



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/XXX

Geneva, <date> 2017

CONCERNING:

### Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

1. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.285 to 17.290 on *Queen Conch* (*Strombus gigas*), of which the following are directed to the Animals Committee:
  - 17.287 *If requested by range States of S. gigas, the Animals Committee shall provide advice regarding the making of non-detriment findings for trade in S. gigas, research in support of sustainable queen conch fishery and trade, and other technical matters.*
  - 17.288 *The Animals Committee shall review the process for the setting of scientific quotas for queen conch, in particular where scientific quotas make up a large portion of the overall export quota.*
2. In relation to Decision 17.288, it is recalled that “scientific quotas” are not defined or used in the context of CITES. When specimens of queen conch are exported as part of a quota, the provisions of Article IV, including the making of non-detriment findings, apply. However, two range States of queen conch have made reference to export quotas “for scientific purposes”, and to export quotas of “scientific catch obtained in the monitoring and stock assessment cruises” (see document AC29 Doc. 26).
3. All export quotas for wild specimens of Appendix II species (as is the case of *Strombus gigas*) are to be supported by a Non Detriment Finding formulated by the Scientific Authority of the exporting Range State, and based on the best technical and scientific information available, regardless of the purpose of the transaction (whether scientific “S”, commercial “T”, medical “M”, educational “E”, or any other code recognized by CITES).
4. In order to facilitate the implementation of Decisions 17.287 and 17.288, the range States of queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) are requested to submit information on:
  - a) the extent to which they use scientific research in the making of non-detriment findings;
  - b) their process for establishing levels of export for specimens of queen conch;
  - c) the process for, and the objectives of setting ‘scientific quotas’, if any, for queen conch; and
  - d) whether the catch from scientific surveys contributes to their overall exports.
5. On behalf of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat hereby invites the range States of *Strombus gigas* to submit relevant information by **[XX February?] 2018 at the latest** so that it can be made available at the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, xx July 2018).