

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

SPONSORED DELEGATES PROJECT

1. This document has been prepared by the CITES Secretariat.
2. The Sponsored Delegates Project is a CITES Secretariat initiative to ensure that every Party can be represented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties by at least two delegates. It exists as an externally-funded mechanism to provide financial assistance to Parties wishing to attend meetings of the Conference of the Parties in a manner that is free from possible donor influence on delegations. As agreed by the Standing Committee at its 46th meeting (Geneva, March 2002), Parties eligible for SDP support are those included in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) list of developing countries.
3. Full participation in meetings of the Conference of the Parties is essential to ensure that the recommendations and decisions that are made be as well-informed and balanced as possible. Thanks to the Sponsored Delegates Project (hereinafter referred to as 'SDP'), which started operating at CoP5 in 1985, participation in CITES CoPs has increased dramatically. As a consequence, all CITES Decisions and most Resolutions currently in effect reflect the agreements reached by the majority of CITES Parties. This is very important when considering that the result of several crucial votes taken at the meetings has been decided by very close margins. The Convention would not be as strong and relevant today if it were not for the full and active participation of its Parties.
4. The CITES Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2006/045 on 17 August 2006 regarding the SDP for the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In this Notification, Parties that required financial support for the travel and subsistence of up to two representatives attending CoP14 were requested to contact the Secretariat and indicate their need for financial assistance, specifying whether support was needed for one delegate or two. The deadline for submission of requests was 31 December 2006. The SDP was discussed at the Standing Committee in October 2006 and also during missions and workshops conducted by Secretariat staff where Parties were reminded of the need to meet the deadline for submitting a request for sponsorship.
5. A request deadline is important in the implementation of the SDP. The Secretariat is unable to know in advance what level of funding will be raised, and Parties should be notified well in advance if their requests for assistance cannot be fulfilled so as to allow them enough time to seek other sources of support. Nevertheless, fundraising efforts continue until just before the CoP in an endeavour to accommodate even late requests. The deadline for requests is also important because time has to be set aside to process requests, obtain delegates' names and make the necessary travel bookings. This in turn means that very late requests are difficult to process. Moreover when flights are booked only a short time before the date of travel, there is a risk that seats will no longer be available, and when they are, their cost is significantly higher than for flights booked well in advance. Consequently large sums are wasted when bookings are made late.

6. Altogether, new funds totalling USD 377,209 were received during 2006 and 2007 from the following States, organizations and private companies for the SDP:

Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America; and All Japan Association of Reptile Skin & Leather Industries, Birds International, Conservation Treaty Support Fund, European Pet Organization, Imprimerie Beck, International Fur Trade Federation, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Loro Parque Fundación, Ornamental Fish International, Safari Club International, Species Survival Network, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, WWF International.

7. Together with a carry-over balance from CoP13 of USD 104,384, the total funding available for the SDP for CoP14 is USD 481,593 (SDP-core). The Host Country, the Government of the Netherlands, has generously provided hotel accommodation with breakfast for sponsored delegates with an approximate cost of USD 432,000 (SDP-Dutch), which represents a very significant financial contribution to the SDP. This contribution has meant that the SDP-core funds have largely been committed to covering travel and subsistence costs.
8. With the SDP-core funds available for CoP14, the Secretariat has been able to fully support two delegates from 67 eligible Parties that requested support before the deadline. This support, at a total cost of about USD 436,000, comprises airline tickets and daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the meeting. The same delegates are given hotel accommodation through the SDP-Dutch contribution. The countries concerned are the following:

Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Suriname, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Yemen.

9. With the remaining SDP-core funds of approximately USD 45,000, assistance has been provided to 14 additional Parties that submitted their requests after the deadline. The SDP-core support provided comprises airfare and a daily subsistence allowance for one delegate. Hotel accommodation for that delegate and hotel accommodation for a second delegate per country have been provided using the SDP-Dutch contribution. The countries concerned are the following:

Algeria, El Salvador, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Zambia.

10. Requests from a further seven countries were received after the SDP funds had already been allocated. Unfortunately, these requests had to be declined as no funds remained.
11. The seventh dialogue meeting of African elephant range States is to be held immediately before CoP14 (30 May – 1 June 2007). Through fund-raising for this meeting, support has been provided for one delegate to attend from each eligible country that requested it.
12. As indicated in paragraph 8 above, the African elephant range States that requested assistance from the SDP within the deadline are the following: Botswana, Cameroon, the Congo, Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania. This means that one delegate from each of these countries has received full support from the dialogue funds to attend the dialogue meeting and full support for the duration of CoP14 from the SDP. A second delegate has received full support from the SDP for the duration of CoP14 only.
13. As indicated in paragraph 9 above, those African elephant range States that requested assistance from the SDP after the deadline and have obtained it are Mali, Sierra Leone and Zambia. This means

that one delegate from each of these countries is fully supported to attend the dialogue meeting using the dialogue funds and is fully supported for the duration of the CoP by the SDP. A second delegate is afforded hotel accommodation for the duration of the CoP under the SDP-Dutch contribution.

14. African elephant range States that did not request support from the SDP are: Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Niger, Somalia, the Sudan and Zimbabwe. Nevertheless, the airfare, daily subsistence allowance and hotel accommodation have been provided for one delegate from each of these countries to attend the dialogue meeting using the dialogue funds. Hotel accommodation for the duration of the CoP has been provided for the same delegate, using the SDP-Dutch contribution.
15. The Secretariat has continued to seek funding to provide full support to Parties having submitted late requests to the Secretariat, and to cover last-minute requests at the CoP. As in previous years, it has done everything possible to fulfil all requests. Additional funds received have been allocated on the basis of the order in which late requests were received.
16. The Secretariat would like to urge all Parties that will need financial assistance in the future to submit their request as far in advance as possible and in any case before the deadline. It will in future send by post the Notification to the Parties indicating this deadline, as it appears that some Parties did not see the Notification published on the CITES website for CoP14.
17. The Secretariat would also like to urge States and organizations to provide support for the Sponsored Delegates Project to help ensure that each developing country that is party to CITES can be represented by two people at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.