



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2022/080

Geneva, 18 November 2022

CONCERNING:

CITES directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensic testing

1. The purpose of the present Notification is to inform Parties that the *CITES directory of laboratories that conduct wildlife forensic testing* has been updated.
2. The directory was developed in support of forensic applications being used to the fullest extent possible to combat illegal trade in wildlife. Paragraph 9. d) in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP 18) on *Compliance and enforcement* directs the Secretariat, in close collaboration with experts from relevant International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) partner agencies and the Society for Wildlife Forensics Science (SWFS) as the professional body engaged by ICWC, to advise on wildlife forensic science matters, to consider annually any new applications from laboratories for inclusion in the directory and, further, to review existing listings every two years.
3. The CITES Secretariat in close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the SWFS, and in accordance with the criteria for inclusion in the directory, successfully completed updating the directory taking into consideration new applications for inclusion as well by conducting a full review of existing listings.
4. Laboratories must conform with the following criteria to be included 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.
 - 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.
5. The *CITES directory of laboratories that conduct wildlife forensic testing*, available on the Wildlife forensics [webpage](#) maintained by the CITES Secretariat, provides a valuable resource and Parties are encouraged to draw upon it as may be needed.

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

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