



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2015/036

Geneva, 19 June 2015

CONCERNING:

Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

1. At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties to CITES accepted the generous offer of the Government of South Africa to host its 17th meeting (CoP17), which, with the agreement of the CITES Secretariat, will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from **24 September to 5 October 2016**.
2. In accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on the *Submission of draft resolutions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the text of any draft resolution and any document submitted for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties should be communicated to the Secretariat at least 150 days before the meeting, i.e. by **27 April 2016**.
3. In accordance with the provisions of Article XV, paragraph 1, of the Convention, any Party may propose an amendment to Appendix I or II for consideration at CoP17. The text of the proposed amendment shall be communicated to the Secretariat at least 150 days before the meeting, i.e. by **27 April 2016**. The amendment proposals should be based on the criteria adopted in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16).
4. However, if a Party intends to submit a proposal to amend Appendix I or II that concerns a species or a population of a species that occurs partly or totally outside of the territory under its jurisdiction, and if it does not intend to consult the other range States before the submission of its proposal, the Party, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 8.21 (Rev. CoP16) on *Consultation with range States on proposals to amend Appendices I and II*, should submit its proposal to the Secretariat at least 330 days before the meeting, i.e. by **30 October 2015**.
5. Additionally, any amendment proposal made in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.16 (Rev. CoP15), on *Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II*, should be received by the Secretariat at least 330 days before the meeting, i.e. by **30 October 2015**.
6. The Secretariat reminds Parties that the Conference of the Parties has recommended in Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) that, as a general rule, documents submitted for consideration should not exceed 12 pages in length and decided that any draft resolution or decision that has budgetary or workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. Moreover, the Standing Committee has agreed that the Secretariat should ask any Party that submits a document longer than 12 pages to provide it in the three working languages of the Convention.
7. In order to avoid problems of communication, the Secretariat wishes to stress the following in relation to the submission of documents:
 - a) Documents must be submitted by either:
 - i) the Management Authority that, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 2 or 3, of the Convention, has been designated as authorized to communicate with other Parties and with the Secretariat (the main Management Authority if there are several); or

- ii) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - b) Documents and amendment proposals submitted by any other authority can not be accepted;
 - c) The Secretariat will formally register documents as having been received for the meeting only when it receives an original signed letter with the documents, specifying what has been submitted, and sent by the deadlines specified above (for which the postmark serves as proof). Parties wishing to submit documents electronically are invited to contact the Secretariat.
 - d) In cases where two or more Parties are jointly submitting an amendment proposal or a working document, a signed letter of submission before the deadline is required from each of the Parties concerned in order for their names to be recorded as proponents.
8. Further information on the arrangements for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be provided to the Parties in due course.