

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November – 1 December 2017

Strategic matters

ENGAGEMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE CITES PROCESSES

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Standing Committee, in consultation with the CITES Secretariat, Namibia and Ethiopia.*

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.28 to 17.30 directed to the Standing Committee:

17.28 *The Standing Committee shall establish an intersessional working group to consider how to effectively engage rural communities in the CITES processes and to present its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee, for consideration at its 70th meeting.*

17.29 *In establishing the intersessional working group, which shall be comprised of Parties and representatives of rural communities, the Chair of the Standing Committee shall strive to achieve regional balance of Parties, with the number of members of rural communities not exceeding the number of Party delegates.*

17.30 *The Standing Committee shall make recommendation on the engagement of rural communities in the CITES processes to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. At its 68th meeting (SC68, Johannesburg, 2016), the Standing Committee agreed that Namibia and Ethiopia would act as the leads for this issue, and further agreed that any interested Party or Observer could reach out to the Standing Committee leads to express their interest in participating in the working group when it is formed during the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.
4. On 10 August, at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee, in consultation with Namibia and Ethiopia, the Secretariat issued [Notification to the Parties No. 2017/057](#). This Notification encouraged Parties to engage with representatives of rural communities within their country, draw their attention to Decisions 17.28 – 17.30, invite their participation in the working group and communicate that interest to the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee. In response to the Notification, Austria, China and Japan expressed their interest in the work of the intersessional working group foreseen in Decisions 17.28 – 17.30.

Recommendation

5. The Standing Committee is invited to establish a regionally balanced intersessional working group on rural communities, comprised of Parties and representatives of rural communities, to consider how to effectively

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engage rural communities in the CITES processes and to present its findings and recommendations to the 70th meeting of the Committee.