

## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2019/062

Geneva, 11 November 2019

CONCERNING:

Membership of Standing Committee intersessional working groups.

1. The Notification is issued at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee.
2. At its 72nd meeting (SC72, Geneva, August 2019), the Standing Committee established a number of intersessional working groups to address matters referred to it by the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. These were as follows:
  - a) **Rules of Procedure** with a mandate to review Rule 7(2)(a) and Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties with a view to ensuring the effective conduct of meetings.
  - b) **CITES Strategic Vision** with a mandate to, taking into account the views of the Animals and Plants Committees, the information provided by Parties via the Report on Implementation as well as the comparative analysis prepared by the Secretariat, make recommendations on new or revised indicators of progress to be included in the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030.
  - c) **Engagement with indigenous peoples and local and rural communities** with a mandate to
    - i) examine the terminology used in different Resolutions and Decisions when referring to "indigenous peoples", "local communities" or "rural communities" in order to recommend whether there is need for consistency of terminology across these Resolutions and Decisions;
    - ii) consider how to effectively engage indigenous peoples and local communities\* in the CITES processes, taking into account the discussions from the last intersessional period and any information provided pursuant to Decision 18.BB in in-session document CoP18 Com. II 17.
    - iii) develop non-binding guidance that proponent Parties may use, as appropriate, in consulting with indigenous peoples and local communities\* as part of the consultations that may take place on proposals to amend the Appendices; **and**
    - iv) draft recommendations on the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities\* in CITES processes that could be submitted to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
  - d) **Livelihoods** with a mandate to monitor the progress made by Parties in implementing Decision 18.CC in in-session document CoP18 Com. II 17 to engage indigenous peoples and local communities<sup>1</sup> in CITES decision-making processes to better achieve the objectives of the Convention; and to review the report of the Secretariat on the progress made under Decisions 18.EE in in-session document CoP18 Com. II 17 and on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods*.

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\* "Indigenous peoples and local communities" is understood to include rural communities.

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e) **Capacity-building** with a mandate to:

- i) advise the Standing Committee on the actions outlined in Decisions 18.DD and 18.EE of in-session document CoP18 Com. II 15 for the development of an integrated capacity-building framework to improve implementation of the Convention;
- ii) provide guidance to the Secretariat to refine and consolidate the areas of capacity-building efforts, taking into account the discussions on the Compliance Assistance Programme and Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews, as well as the discussion on the development of an integrated capacity building framework outlined in Decision 18.EE of in-session document CoP18 Com. II 15; and
- iii) review Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical cooperation* with the view to incorporating capacity building needs, taking into account the inputs and recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees pursuant to Decision 18.BB of in-session document CoP18 Com. II 15, and make recommendations, including a possible new or revised draft resolution as well as models, tools and guiding documents on capacity building, as appropriate, based on the outcome of the work in Decision 18.HH of in-session document CoP18 Com. II 15 as well as documents CoP18 Doc. 21.2 and Doc.21.3.

f) **Review of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on Compliance and enforcement** with a mandate to review the Resolution with a view to, *inter alia*, reorganizing to improve usefulness and readability, updating and clarifying where needed, and identifying gaps and draft recommendations as appropriate to revise it and make recommendations to address gaps identified, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

g) **Electronic systems and information technologies** with a mandate to work in collaboration with the Secretariat to:

- i) work with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Bank, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other relevant partners, to continue the development of joint projects that would facilitate Parties' access to electronic permitting services and their alignment to international trade standards and norms, such as the further development and implementation of the UNCTAD aCITES system;
- ii) work with all relevant partners on the development of standards and solutions for Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX) for the exchange of CITES permits and certificates and to improve the validation of CITES permit data by CITES Management Authorities and Customs officials;
- iii) work with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and other relevant organizations to exchange information and experience on the efforts towards a harmonization of standards and procedures for licenses, permits and certificates frequently used in conjunction of cross border trade in CITES listed specimens;
- iv) monitor and advise on Parties' work related to the development of traceability systems for specimens of CITES-listed species to facilitate their harmonization with CITES permits and certificates;
- v) support the development of the capacity of Management Authorities, especially those with the greatest needs, to electronically collect, secure, maintain, and transmit data using systems compatible with those of the Secretariat and other Management Authorities; and
- vi) draft recommendations, as necessary, for the revision of Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates*, Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on *National reports* and the

*Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* distributed by the Secretariat.

- h) **Specimens produced through biotechnology** with a mandate to discuss whether and how to apply the term “readily recognizable part or derivative” to trade in products of biotechnology, which might potentially affect international trade in CITES-listed specimens in a way that would threaten their survival, including enforcement of CITES provisions; and consider proposing appropriate revisions to existing resolutions or the development of a new resolution on trade in specimens produced from biotechnology.
- i) **Purpose-of-transaction codes** with a mandate to:
  - i) focus on clearly defining purpose-of transaction codes to encourage their consistent use, and consider the possible elimination of current codes or the inclusion of new ones;
  - ii) clarify the overlap between purpose-of-transaction codes that describe physical locations and purpose-of-transaction codes that describe activities, one or more of which may pertain to any given permit;
  - iii) consider any Resolution related to or affected by purpose-of-transaction codes, to ensure coherent interpretation; and
  - iv) submit a report and any recommendations for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates*, or to any revision thereof, and recommendations for amendments to any other Resolution identified under c) above to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.
- j) **Captive-bred and ranched specimens** with a mandate to:
  - i) consider at SC73 the Secretariat's update of the review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source in Annex 7 of document SC70 Doc. 31.1 and Parties' comments and recommendations in document SC70 Doc. 31.1 Annex 8; the underlying CITES policy assumptions that may have contributed to the uneven application of Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5; the Secretariat's recommendations in the Annexes to SC70 Doc. 31.1; and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees under Decision 18.AA of document CoP18 Doc. 57; and
  - ii) review the key issues and challenges in the application of the Convention to non-wild specimens and draft appropriate recommendations, including amendments to existing Resolutions or development of a new Resolution or Decisions, to address these issues and challenges, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- k) **Guidance on ivory stockpiles** with a mandate to review and consider for approval the practical guidance prepared by the Secretariat for the management of ivory stockpiles, including their disposal; and
- l) **Annotations** with a mandate to:
  - i) in close collaboration with ongoing efforts in the Plants Committee, continue reviewing the appropriateness and practical challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations to the Appendices, including but not limited to those on the tree species, of the agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi* and orchids, and to identify options to streamline these annotations taking into account the guidance provided by Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18);
  - ii) develop or refine definitions of terms used in current annotations as appropriate, including but not limited to the terms “musical instruments” and “transformed wood”, and submit them for adoption

by the Conference of the Parties and subsequent inclusion in the Interpretation section of the Appendices;

- iii) conduct any work related to annotations directed to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee; and
  - iv) prepare reports on progress made in addressing the issues tasked to it and submit them for consideration at the 73rd and 74th meetings of the Standing Committee.
3. The Committee took note of the interest of those Parties and observers present at SC72 to join these intersessional working groups. These Parties and observers are listed in the summary record of SC72 at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/72/E-SC72-SR.pdf>.
  4. The Committee additionally requested other Parties and other observer organizations that have been accredited to attend past CITES meetings to indicate their interest in joining one or more of these Standing Committee intersessional working groups. Such Parties and observers and requested to convey their interest to the Secretariat **by 24 November 2019**, clearly indicating which working group(s) they wish to join.
  5. The Standing Committee will subsequently confirm the final membership of these intersessional working groups, ensuring respect for its rules of procedure concerning the balance of representation between Parties and observers (Rule 17.1).