



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2015/054

Geneva, 15 September 2015

CONCERNING:

Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Financial support for the Sponsored Delegates Project

1. In one year, the CITES community will convene in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) from 24 September to 5 October 2016. The Secretariat is currently in the process of mobilizing resources to ensure that all the Parties are adequately represented at that meeting through the Sponsored Delegates Project.
2. The Sponsored Delegates Project aims to ensure representation at meetings of the Conference of the Parties of least developed countries, developing countries and countries with economies in transition that do not have sufficient funds to support the participation of two delegates. Full participation in meetings of the Conference of the Parties is essential to ensure that the recommendations and decisions that are voted reflect the agreements reached by the majority of CITES Parties. This is very important given that, in the past, the results of several crucial votes taken at the meetings were decided by very close margins.
3. The Secretariat hereby invites all States and organizations that might be able to provide financial support to inform it as soon as possible of their intention to contribute to this important project. The fund-raising target for this project is USD 1 million, to enable the Secretariat to provide the same level of support to Parties as at previous meetings.
4. Parties that will require financial support for the travel and subsistence of up to two representatives to attend CoP17 should contact the Secretariat to indicate their need for support, specifying whether it is requested for one or two delegates. **Applications for support from the Sponsored Delegates Project must be received by 30 April 2016.**
5. Only requests for financial support submitted by Management Authorities by that date will be considered. They should fill in the attached form and submit it to Mr. David Morgan ([david.morgan@cites.org](mailto:david.morgan@cites.org)) with a copy to Ms. Nadia Berny ([nadia.berny@cites.org](mailto:nadia.berny@cites.org)), or send it by fax to +41 (22) 797 34 17.
6. Regional representatives to the Standing Committee are encouraged to liaise with Parties that have poor access to the Internet in order to ensure that they are properly informed of this Notification and have the opportunity to respond on time. The Secretariat will also inform permanent diplomatic missions based in Geneva for the same purpose.
7. The final list of countries that may be supported will be dependent upon the funds raised. The Secretariat will inform Parties that have requested assistance about the level of support that they will be able to obtain through the Sponsored Delegates Project as funds become available.
8. Since priority will be given to Parties unable to fund the participation of two delegates, Parties requesting support should indicate to the Secretariat the expected total size of their delegations.