations of this study to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee, the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee, and the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.*
2. At its 69th meeting (Geneva, November 2017), the Standing Committee reviewed the terms of reference of the study in the Annex of document SC69 Doc. 35, and instructed the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties to collect relevant information for collating and inclusion in the study:
  - a) information on cases where they have issued (or not issued) CITES permits and certificates for bioengineered specimens; and
  - b) any other information deemed relevant to the discussion on specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA, including existing reports and literature, examples of specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA, etc.
3. Parties are requested to send the information outlined in paragraph 2 above by email to [haruko.okusu@cites.org](mailto:haruko.okusu@cites.org), with clear reference to Notification No. 2018/013 in the subject line.
4. Parties are also invited to provide succinct responses, submitting the relevant identification and guidance materials by means of email attachment or through a URL link to the relevant site containing such materials.
5. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving the above information by 28 February 2018 in order to have sufficient time to allow the consultant to analyze it and prepare the study for consideration at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.