



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/076

Geneva, 30 October 2018

CONCERNING:

ECUADOR

Galapagos giant tortoises stolen from breeding center

1. This Notification is being published at the request of Ecuador.
2. The CITES Management Authority of Ecuador informed the Secretariat that on 27 September 2018, the Galapagos National Park Directorate filed a criminal complaint in Ecuador following the theft of 123 live Galapagos giant tortoises (*Chelonoidis niger*) from the Galapagos National Park breeding center on Isabela Island.
3. The Galapagos giant tortoise (*Chelonoidis niger*¹) is included in CITES Appendix I.
4. The stolen tortoises range from one to six years in age. One-year-old Galapagos giant tortoises may be around six centimetres in carapace length and weigh an estimated 200 grams. A six-year-old Galapagos giant tortoise could range from 12 to 30 centimetres in carapace length, and weigh around two kilograms.
5. The likely market for the stolen specimens is outside of Ecuador, and the CITES Management Authority of Ecuador therefore requests that the present Notification be distributed as widely as possible among police, customs and wildlife enforcement authorities.
6. Parties are requested to inform the CITES Management Authority of Ecuador should any permits or certificates regarding trade in these specimens be received. The Management Authority of Ecuador also requests that CITES Management Authorities do not approve any export, import or re-export permit applications related to this species before consulting with the CITES Management Authority of Ecuador.
7. Parties that seize illegally traded specimens of *Chelonoidis niger* are also requested to communicate information about these seizures to the Management Authority of Ecuador.
8. For any enquiries, or if any agencies have further information, please contact Danny Rueda Córdova drueda@galapagos.gob.ec or the CITES Secretariat at info@cites.org

¹ The Galapagos National Park Directorate refers to the following synonyms of *Chelonoidis niger*: *Chelonoidis abingdonii*; *Chelonoidis becki*; *Chelonoidis chathamensis*; *Chelonoidis darwini*; *Chelonoidis duncanensis*; *Chelonoidis hoodensis*; *Chelonoidis nigra*; *Chelonoidis phantastica*; *Chelonoidis porter*; *Chelonoidis vicina*; *Chelonoidis guntheri*; *Chelonoidis vandenburghi*; *Chelonoidis microphyes*.