

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



Fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 6-10 July 2009

Administrative matters

Arrangements for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

SPONSORED DELEGATES PROJECT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. In 1986, the Secretariat initiated the Sponsored Delegates Project to solicit financial assistance from various governments and organizations for a fund that would provide 'anonymous' assistance to enable all Parties to attend meetings of the Conference of the Parties, free from inappropriate influence.
3. The goal of full participation is important to ensure that the best informed and most balanced decisions are made by the Conference of the Parties. Ninety per cent of the current Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties were adopted after the Sponsored Delegates Project began. The over 159 Decisions of the Conference of the Parties currently in effect were adopted by the most complete participation achieved to date.

**Delegates from developing countries sponsored from 1986 to 2007**

CoP	Number of delegates	Number of Parties sponsored per CoP
CoP6 (Ottawa, 1986)	113	No data
CoP7 (Lausanne, 1989)	150	No data
CoP8 (Kyoto, 1992)	152	No data
CoP9 (Fort Lauderdale, 1994)	175	No data
CoP10 (Harare, 1997)	196	No data
CoP11 (Gigiri, 2000)	207	108
CoP12 (Santiago, 2002)	154	100
CoP13 (Bangkok, 2002)	149	97
CoP14 (The Hague, 2007)	181	114
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>1477/164</b>	<b>/104</b>

#### Current activities

4. The Secretariat is in the process of mobilizing the resources to ensure that all the Parties are adequately represented at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15).
5. The fund-raising target for CoP15 is USD 750,000, so as to be able to provide the same level of support to eligible Parties as was provided at the previous meeting in 2007.
6. As soon as the dates of CoP15 are officially confirmed, the Secretariat will issue a Notification inviting Parties that will require financial support to contact it.
7. A project proposal has been developed and sent to several potential donors, including Parties, international organizations and major foundations. Funds will be prioritized in order to sponsor up to two delegates from each of the least developed countries, followed by those from the developing countries.
8. The countries to be supported to attend CoP15 will depend on the funds raised and on the number of requests received on time from eligible countries.

#### Recommendation

10. It is recommended that the Standing Committee encourage Parties and organizations interested in providing financial support to achieve the goal of full participation in CoP15 to contact the CITES Secretariat.