



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/046

Geneva, 7 May 2018

CONCERNING:

Establishment of a cheetah closed user group
on the WCO CENcomm platform

1. At its 66th meeting (SC66, Geneva, January 2016), the Standing Committee adopted the following recommendation: *“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”* (SC66 SR p.36).
2. The Secretariat has therefore worked with the Secretariat of the World Customs Organization (WCO) to establish a cheetah closed user group on the WCO CENcomm platform. The closed user group consists of relevant national competent authorities regarding cheetahs, including representatives of customs, police and wildlife law enforcement authorities, and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs).
3. The closed user group first and foremost provides a secure communication system similar to email, that operates on a secure platform designed for law enforcement purposes. All members of the closed user group will be able to, at their discretion, send messages and information to any other members of the closed user group. Closed user group members will also have access to a digital library of documents which includes alerts and other relevant materials and information. It should however be noted that the library is a restricted-access platform. Members of the user group representing customs, police and wildlife law enforcement authorities will have full access to the group's library of documents. Access to these files will be restricted for members representing IGOs as appropriate. Users will also have access to ENVIRONET, where CITES sample permits and certificates can be accessed.
4. Parties wishing to join the cheetah closed user group are invited to contact the CITES Secretariat (info@cites.org) to request access. These requests must include the following details:

Country	Name	Surname	Organization	Position/Role	Contact number	Official Email address (to be used for communications)