

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Administrative matters

Meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Arrangements for the 16th meeting

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 at meetings of the Conference of the Parties is important to ensure that all Parties can be part of the decision-making process and thereby ensure that fully informed and balanced decisions are taken. Ninety per cent of the current Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties were adopted after the Sponsored Delegates Project began.

Delegates from developing countries sponsored from 1986 to 2010

CoP	Number of sponsored delegates	Number of Parties sponsored per CoP
CoP6 (Ottawa, 1987)	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, 2004)	149	97
CoP14 (The Hague, 2007)	181	114
CoP15 (Doha, 2010)	126	94
Total/Average	1603/160	513/103

Current activities

4. The Secretariat has started the process of mobilizing resources to ensure that all Parties are adequately represented at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16). The fund-raising target for CoP16 is USD 1,000,000 to ensure the same level of support is available to eligible Parties as was provided at CoP15.
5. Notification to the Parties No. 2012/018 concerning the Sponsored Delegates Project was posted on the CITES website on 3 March 2012. Regional representatives of the Standing Committee are encouraged to liaise with the Parties that have poor access to the internet to ensure that they are informed of this Notification and have the opportunity to respond on time.
6. A project proposal has been developed and sent to several potential donors, including Parties, international organizations, major foundations and commercial companies. First priority in the use of the funds raised will be given to sponsoring up to two delegates from each of the least developed countries. The next priority will be to support delegates from developing countries. Priority will be given to those Parties that attended with fewer than 6 delegates at CoP15. For previous meetings, the selection was based on the four categories of the UNDP Human Development Index, (with priority order starting at the bottom of the lowest development list). However, for CoP16, the Secretariat recommend the use of the same indicator as the one that will be selected in relation to document SC62 Doc. 11 (on *Provision of support for committee members*) in order to harmonize the approaches to these two support mechanisms.
7. Financial support for countries to attend CoP16 will depend on the level of funds raised and on the number of requests received from the eligible countries. Applications for support must be received by 30 October 2012 and eligible Parties requesting support will be informed by the Secretariat after 15 November 2012 about the level of support available to them through the Sponsored Delegates Project.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that the Standing Committee encourage, via its regional representatives and any other means that it deems appropriate, Parties and all other organizations interested in providing financial support and wishing to help achieve the goal of full participation of all Parties in CoP16 through the Sponsored Delegates Project, to contact the CITES Secretariat.
9. Potential donors should be encouraged to make their donations to the Secretariat well in advance of CoP16 and by 30 September 2012 at the very latest. This will facilitate the proper planning of the travel and the accommodation of the sponsored delegates and a more efficient allocation of the funds available.
10. The Secretariat also suggests that the Standing Committee recommend to Parties and other potential donors who are considering providing financial support to delegations from developing countries to attend CoP16, to do so through the Sponsored Delegates Project.