



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2026/012

Geneva, 20 January 2026

CONCERNING:

CHINA

Changes to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China's
CITES permits and certificates

1. This Notification is being published at the request of China.
2. China wishes to inform CITES Parties that starting from 1 February 2026, new version of CITES permits and certificates will be issued by CITES Management Authority of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China. Two modifications viz. (a) addition of QR code and (b) use of electronic signature will be implemented on each CITES permit and certificate. The general format of the CITES permits and certificates issued by Hong Kong SAR, China remains unchanged.
3. A QR code will be printed on each CITES permit and certificate issued from 1 February 2026. Parties can use any QR code reader on their mobile device to scan the QR code on the permit or certificate, which will then be directed to the Endangered Species Licences Verification System (the "System") on a website of the Government of Hong Kong SAR of China with URL ending with "gov.hk". The permit status and details will be shown in the System. Once the permit or certificate is issued, there will be a green tick mark being denoted, followed by a display of details of the permit or certificate that should match the physical copy presented during clearance of the shipment.
4. Parties can also access the System by entering the permit number and security code (which is printed at the lower-left corner of the physical copy of permit or certificate) on the website **cites.gov.hk/verify**.
5. In addition to the System, handwritten signature on the physical copy of permit or certificate will be replaced by electronic signature on each CITES permit and certificate issued from 1 February 2026.
6. Parties are strongly encouraged to reach out to the CITES Management Authority of Hong Kong SAR, China at hk_cites@afcd.gov.hk if they have further queries to its issued CITES permits and certificates.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

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