



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2010/026

Geneva, 19 August 2010

CONCERNING:

### Secretary-General's Certificate of Commendation

1. In 2002, the Secretariat advised the Parties of the introduction of certificates of commendation that would be issued, at the Secretary-General's discretion, to recognize exemplary actions related to enforcement.
2. The latest such Certificates are to be awarded to the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic and the Czech Environmental Inspectorate in recognition of their exemplary work in relation to combating the illegal trade in parrots.
3. Since 2006, the two agencies have collaborated on a long-term investigation relating to the smuggling of rare parrots, which has required liaison and coordination with other law enforcement bodies around the world and with the INTERPOL General Secretariat. The investigation has uncovered widespread forgery of CITES-related documents, false declarations of captive-breeding, and use of fake marking rings. It has also detected new smuggling routes and techniques and required the use of, in the case of wildlife crime, innovative investigative methods that cannot be made public at this time. Seizures conducted during the investigation, of Appendix-I parrots, such as specimens of the Lear's macaw (*Anodorhynchus leari*), are particularly commendable.
4. The investigation continues and prosecutions have commenced.
5. The date and venue for the presentation of the certificates have yet to be decided.