

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2022/070

Geneva, 29 September 2022

CONCERNING:

NEW ZEALAND

Trade in New Zealand Green Geckos (*Naultinus* spp.)

1. This notification is published at the request of New Zealand.
2. The New Zealand CITES Management Authority (NZCMA) wishes to provide advice on trade in New Zealand Green Geckos (*Naultinus* spp.) following a review of legally exported specimens. The NZCMA recalls that all species of the genus *Naultinus* were included in CITES Appendix II in 2013, having been included in Appendix III in 2003.
3. Since 1953, export of all geckos from New Zealand has required an export authority to be granted by New Zealand's Department of Conservation. Since 1996, New Zealand policy only allows export of geckos if there is a direct benefit to the conservation of the species in the wild.
4. *Naultinus* spp. geckos are generally difficult to breed in captivity, and poor husbandry practices have reportedly led to high attrition rates in legally exported geckos.

If Parties receive an application for a CITES permit or certificate in respect of trade in New Zealand Green Geckos, the NZCMA wishes to advise Parties that:

5. *Naultinus elegans* (Auckland Green Gecko) have previously been legally exported from New Zealand in sufficient numbers that specimens currently outside New Zealand are likely to be the progeny of legally exported specimens. The NZCMA is not raising a concern in this notification about the likelihood of legal acquisition of specimens/breeding stocks of this species.
6. *Naultinus grayii* (Northland Green Gecko) have previously been legally exported from New Zealand in low numbers. Specimens currently outside New Zealand are unlikely to be the progeny of legally exported specimens. The NZCMA advises that legal acquisition findings for specimens/breeding stocks of this species should be carefully considered in light of this advice and undertaken with extreme care and due diligence.
7. No other *Naultinus* species have been legally exported from New Zealand. The NZCMA wishes to advise Parties that all other *Naultinus* species will be either specimens illegally exported from New Zealand, or the progeny of illegally exported specimens. These specimens will not have been legally acquired. These species are:

- a) *Naultinus gemmeus* (Jewelled Gecko)
 - b) *Naultinus manukanus* (Marlborough Green Gecko)
 - c) *Naultinus flavirictus* (*Naultinus* “North Cape” / North Cape Green Gecko)
 - d) *Naultinus punctatus* (Wellington Green Gecko)
 - e) *Naultinus rudis* (Rough Gecko)
 - f) *Naultinus stellatus* (Nelson Green Gecko)
 - g) *Naultinus tuberculatus* (West Coast Green Gecko)
8. If any Party receives an application for a CITES permit or certificate for trade in specimens of *Naultinus* spp. (other than *N. elegans*), the NZCMA requests that Parties advise and liaise with the New Zealand CITES Enforcement Focal Point at wildlifecrime@doc.govt.nz.