



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2022/024

Geneva, 14 April 2022

CONCERNING:

CITES directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensic testing

1. The purpose of the present Notification is to invite applications from laboratories that wish to be considered for inclusion in the [CITES directory of laboratories that conduct wildlife forensic testing](#). To apply for inclusion in the directory, the questionnaire available in the Annex to the present Notification must be completed and submitted to the CITES Secretariat. It should be noted that inclusion in the directory is subject to conforming with the criteria set out in paragraph 4 below.
2. The CITES directory of laboratories was developed in support of forensic applications being used to the fullest extent possible to combat illegal trade in wildlife. The directory as well as important information concerning the directory is available on the CITES Secretariat website [Wildlife forensics webpage](#).
3. Paragraph 9. d) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP 18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, directs the Secretariat to:
 - d) *in close collaboration with forensic experts from relevant ICCWC partner agencies and the Society for Wildlife Forensics Science as the professional body engaged by ICCWC to advise the Consortium on wildlife forensic science matters, consider annually any new applications from laboratories for inclusion in the electronic directory of laboratories that conduct wildlife forensic testing and, further, to review existing listings every two years.*
4. Laboratories must conform with the following criteria to be considered for inclusion in the directory:
 - i. The laboratory must carry out forensic casework;
 - ii. The laboratory must operate in accordance with a Quality Management System;
 - iii. The laboratory must have passed an external audit of its Quality Management System, conducted by a competent third party, within the past two years;

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Postal address:
CITES Secretariat
Palais des Nations
Avenue de la Paix 8-14
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

[cites.org](https://www.cites.org)

- iv. The laboratory must be able and willing to carry out wildlife forensic analyses upon request from other countries; and
 - v. The laboratory must explicitly request to be included in the directory.
4. The Secretariat invites all Parties to disseminate this Notification and the questionnaire available in the Annex to any forensic facilities that may exist within their territories, inviting these facilities to apply for inclusion in the directory by completing the questionnaire.
 5. The completed questionnaire should be submitted to Mr. Maroun Abi-Chahine (maroun.abi-chahine@cies.org), with a copy to info@cites.org no later than **15 May 2022**.