

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2016/044

Geneva, 10 June 2016

CONCERNING:

JOINT NOTIFICATION



CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

Regional joint preparatory meetings of CITES and CBD representatives prior to the upcoming meetings of the respective Conference of the Parties (CoP/COPs)

The secretariats of CITES and CBD are planning to convene regional or sub-regional joint preparatory meetings to facilitate preparations for the CITES CoP 17 (Johannesburg, 24 September to 5 October 2016) and CBD COP 13 (including COP-MOP 8 of the Cartagena Protocol and COP-MOP 2 of the Nagoya Protocol, Cancun, 4 to 17 December 2016). The preparatory meetings are planned to be convened in response to the CITES CoP Resolutions Conf. 3.4, 10.4 and 16.4 and CBD COP decisions XII/6 and XII/29, among others, which called for partnerships and synergies with other organizations or biodiversity related-conventions for holding regional preparatory meetings prior to the upcoming meetings of the CoP/COP of respective conventions.

With the generous financial support of the European Union, through a project entitled strengthening the capacity of developing countries in multilateral environmental decision-making: enhancing preparations for CITES CoP 17 and CBD COP 13, the planned joint preparatory meetings will cover Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific regions.

The preparatory meetings are designed to allow some sessions in separate streams for CITES (to review and prepare for CoP 17 agenda items) and CBD (to review and prepare for items under the agendas of COP 13, COP-MOP 8 of Cartagena and COP-MOP 2 of the Nagoya Protocols). Other sessions will be held together in a plenary setting to address common issues, including those that relate to the agendas of both CITES CoP and CBD CoP, for example, on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. Some sessions will provide for briefings, presentation and discussion on relevant priority issues, including those identified by the Parties. Such presentations and briefings may be provided by staff of the convention secretariats, invited observer organizations and representatives of Parties. Other sessions will be reserved for closed regional consultations among Parties. A generic indicative framework for the provisional agenda of the meetings, together with information on the dates and locations of the meetings are provided in the annex to this letter.

In accordance with the terms of the European Union grant funding, the full costs of participation of one representative for each of the two conventions, CITES and CBD, i.e. a total of two representatives from each of the eligible Parties, will be supported, provided the Parties are on the Development Assistance Cooperation list of Overseas Development recipients produced by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. In that context, we are pleased to invite Parties to CITES and CBD to:

1. Nominate one participant to take part in the preparatory meeting for CITES and one participant to take part in the preparatory meeting for CBD at their earliest convenience and no later than **30 June 2016**;
2. Nominate participants, as indicated in paragraph 1 above, who will be part of the national delegation to CITES CoP 17 and to the CBD COP 13 and/or to the concurrent meetings of the COP-MOPs, respectively;
3. Consider sending, if they so wish, one or more additional participants at their own expense and to inform the Secretariats within the same deadline specified in paragraph 1 above, and also taking into account the criterion indicated in paragraph 2 above;
4. Inform the Secretariats of particular issues or items of the agenda of the CoP/COP and COP/MOPs that they would like the preparatory meeting to address and to indicate any matters on which they would like to take a lead in providing a briefing or presentation that would introduce discussion on the item; and
5. Consult, where possible, with other Parties and with the regional members of the CITES Standing Committee and CBD COP 12 Bureau, as appropriate.

Please send your response to both CITES and CBD Secretariats at haruko.okusu@cites.org and secretariat@cbd.int, respectively.

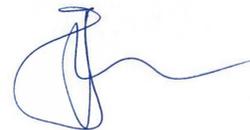
Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to the partner organizations that are providing organizational support for these regional joint preparatory meetings, especially the African Union Commission, the Organisation of American States, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as the Government of Guatemala for its generosity towards hosting the regional preparatory meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the Conventions.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity



John E. Scanlon
Secretary-General
Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Enclosure

Annex

I. Proposed schedule for the regional joint preparatory meetings

Region	Dates	Venue
Africa	8-12 August 2016 (TBC)	TBC
Asia	1-5 August 2016	United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
Latin America and the Caribbean	22-26 August 2016	Antigua, Guatemala
Pacific/Oceania	15-19 August 2016	TBC

II. Proposed provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.	
2. Organizational matters and adoption of the agenda.	
3. Convention-specific discussions (may be held as parallel sessions, open or closed, as well as joint sessions, depending on the region and Party preferences)	
<p>3a. Matters of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to be addressed by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting (CoP 17).</p> <p>(a) Brief overview of the agenda</p> <p>(b) Items of the agenda of significant importance¹.</p> <p>(c) Subregional meetings (if necessary)</p>	<p>3b. i) Matters of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to be addressed by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting (COP 13)</p> <p>(a) Brief overview of the agenda</p> <p>(b) Items of the agenda of significant importance².</p> <p>3b. ii) Matters of the Cartagena Protocol to be addressed by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP 8)</p> <p>(a) Brief overview of the agenda</p> <p>(b) Items of the agenda of significant importance³.</p> <p>3b. iii) Matters of the Nagoya Protocol to be addressed by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP 2)</p> <p>(a) Brief overview of the agenda</p> <p>(b) Items of the agenda of significant importance⁴.</p>
4. Synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, with particular emphasis on CITES-CBD.	
5. Synthesis and closure of the meeting.	

¹ These would be chosen as items of the agenda that are likely to require significant consideration or are of particular complexity, strategic significance at this time, or regional significance, based on feedback from Parties.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.