

## **Background - Directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensic testing**

It is essential that forensic applications be used to the fullest extent possible to combat illegal trade in wildlife. This directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensic testing was developed to implement Decision 17.83, paragraph c), adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), at its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016). The full report on the work conducted to facilitate the development of this directory of laboratories is available as [Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 32 on Enforcement matters](#).

Parties are invited to draw upon the directory as may be needed, to access the services of laboratories that conduct wildlife forensic testing, that meet the minimum quality assurance standards, and are able and willing to carry out wildlife forensic analyses upon request from other countries.

### **Criteria for inclusion in the directory**

Laboratories that may wish to be considered for inclusion in the directory should note that they must conform to the following criteria:

- i) The laboratory must carry out forensic casework;
- ii) The laboratory must operate in accordance with a Quality Management System;
- iii) The laboratory must have passed an external audit of its Quality Management System, conducted by a competent third party, within the past two years;
- iv) The laboratory must be able and willing to carry out wildlife forensic analyses upon request from other countries; and
- v) The laboratory must explicitly request to be included in the directory.

### **Laboratories currently included in the directory**

At present (January 2019), nine laboratories that provided information which upon evaluation confirmed conformance with all five criteria above are included in the directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensic testing. These laboratories are located in Australia, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

### **Opportunities for future listing of interested laboratories**

Any laboratories interested to be included in the directory are invited to contact the CITES Secretariat at: [cites.info-cites@un.org](mailto:cites.info-cites@un.org)

Further information on the steps to be followed will be provided upon request.

The CITES Secretariat will work closely with relevant experts from the [International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime \(ICCWC\)](#) partner organizations, and the Society for Wildlife Forensics Science as the professional body engaged by ICCWC to advise the Consortium on wildlife forensic science matters, to annually consider new applications for inclusion in the electronic directory

Existing listings will also be reviewed every two years.