



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/058

Geneva, 4 June 2018

CONCERNING:

Illegal trade in cheetahs

1. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.127 on *Illegal trade in cheetahs*, as follows:

The Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on progress on all of the recommendations in Standing Committee document SC66 Doc. 32.5, paragraphs 17 and 18, and progress in halting illegal trade in cheetahs.

2. The recommendations in document SC66 Doc. 32.5, paragraphs 17 and 18, were adopted by the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting¹, as follows:

Regarding public awareness and education

- a) *Cheetah range States and Parties implicated in the illegal trade in cheetahs are encouraged to urgently develop and launch national public awareness campaigns to reduce illegal offer of, and demand for illegally traded cheetahs, using the communication tools and approaches most effective for their communities and by, inter alia: publicizing law enforcement outcomes; explaining the conservation impacts of the illegal trade; mobilizing social media; using key occasions (e.g. World Wildlife Day) and engaging key influencers; and establishing partnerships with NGOs as appropriate.*

Regarding enforcement

- b) *Range states of cheetahs and countries involved in the illegal trade chain are encouraged to:*
 - i) *Further strengthen national and regional enforcement actions concerning the illegal trade in cheetahs involving all relevant enforcement agencies, and take them into account when developing work programmes and undertaking law enforcement operations;*
 - ii) *Make use of existing systems for exchange of information provided by INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, or as appropriate, establish mechanisms to ensure regular, timely and effective communication between these countries regarding illegal trade in cheetahs;*
 - iii) *As soon as appropriate bring information on poaching and illegal trade in cheetahs, including parts and derivatives, to the attention of relevant authorities in source, transit and destination countries for appropriate enforcement actions and follow-up;*

¹ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/66/ExSum/E-SC66-SR.pdf>

- iv) *Request support from ICCWC partners and subject to available funding, conduct joint operations between East Africa and the Middle East, targeting known or suspected smuggling routes; and*
- v) *Also request that ICCWC and other relevant partners encourage and support Parties in their enforcement operations targeting illegal trade in cheetah specimens conducted via e-commerce.*

Regarding cooperation and information exchange

- c) *The Secretariat, subject to available resources and in cooperation with the World Customs Organization, is invited to explore the establishment of a closed cheetah user group for relevant national competent authorities in order to facilitate the exchange of non-nominal information on illegal trade in cheetah specimens.*

Regarding disposal of confiscated live cheetahs

- d) *Range, transit and destination countries involved in the illegal trade in live cheetahs are encouraged to collaborate on the humane disposal of confiscated live cheetahs through the use of existing and, where required and as appropriate, the establishment of national or regional rescue centres, paying particular attention to maximizing the contribution of the specimens to conservation of the species in the wild; and*
- e) *Parties are requested to inform the Secretariat of facilities available for the disposal of confiscated live cheetahs to be published in the CITES cheetah toolkit and on the website.*

3. At its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017), the Standing Committee established an intersessional working group on cheetahs, with a mandate to provide advice to the Secretariat to support the fulfilment of Decision 17.127. Accordingly, the working group has worked with the Secretariat to prepare a questionnaire to assist Parties in compiling information on the status of the implementation the above recommendations, and progress in halting illegal trade in cheetahs. The questionnaire is contained in the Annex to the present Notification.
4. In order to facilitate the reporting of the Secretariat to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, Parties are invited to submit information on their implementation of recommendations a), b), d) and e) outlined above, as well as on any other measures that might have been implemented to halt illegal trade in cheetahs, by completing the attached questionnaire and submitting it to the Secretariat by 30 June 2018.
5. Completed questionnaires should be sent to: info@cites.org, with a copy to: pia.jonsson@cites.org. The Secretariat will make the responses to the questionnaire available to the members of the working group on cheetah to analyze the responses with the aim to provide advice to the Secretariat to support the fulfilment of Decision 17.127.