



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2016/045

Geneva, 14 June 2016

CONCERNING:

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Working documents and proposals to amend the Appendices

1. The seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 5 October 2016 has generated enormous interest from Parties.
2. The Secretariat has received 213 Party submissions to amend the Appendices, involving sixty-two different proposals. The list of these and the supporting statements in raw form were published on the CITES website on 2 May 2016.
3. An unprecedented number of working documents have been submitted for consideration at CoP17. It is expected that they will number 120 in total, which is a 29% increase from CoP16 - itself the largest ever Conference of the Parties in terms of the number of working documents.
4. For CoP17, eighty-seven submissions from Parties have been received covering forty-five different working documents (in addition to the documents submitted through the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat). In contrast, Parties submitted a total of just fifteen working documents for discussion at CoP16.
5. In order to reduce the delay in publishing the CoP17 working documents on the CITES website, the Secretariat will be publishing the working documents submitted by Parties as they have been received (and in the language received). The Secretariat will be providing its comments on them in a separate Addendum, which will be published later, and translations will be posted as they become available.
6. The Secretariat is grateful to the Parties for their understanding of the time and effort involved with these CoP 17 documents being processed, translated and published on the CITES website.