



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/084

Geneva, 17 July 2023

CONCERNING:

CITES Asian regional training seminar on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species

1. The Secretariat hereby informs Parties that the *CITES Asian regional training seminar on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* will be held in Singapore on 10 and 11 October 2023.
2. This seminar is hosted by the National Parks Board (the CITES Management Authority of Singapore) and is organized by the CITES Secretariat in collaboration with TRAFFIC.

Mandate

3. Resolution Conf. 17.4 (Rev. CoP19) on *Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* "URGES Parties to make full use of the *CITES guidance on demand-reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species* in their efforts to reduce demand for illegally acquired wildlife and their products through the 5-step approach in order to achieve behaviour change of the consumers;"
4. Decision 19.55 on *Demand reduction to combat illegal trade* directs the Secretariat to organize regional training seminars on the use of the *Guidance*, subject to external funding. This training seminar for the Asian region will be the first of a series of regional training seminars that the Secretariat is planning to organize for such purposes.

Objectives of the seminar

5. The training seminar aims to build capacity for CITES Parties and their key partners in the Asian region in the use of the *CITES guidance on demand-reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species*.
6. In line with Resolution Conf. 17.4 (Rev. CoP19) which focuses on targeted strategies to achieve behaviour change of consumers as opposed to public awareness campaigns, Parties in the region will be encouraged to choose priority species in their respective countries to consider pilot projects for the use of the *Guidance* for such species as envisaged in Decision 19.55.
7. The training seminar is also designed to facilitate exchanges of experience and examples among Asian Parties around the planning and implementation of demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

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[cites.org](https://www.cites.org)

Information on logistics

8. The training seminar 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 travel, transportation, and accommodation of **one representative from each Party in the Asian region** that is eligible for financial assistance will be covered by the Secretariat.
11. Given the capacity of the venue and the number of places available, a limited number of observers representing organizations will be admitted. Interested organizations with relevant knowledge and active in the region are invited to express their interest to participate in the training seminar before **11 August 2023**. Enquiries about the seminar should be addressed to Mr LIU Yuan of the CITES Secretariat at yuan.liu@cites.org.
12. The Secretariat is grateful to Hong Kong SAR of China for its financial support for this seminar and to Singapore for hosting the event.