



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2014/013

Geneva, 26 March 2014

CONCERNING:

Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES

1. At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.30 on a *Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES*, which directs the Secretariat, prior to the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65) to:
 - a) *issue a Notification to the Parties containing a questionnaire on the needs identified in the Annex to document CoP16 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1), entitled Technological, Logistical and Equipment Needs Assessment to Strengthen the Implementation of CITES in Developing Countries. The Secretariat shall seek input from all Parties, revise the questionnaire, and report its findings at SC65;*
 - b) *subject to the availability of external resources, and in order to assist Parties in determining how best to access and utilize new technologies, undertake a study of new and appropriate information and communication technologies needed to implement the Convention, including but not limited to, the use of hand-held devices and tablets, and off-the-shelf or ready-made electronic permitting systems that are affordable, such as UNEP-WCMC's Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX); and*
 - c) *report the results of the study, with recommendations as appropriate, for consideration at SC65.*
2. In accordance with paragraph a) of Decision 16.30, the Secretariat is providing to the Parties herewith a questionnaire on the *Logistical, technological and equipment needs assessment to strengthen the implementation of CITES*.
3. The Secretariat invites Parties to complete the questionnaire and to return it to the Secretariat no later than 14 April 2014.
4. The results of the questionnaire will be used in the compilation of the study referred to in Decision 16.30, paragraph b).
5. The Secretariat notes that the necessary external resources have not been provided to complete the study on new and appropriate information and communication technologies needed to implement the Convention. Parties and stakeholders are therefore invited to contribute the requisite financial support.