



Briefing on CITES CoP17 the World Wildlife Conference

Wednesday 14 September 2016, 10:00-12:00
International Environment House II (7-9 ch. de Balexert)

You are cordially invited to attend a briefing on the matters to be addressed by the 182 Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna And Flora (CITES) at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17). The briefing is organized within the framework of the Geneva Environment Network, will take place at the International Environment House II, on Wednesday 14 September 2016. (Notification to the Parties available [online](#))

CoP17 will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 24 September to 5 October 2016. The meeting will consider 62 proposals (involving 500 species) to increase or decrease controls on international trade in wildlife animals and plants, submitted by 64 Parties from around the world. Amongst the species involved are African elephant, white rhinoceros, lion, pangolins, sharks, devil rays, as well as many species of rosewood, crocodiles, birds, frogs, lizards, turtles, and other animals and plants.

CoP17 will also take decisions concerning the CITES budget, livelihoods, traceability and sustainability of trade, combating illegal trade, including fighting corruption and cybercrime, demand reduction strategies, national laws and compliance. These will guide the work of the Parties and the Secretariat until CoP18 in 2019.

The CoP will be preceded by a high-level Ministerial Lekgotla on CITES and the SDGs, hosted by South Africa.

Provisional Agenda

10:15
Coffee & Tea

10:30
Welcome and Introduction
John SCANLON, Secretary-General, CITES Secretariat

10:45
Welcome from the host country
H.E: Amb. Nosipho MXAKATO-DISEKO, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations Office at Geneva (tbc)

CITES CoP17 – the big issues

10:50
Changes to the CITES Appendices and elephant discussions at CoP17
Tom DE MEULENAER, Chief, Scientific Services, CITES Secretariat

11.00
Enforcement issues – combating illegal wildlife trade
Ben Janse VAN RENSBURG, Chief, Enforcement Support, CITES Secretariat

11:10
Capacity-building and traceability of products in trade
Haruko OKUSU, Chief, Knowledge Management & Outreach, CITES Secretariat



11:20

National laws and legal issues, including CoP Rules of Procedure

Juan Carlos VASQUEZ, Chief, Legal Affairs & Compliance, CITES Secretariat

11.30

Strategic Vision of CITES, sponsored delegates, work programme and budget

Susanne BENGTTSSON, Team Leader, Administrative Services, CITES Secretariat

11:40

Question-and-answer

12:00

End

Registration form

You are cordially invited to participate in this event.

We would be grateful if you could indicate your participation in advance by completing this form and returning it by 12 September 2016 to the address below by email (gen.secretary@unep.org) or [register online](#). Please note that English is the working language of this event.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

The Geneva Environment Network (GEN) is a cooperative partnership of over 75 environment and sustainable development organizations based at the International Environment House and elsewhere in the Geneva area, including United Nations offices and programmes, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and academic institutions.

Set up in 1999, the GEN secretariat, led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and supported by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, actively promotes increased cooperation and networking between its members.