

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Geneva (Switzerland), 17-28 August 2019

VISA PROCEDURE TO TRAVEL TO SWITZERLAND

*The following information has been provided by the Swiss Government
to facilitate the visa procedure for CoP18.*

1. Participants are responsible for obtaining their own visas and should do so as soon as possible.
2. Visas for all accredited participants (i.e. those in possession of a *Priority Pass*) – see Notification to the Parties No. 2019/014) will be processed by the Swiss Département fédéral des affaires étrangères.
3. Participants must lodge their visa applications at the competent Swiss representation or, if a representation agreement, at another Schengen State representation within their country. In this regard, accredited participants are invited to refer to the information provided on the website https://www.swiss-visa.ch/register/i210_select_country_view.action regarding where they can apply for a visa for Switzerland. If there is no representation agreement according to the website above, this means that other Schengen representations are under no obligation to accept a visa application for Switzerland. However, exceptionally, alternate arrangements with Schengen States could be considered on a case by case basis.
4. Switzerland has agreed to waive visa fees for all accredited participants and has put in place a facilitated procedure to help the participants who need a visa. All the Swiss representations worldwide have received instructions about CoP18 on Wednesday 3 July 2019.
5. The CITES Secretariat reminds the participants that in order to receive a ***Priority Pass*** and a **visa invitation letter**, they should first be nominated online in the Kronos database and send a **letter of nomination to registration@cites.org**.
6. Non-accredited persons or accompanying spouses and families may apply for a tourist visa through the online platform.