



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2019/070

Geneva, 29 November 2019

CONCERNING:

Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it

1. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted a set of Decisions on *Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable' destinations* (Decisions 18.152 to 18.156). Paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 18.152, which is directed to the Secretariat, read as follows:

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *create and maintain a dedicated webpage on the CITES website to make available the non-binding guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 and to compile reference materials, published references, best practice examples, examples of Parties' appropriate and acceptable destination findings and suitably equipped to house and care for living specimens' findings, and other relevant information;*
- b) *issue a notification within 90 days of the close of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties containing the non-binding guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 on the provisions of paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' for living specimens subject to an annotation referring to 'appropriate and acceptable destinations', as well as Article III, paragraphs 3 (b) and 5 (b) for living Appendix-I specimens; and inviting Parties to submit relevant material for the CITES webpage created under paragraph a).*

Furthermore, Decision 18.154, which is directed to Parties, reads as follows:

Parties are:

- a) *invited to use the non-binding guidance contained in document CoP18 Doc. 44.1 when considering whether the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it; and*
 - b) *encouraged to submit relevant information for the webpage created under Decision 18.152, paragraph a).*
2. The final version of the *non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it* is presented as an Annex to this Notification.
 3. In accordance with paragraph a) of Decision 18.154, Parties are hereby invited to use the non-binding guidance included in the Annex when considering whether the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it.
 4. Pursuant to paragraph a) of Decision 18.152 and with reference to paragraph b) of Decision 18.154, the Secretariat hereby invites Parties to submit any examples of the type of relevant material outlined in paragraph a) of Decision 18.152, for inclusion on the webpage.

5. In addition to the Parties, organizations and other relevant stakeholders, particularly those involved in either transport of live animals, or housing and caring for live animals, are also invited to submit any relevant information, including documents they may have developed or used to provide guidance on best practice in relation to housing and caring for live Appendix-I listed animals, or of relevance to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on *definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations'* concerning elephants and rhinoceroses.
6. In accordance with paragraph b) of Decision 18.154, Parties and other stakeholders are requested to submit information for inclusion on the CITES website to info@cites.org and karen.gaynor@cites.org.

Annex

Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it

With regards to the provisions of paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) and Article III, paragraphs 3 (b) and 5 (b) of the Convention, factors that should be considered when determining whether the proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it may include, but are not limited to:

- a) Physical housing (size and space [adequate space to display normal behaviour; to expand as the animal grows; availability of indoor/outdoor housing; and if animal is on public display, availability of private, off exhibit area], construction materials, shelter from sun/rain, safety and security measures, suitable arrangements for quarantine, substrate type);
- b) Species-specific enclosure furnishings (for example provisions of pools, climbing equipment, hides, nest boxes, plants and hiding places);
- c) Animal care and husbandry (climate conditions, including correct temperature and light; water quality parameters for aquatic species);
- d) Dietary needs (species-specific food and nutritional requirements, access to potable water);
- e) Adequate provisions of suitable veterinary and animal care (sufficient numbers and expertise of staff who care for the animals, disease considerations, preventative medicine);
- f) Wildlife laws (comply with all relevant wildlife laws and/or regulations and possess all appropriate permits and licenses for the species involved);
- g) Social well-being and animal behaviour (appropriate social groupings for the species, methods of integration, appropriate social and behavioural enrichment, ability to separate the group where needed);
- h) Management (facility's adequate record-keeping); and
- i) Any other taxon-specific considerations.