NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/061

Geneva, 10 May 2023

CONCERNING:

Call for additional funding:
International expert workshop on non-detriment findings

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.132 to 19.134 on Non-detriment findings. Decision 19.132 instructs the Secretariat, subject to external funding, to organize, in consultation with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the CITES Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) project, an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings to review, advance or complete draft guidance materials on NDFs. Decision 19.134 encourages Parties to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of Decision 19.132, including for an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings.

2. As mentioned in document CoP19 Doc. 43.1, Germany, the European Union and Switzerland made funding available to enable the development of new or updated NDF guidance, including support for an international expert workshop to consider draft guidance produced by workstream expert groups. The Secretariat is grateful to these donors for their support.

3. The Secretariat is finalizing the cost estimate to hold the workshop in December 2023 at the United Nations premises in Gigiri (Nairobi, Kenya). The TAG on the CITES NDF project discussed aspects related to its organization at its second meeting and advised that interpretation of some sessions would facilitate the participation and discussions at the workshop (online, 26 April 2023).

4. At the moment, the available funding will allow travel support for a limited number of participants. However, due to the unforeseen rise in the cost of simultaneous interpretation (English, French and Spanish), interpretation would be available for the plenary sessions of the workshop only if the number of sponsored participants is reduced.

5. The Secretariat underlines that the success of the implementation of Decision 19.132 depends on the availability of a wide range of Parties and experts from different regions to fully participate in the discussions. The Secretariat therefore invites Parties to provide additional financial support for the organisation of the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings.

6. Parties are invited to reach out to Thea Carroll (thea.carroll@cites.org) with copy to Martin Hitziger (martin.hitziger@cites.org) with “Notification No. 2023/061: additional funding for the International expert workshop on NDFs” in the subject line.