



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/067

Geneva, 5 November 2020

CONCERNING:

Intersessional work of the Standing Committee

1. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Standing Committee decided that its 73rd meeting would not take place on 5-9 October 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland (see Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/051](#) of 16 July 2020). Led by its Chair, the Standing Committee is developing approaches to advance its work intersessionally.
2. Most preparatory work for the accomplishment of tasks mandated to the Standing Committee is being undertaken by the Animals Committee, Plants Committee or Secretariat in accordance with instructions from the Conference of the Parties. After consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat is preparing additional background documents to assist the Committee with its work.
3. To ensure the transparency of the work of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat has created the following webpage: <https://cites.org/eng/com/sc/2020-2021.php>, where it will publish all documents pertaining to the intersessional work of the Committee. We invite Parties and interested observers to check this webpage regularly.
4. The following draft Standing Committee documents have been prepared by the Secretariat and are being circulated for comment:
 - [SC2020 Doc. 1:](#) Guidance for chairs of CITES working groups established by the Standing Committee, Animals Committee and Plants Committee (Decision 18.3);
 - [SC2020 Doc. 2:](#) Guidance on the use of the scientific exchange exemption and the simplified procedures to issue permits and certificates (Decision 18.171);
 - [SC2020 Doc. 3:](#) Review of Resolutions and Decisions [Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18), paragraph 5]; and
 - [SC2020 Doc. 4:](#) Revised *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports and Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports* [Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) paragraphs 1 and 3].
5. Furthermore, as per Decision 18.331 that requested the Secretariat to distribute the draft guidance for the publication of the Appendices by Notification to seek comments from Parties, the Secretariat is also circulating the following document:
 - [SC2020 Doc. 5:](#) Guidance for the publication of the Appendices (Decision 18.331).
6. The Secretariat invites Committee members, Parties and observers to submit comments on these drafts by **7 December 2020**. Those comments will be considered when the Secretariat finalizes the documents so they will be in an advanced state when the time comes to post them on the CITES website as working documents for the consideration of the Standing Committee.