



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2021/060

Geneva, 11 October 2021

CONCERNING:

Guidance for making legal acquisition findings and verifying legality

1. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted a set of Decisions on *Guidance for making legal acquisition findings* (Decisions 18.122 to 18.124). These Decisions are contained in Annex 1 to the present Notification.
2. Pursuant to paragraph a) of Decision 18.123, Parties are hereby requested to provide information on any offer of assistance to developing countries, on request, for the improvement of their capacity to verify legal acquisition, based on nationally identified needs.
3. The Secretariat will also welcome any relevant information, experiences, or examples regarding the use of the guidance in Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings* for verifying legal acquisition of CITES specimens to be exported and any relevant information regarding the applicability of the guidance in Annex 1 to the additional circumstances in Annex 2 to Resolution Conf. 18.7.
4. With a view to facilitate the process of compiling the information provided, the CITES Secretariat has developed a short questionnaire (Annex 2 to this Notification), primarily addressed to the Management Authorities of each Party responsible for making legal acquisition findings and issuing CITES permits and certificates. However, the knowledge and experience of any person or organization involved in designing legality verification systems and making legal acquisition findings (other governmental institutions, academy, private sector, certification bodies, non-governmental organizations, etc.) are very welcome and they are also invited to respond to this questionnaire. Additional information can be provided along with the responses to the questionnaire.
5. Responses should be submitted by email to penelope.benn@cites.org no later than **12 November 2021**.

DECISIONS ON *GUIDANCE FOR MAKING LEGAL ACQUISITION FINDINGS*
(DECISIONS 18.122 TO 18.124)

18.122 Directed to Parties

Parties are invited to:

- a) provide to the Secretariat any relevant information, experiences, or examples regarding the use of guidance in Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings* for verifying legal acquisition of CITES specimens to be exported and any relevant information regarding the applicability of the guidance in Annex 1 to the additional circumstances in Annex 2 to Resolution Conf. 18.7; and
- b) offer, on request, assistance to developing countries, for the improvement of their capacity to verify legal acquisition, based on nationally identified needs.

18.123 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a notification to the Parties requesting input pursuant to paragraph b) of Decision 18.122;
- b) report to the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on the basis of information, experiences and examples submitted by the Parties;
- c) subject to external funding, maintain a dedicated webpage regarding the verification of legal acquisition on the CITES website and update it regularly; and
- d) subject to external funding, organize workshops and other capacity-building activities related to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 and disseminate training material for the verification of the legal acquisition of CITES specimens.

18.124 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7, and, assess the report submitted by the Secretariat regarding the implementation of the Resolution by the Parties and where appropriate, make recommendations for improving the verification of legal acquisition by the Parties for submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.