

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Administrative and financial matters

Administration, finance and budget of the Secretariat
and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties

SPONSORED DELEGATES PROJECT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 17.3 on *Sponsored Delegates Project*, which established the Sponsored Delegates project as a means to support the travel cost of delegates from developing countries to attend the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. In paragraph 7 of Resolution Conf. 17.3, the Conference of the Parties:
 7. *CALLS on the Secretariat to administer the Sponsored Delegates Project and to widely and proactively disseminate information about the Sponsored Delegates Project to all CITES Parties at least one year before each meeting of the CoP, with the aim to raise sufficient external funds among donors and inform developing countries about the existence of this Project and the modalities to apply for it.*
3. The Conference of the Parties also adopted Decision 17.17 on *Sponsored Delegates Project* at CoP17:

Decision 17.17 directed to Standing Committee

With respect to the sponsored delegates project established in Resolution Conf. 17.3, the Standing Committee shall consider:

- a) *The criteria used to select Parties for sponsorship; and*
- b) *The practical arrangements for the provision of support.*

If possible, it should provide guidance to the Secretariat at its 70th meeting, and it shall report its conclusions and any recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Report on the progress of the Sponsored Delegates Project

4. A dedicated webpage¹ on the Sponsored Delegates Project was published on the CITES website in February 2018 to disseminate information about the Sponsored Delegates Project on a continuous basis. In addition, [Notification No. 2018/024](#) on the Sponsored Delegates Project was issued on 5 March 2018 to inform Parties about the launch of the Project, and to request financial support to CoP18.
5. At the time of writing this document (21 December 2018), the Secretariat received requests for financial support from the following Parties: Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Gabon, Guyana,

¹ See https://cites.org/eng/disc/sponsored_delegates_project.

Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Solomon Islands, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, and Yemen.

6. The Secretariat also issued letters to selected Parties, non-governmental organizations and private bodies to solicit financial support for the Sponsored Delegates Project. As of 15 January 2019, the following pledges and deposits were made from donors, totalling USD 312,956.30. The Secretariat is grateful for the generous support of donors.

Donor	Currency and amount (P=pledged; D=deposited)
European Union	USD 60,000 (D) and USD 90,000 (P)
Germany	EUR 70,000 (P)
Netherlands	EUR 25,000 (P)
Norway	NOK 400,000 (P)
United States of America: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	USD 91,394 (P)
Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation	USD 9,600 (P)

7. The Secretariat will give an oral update at CoP18 on the issues mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 6 above.

Report on the implementation of Decision 17.17

8. The Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) reviewed the criteria used to select Parties for sponsorship and the practical arrangements for the provision of support, based on the Secretariat's background document (see document [SC70 Doc. 10.6](#)) comparing current practices of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The Committee recommended that the Secretariat continue to apply clear selection criteria, and requested the Secretariat to continue to take into account the various possible options for the selection criteria and additional ways to prioritize beneficiary Parties, including the guidelines of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC) and the prioritization of small island developing States and least developed countries.
9. The Standing Committee recommended that the Secretariat explore further the practical arrangements for the provision of support under the Sponsored Delegates Project for delegates attending the meetings of the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees and bring any recommendations it may have to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
10. The Secretariat made minor editorial amendments in the proposed draft decision, as shown in Annex 1.

Recommendations

11. In light of the above, the Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties delete Decision 17.17 and adopt the draft decision presented in Annex 1 to the present document.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Sponsored Delegates Project

Directed to the Secretariat

18.AA The Secretariat shall:

- a) continue to apply clear selection criteria, taking into account the various possible options for the selection criteria and additional ways to prioritize beneficiary Parties, including the guidelines of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC) and the prioritization of small island developing States and least developed countries;
- b) explore further the practical arrangements for the provision of support under the Sponsored Delegates Project for delegates attending the meetings of the Animals, Plants and Standing Committees; and
- c) bring any recommendations to the attention of the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding.

The proposed revised Decisions will have no direct financial cost, but modest workload implications for the Standing Committee.