

# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/028

Geneva, 16 March 2023

CONCERNING:

Risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade

1. At its nineteenth meeting (Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 19.15 on the *Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade*. Paragraph a) of Decision 19.15 directs the Secretariat to:

*Issue a Notification to the Parties, requesting Parties to report on any measures they have in place to prevent and mitigate the risk of pathogen spillover and transmission from wildlife trade and associated wildlife supply chains including markets, and make the results available on the CITES website as a compilation of responses that could be useful to other Parties.*

2. Measures to be reported on could include *inter alia*:
  - a) definitions adopted relating to zoonoses;
  - b) multi-sectoral approaches adopted in the implementation of the Convention, including in terms of:
    - i) the regulation of trade in specimens of wild animals species;
    - ii) the preparation and shipment of specimens traded in terms of the Convention; and
    - iii) the regulation, registration and administration of captive-breeding, farming and ranching facilities;
  - c) synergies with appropriate national and international animal and public health authorities that have been developed and strengthened; and
  - d) strategies developed to identify and reduce the risk of transmission and spillover of zoonotic diseases and pathogen emergence from traded wildlife, including *inter alia*:
    - i) assessment of risks associated with sources of traded wildlife specimens and associated wildlife support chains especially from areas or involving species known or suspected to be exposed to or linked to potentially harmful pathogens;
    - ii) testing wildlife specimen in trade, including in markets, and associated wildlife supply chains for pathogens, taking into account known or suspected pathogen infection risks;

- iii) containing or mitigating pathogen spillover from specimen known or suspected to be infected, including in markets, or associated wildlife support chains;
  - iv) organization, monitoring, administration of the abovementioned matters; and
  - v) building institutional capacity, including capacity for inter-agency collaboration (for example between agencies tasked with wildlife management, veterinary and public health, trade regulation, and CITES Authorities), as required to implement the abovementioned matters.
3. The measures outlined above are simply examples of the types of measures Parties may have put in place. The Secretariat invites Parties to submit reports on any measures they have in place to prevent and mitigate the risk of pathogen spillover and transmission from wildlife trade and associated wildlife supply chains including markets, taking the above into consideration. Reports should be submitted to [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org) with copy to [thea.carroll@un.org](mailto:thea.carroll@un.org) by **17 April 2023**.