



# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2024/112

Geneva, 4 October 2024

CONCERNING:

## Data protection laws and implementation of Electronic Permit Information Exchange

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19, Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 19.152, paragraph b), on *Electronic systems and information technology*, as presented in the Annex to this Notification. Pursuant to this Decision, the Secretariat invites Parties to report on their application of national data protection laws that affect implementation of Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) for the exchange of CITES permits and certificates.
2. Since a limited number of Parties are currently exchanging electronic permit information, the Secretariat expands the scope of this Notification to all national electronic CITES permitting systems to help identify potential challenges related to these systems and data protection laws.
3. To facilitate reporting, the Secretariat requests responses to the following questions:
  - a) What challenges have been faced in ensuring compliance with national data protection laws for storage, transmission, security and disposal of personal or sensitive data through EPIX and other electronic CITES permitting systems?
  - b) How is user consent managed when sharing personal data through the EPIX system, and have there been any conflicts with national data protection regulations?
  - c) Have there been concerns or restrictions related to the use of third-party service providers for managing data within the EPIX or other electronic CITES permitting systems under national data protection laws and how were they resolved?
  - d) Please provide any additional feedback considered important and not addressed by questions a) to c), including where relevant, information on the harmonization of national data protection laws and its implication on EPIX and eCITES permitting systems.
4. Reports should be submitted to the Secretariat by email to [khan.salehin@cites.org](mailto:khan.salehin@cites.org) with a copy to [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org) by **27 October 2024** with subject line "Notification No. 2024/112: Data protection laws and EPIX".

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

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DECISION 19.152, PARAGRAPH B), ON  
*ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY*

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**19.152** The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding:

...

- b) collect information from Parties on any issues encountered with regard to the application of national data protection laws that affect implementation of Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) for the exchange of CITES permits and certificates;