CONCERNING:

Joint meeting of the intersessional working groups on livelihoods and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities

1. The Secretariat hereby informs Parties that a joint meeting of the intersessional working groups on livelihoods and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) will be held in Cusco, Peru, from 29 August to 1 September 2023.

2. The meeting is organized in coordination with the chairs of the two working groups and hosted by the CITES Management Authority of Peru (Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre – SERFOR).

Mandate

3. Decision 18.35 (Rev. CoP19), directed to the Secretariat, provides the following:

Subject to the availability of external financial resources, the Secretariat shall:

b) organize a joint meeting of the intersessional working group on engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities and the intersessional working group on CITES and livelihoods to support the implementation of Decisions 18.31 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.34 (Rev. CoP19);

Objectives of the joint meeting

4. The joint meeting aims to facilitate the implementation of the respective mandates of the two intersessional working groups that share some common interests and are interrelated.

5. The mandate of the working group on IPLC engagement is to:

a) consider how to effectively engage indigenous peoples and local communities in the CITES processes, taking into account the discussions from the previous intersessional periods, including the information contained in document SC74 Doc.20.2 and SC70 Doc. 15, experiences shared by Parties and relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and international organizations, and any information provided pursuant to Decision 18.32 (Rev. CoP19); and present its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee;
b) consider matters in document CoP19 Doc. 15 should the proponents of that document bring those matters to the attention of the working group;

c) 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

d) make recommendations on the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in CITES processes to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

6. The mandate of the working group on livelihoods is to:

a) review new case studies on CITES and livelihoods to draw best practices and lessons learned;

b) review the draft Guidance on maximising benefits to Indigenous peoples and local communities from trade in CITES-listed species and provide recommendations to the Secretariat and the Standing Committee; and

c) review the report on Exploring the use of registered marks of certification and other traceability mechanisms for products of CITES-listed species produced by indigenous peoples and local communities to enhance conservation and livelihood outcomes, and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee, including possible next steps, as appropriate.

7. The meeting also offers an opportunity for the participants to learn on the ground the unique and exemplary experiences of Peru in CITES and livelihoods through a field trip on the last day of the meeting to an area where local people have benefited from regulated trade in vicuna wools which has contributed to the conservation of this iconic species.

Information on logistics

8. The joint meeting will be conducted in English only, one of the three official languages of the Convention. No interpretation services will be provided.

9. The meeting will be in-person only, without the possibility of online participation.

10. The costs for international travel, meals and hotel accommodation of one representative of Party members of the two working groups that are eligible for sponsorship may be covered by the Secretariat. In case a Party is on both working groups, the Secretariat will only be able to provide financial support to one delegate from that Party due to the limited funding it has. Priority will be given to Parties that have responded to the questionnaire of IPLC engagement (see Notification to the Parties No. 2023/041) and submitted new case studies on CITES and livelihoods.

11. An online registration form will be provided to members of the working groups soon.

12. The Secretariat is very grateful to Peru for the offer to host the meeting and to China for providing the financial support.