



International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)

INFORMATION NOTE

Second global meeting of the wildlife enforcement networks, 28-29 September, Johannesburg, South Africa.

BACKGROUND

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), on behalf of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), and with generous funding support from the Department of State of the United States of America will convene the Second Global Meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) alongside the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to CITES in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2016.

This meeting follows the 'First Global Meeting of Wildlife Enforcement Networks' hosted in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2013. It will promote the sharing of information on best practices and lessons learned about the establishment and functioning of WENs, further strengthen networks and enhance cooperation and coordination among them.

The meeting will bring together network representatives, wildlife law enforcement officers, and international organizations and other relevant organizations from around the world. The aim is to share experiences and consider measures to further strengthen WENs, promote their operational effectiveness, and enhance cooperation and interaction amongst them. The meeting will also consider the feasibility of developing best practice guidelines for the establishment of new WENs, as well as considering the development of targeted operational activities at the regional or global level. A draft agenda can be found below. A detailed agenda will be sent to registered participants in due course.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

WENs or any similar regional or sub-regional structures with a primary function of facilitating cooperative activities amongst States to combat wildlife crime, are warmly invited to attend this meeting. In doing so, WENs are requested to nominate representatives from national customs, police or wildlife authorities from any countries served by the network to attend the meeting together with the network representative. Delegations should be limited to a maximum of three representatives per network and identify a head of delegation who is mandated to speak on behalf of the network.

The following is an indicative list of law enforcement agencies, networks or structures that are invited to participate in the meeting (please note that the list is not exhaustive):

- AFRIPOL
- ARINSA
- ASEAN-WEN
- ASEANAPOL
- Caribbean
- CITES experts group for west Asia
- EC Enforcement Working Group
- EUROJUST
- EUROPOL
- HA-WEN





International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

- IOFMC
- LATF
- NAWEG
- NICECG
- PAPECALF/COMIFAC
- ROAVIS
- SAWEN
- Snow Leopard Network, Central Asia
- South America WEN
- Rhino and Elephant Security Group (Southern Africa)
- Southern Africa WEN

Intergovernmental organizations are invited to participate in the meeting, and nongovernmental organizations and other relevant institutions are invited to participate in the meeting as observers. Such organizations are invited to nominate one representative to attend the meeting.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Participants and observers should make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, including transportation from the airport to the hotel or the convention center. A list of recommended hotels for CoP17 can be found on <https://cites.org/cop17>.

PREPARATORY WORK AND GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATIONS

Network representatives will be contacted directly and requested to complete an information sheet with details on their respective networks. These information sheets will be provided to all meeting participants as background documents on the different networks, during the meeting.

- 2
- Network representatives will be requested to prepare a short presentation (10-15 minutes) or an oral contribution to the meeting and to actively participate in the working groups. Details of the individual contributions will be discussed directly with the nominated participants on a case by case basis.

Observers are invited to participate in the meeting and will be able to contribute to the meeting during the Q&A sessions. Participation of observers in working group discussions will be at the discretion of the chair of the different working groups.

LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETATION

The meeting will be held in English. Interpretation will however be available in French and Spanish for all plenary sessions. Interpretation is not available for the working group discussions. To promote active participation in the working group discussions, networks are therefore encouraged to nominate representatives for these sessions that are able to communicate in English.

Any documents or reports from the meeting will be prepared in English and translated in due course into French and Spanish.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

All participants (sponsored and non-sponsored), and observers, must:

1. Register online for access to the meeting venue located in the Standton Convention Center. Online registration must be done on the following link (*please note, if you are not part of the*





International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

official government delegation to CoP17, please register under the category 'Visitor (and participant in other meetings)': <https://cites.org/eng/cop/17/registration.php>

2. Complete the registration form (see Annex II) and submit it to info@cites.org, with copy to Mr Edward van Asch (edward.van-asch@cites.org) **no later than 15 September 2016**. The subject of the email should be 'Registration to second global meeting of the wildlife enforcement networks'.

Please note: The online registration and the completed registration form must be completed and submitted by all participants. Participants will not be able to enter the convention center unless they have registered online.

VENUE, DATES AND OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The meeting will be held on 28 and 29 September 2016 at the Sandton Convention Center in Johannesburg, South Africa. The daily work programme will start at 9 a.m. and end at 6 p.m.

The meeting has been organized alongside the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17, 24 September to 5 October 2016) to facilitate access to, and participation in, CoP17 and its related side events. For full details please see: <https://cites.org/cop17>

The 27th meeting of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG) will also be held alongside CoP17 from 2 to 4 October 2016. For more details on the INTERPOL WCWG meeting, interested participants should contact INTERPOL on: environmentalcrime@interpol.int

Network representatives and officers attending the WEN meeting are encouraged to put in place arrangements to participate in both meetings.

MISCELLANEOUS

Health: The United Nations assumes that the participants are in good health and have no illness or disability that might prevent them from travelling to or participating in the meeting. It is the participant's responsibility to inform the CITES Secretariat of any such health impediment.

Insurance: Neither the CITES Secretariat, UNEP nor the ICCWC Partner agencies shall be responsible for any costs in case of accident or illness. It is the participant's responsibility or that of their Government or organization to ensure that they obtain adequate travel insurance before travelling to South Africa.

Passports and visas: Participants should ensure that their travel documents are valid and that they have all necessary visas prior to travelling, including visas for "transit" countries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CITES Secretariat, on behalf of ICCWC, would like to thank the Department of State of the United States of America for the funds generously made available to support this activity.

