Annex

**CITES directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensic testing**

Forensic facilities interested to apply for inclusion in the *CITES directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensic testing* are invited to complete the below questionnaire. The completed questionnaire should be submitted to Mr. Maroun Abi-Chahine ([maroun.abi-chahine@cites.org](mailto:maroun.abi-chahine@cites.org)), with a copy to [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org) no later than **15 May 2025**.

**Relevant definitions**

**Wildlife forensic science:** The application of a range of scientific disciplines to legal cases involving non-human biological evidence[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Wildlife forensic testing:** Scientific examination and / or analysis of non-human biological sample/s, derived from, or linked to, a wildlife species, with the specific objective of producing evidence for legal cases.

**Legal Cases:** An investigation of a suspected crime undertaken by a national competent authority.

**Mandatory questions**

Considering the definitions above, please read and respond to the following five mandatory questions:

1. Does your laboratory regularly undertake wildlife forensic testing (≥ 8 legal cases per year)?

Yes No

1. Does the wildlife forensic testing undertaken at your laboratory fall within the scope of your Quality Management System developed to meet an appropriate Quality Assurance Standard?

Yes No

1. Can you provide written evidence that your laboratory has passed an external audit, or assessment, of its Quality Management System, conducted by a competent third party, within the past two years?

Yes No

1. Is your laboratory able and willing to conduct wildlife forensic testing upon request from other countries?

Yes No

1. Does your laboratory want to be listed in the *CITES Directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensic testing*?

Yes No

**If you have answered ‘Yes’ to all five questions**, please continue to provide further information about your forensic analysis capacity. Please note that you will need to provide written documentation to support your answer to question iii).

**If you have answered ‘No’ to one or more of these questions**, then your laboratory will not be considered eligible for listing in the CITES wildlife forensic directory and therefore there is no need to complete the questionnaire. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Mr. Maroun Abi-Chahine ([maroun.abi-chahine@cites.org](mailto:maroun.abi-chahine@cites.org)) with a copy to [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org).

**Questionnaire**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1. Legal cases / Research.** Does your laboratory carry out research or does it undertake analyses to support legal cases for the types of biological materials listed? Please tick all that apply. | | | | | | | |
|  | *Legal Cases* | *Research* | *Neither* | |  |  |  |
| Terrestrial animal |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Aquatic animal |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Plant |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Timber |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Rhinoceros horn |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Elephant ivory |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Pangolin specimens |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| **2. Techniques.** Please tick the techniques used in your laboratory for the sample type listed, to support legal cases. | | | | | | | |
|  | *Morphology/ Anatomy* | *DNA*  *analysis* | *Immunoassay* | | *Chemical profiling* | | *Stable Isotopes* |
| Terrestrial animal |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| Aquatic animal |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| Plant |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| Timber |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| Rhinoceros horn |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| Elephant ivory |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| Pangolin specimens |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| **3. Applications.** For wildlife forensic testing, which identification questions can your laboratory address? Please tick all that apply | | | | | | | |
|  | *Species* | *Geographic Origin* | *Individual* | *Parentage* | | *Age* | *None* |
| Terrestrial animal |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Aquatic animal |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Plant |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Timber |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Rhinoceros horn |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Elephant ivory |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Pangolin specimens |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |  |  |  | |  |  |

Please continue to more questions below

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **4. Cooperation with other countries.** Is your laboratory able to carry out wildlife forensic testing for other countries, to support legal cases? YES NO | | | | | | |
| **If yes**, please specify: | | | | | | |
| **5. Reference materials.** What type of reference materials does your laboratory use to characterize samples in legal cases? Please tick all that apply. | | | | | | |
| Physical sample authenticated at your lab | | | | | | |
| Physical sample authenticated by a 3rd party | | | | | | |
| Electronic data generated at your lab | | | | | | |
| Electronic data obtained from an external database | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | |
| **6. Quality Assurance**. For legal cases, what Quality Assurance standards does your laboratory work to? Is Quality Assurance verified internally or by an independent external evaluation? Please tick all that apply. | | | | | | |
| *Verification:* | Internal | | External | | |  |
| ISO 9001 |  | |  | |  |  |
| ISO 17025 |  | |  | |  |  |
| GLP/GMP |  | |  | |  |  |
| SWGWILD |  | |  | |  |  |
| Don’t know |  | |  | |  |  |
| None/ research only (please specify) | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | |
| **7. Staff training for wildlife forensic testing (if no legal case work is performed, tick N/A)** | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| Do staff receive training in forensic practice? | | | | | | |
| Does the laboratory maintain a staff training record? | | | | | | |
| Are staff certified to perform wildlife forensic testing? | | | | | | |
| Do laboratory staff participate in regular proficiency testing? | | | | | | |
| **8. Future plans.** Are there plans for your laboratory to expand its capabilities in the next 3 years? Please tick all that apply. | | | | | | |
| Improving Quality Assurance | | | | | | |
| Developing new techniques | | | | | | |
| Increasing staff levels | | | | | | |
| Other/ further information: | | | | | | |
| **9. Contact details** | |  | |  |  |  |
| Institute name: | |  | |  |  |  |
| Address: | |  | |  |  |  |
| Principal contact: | |  | |  |  |  |
| Role: | |  | |  |  |  |
| Email: | |  | |  |  |  |
| Telephone: | |  | |  |  |  |

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please email the completed version Mr. Maroun Abi-Chahine ([maroun.abi-chahine@cites.org](mailto:maroun.abi-chahine@cites.org)),

with a copy to [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org)

1. Society for Wildlife Forensic Science (<https://www.wildlifeforensicscience.org/mission/>) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)