

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/135

Geneva, 27 November 2023

CONCERNING:

Invitation to provide feedback on experience of using the guidance documents and information on the CITES webpage “Appropriate and acceptable destinations”

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted a set of Decisions on *Appropriate and acceptable destinations*, including Decision 19.164, which reads as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

19.164 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *issue a Notification to the Parties within one year of the close of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, inviting feedback on experience with using the guidance documents and other information provided on the CITES webpage “[Appropriate and acceptable destinations](#)”, and*
 - b) *report on this feedback to the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee for their consideration and recommendations, as appropriate.*
2. In accordance with paragraph a), Parties are invited to provide feedback on experience with using the guidance documents and other information provided on the CITES webpage “[Appropriate and acceptable destinations](#)”.
 3. Parties and other stakeholders are invited to submit the information to info@cites.org with copy to karen.gaynor@cites.org quoting the number of the present Notification in the subject line **by 29 February 2024** so that a report can be made available to the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, July 2024).

Background

4. To assist Parties in fulfilling the obligations of Article III, paragraphs 3 b) and 5 b) of the Convention and paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18) on *Definition of the term ‘appropriate and acceptable destinations’*, the Conference of the Parties adopted the [Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen is suitably equipped to house and care for it](#) at its 18th meeting (CoP18; Geneva, 2019).

5. As reported in document CoP19 Doc. 48 and in compliance with Decision 18.152, the Secretariat created a dedicated webpage to make this guidance available and to compile other reference materials, published references, best practice examples, examples of Parties' appropriate and acceptable destination findings and suitably equipped to house and care for living specimens' findings, and other relevant information, as supplied by Parties and organizations in response to Notification to the Parties [No. 2019/070](#). Parties and relevant organizations are invited to continue submitting additional materials to the Secretariat for inclusion on this webpage.
6. To further assist Parties in fulfilling the obligations of Article III, paragraphs 3 b) and 5 b) of the Convention and paragraph 2 a) of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP18), the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022) further adopted:
 - [*Non-binding guidance for determining whether a proposed recipient of a living specimen of African elephant and/or southern white rhinoceros is suitably equipped to house and care for it.*](#)
 - [*Non-binding best practice guidance on how to determine whether "the trade would promote in situ conservation".*](#)