

# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2024/119

Geneva, 28 October 2024

CONCERNING:

Selection of nominees for officers to serve at the  
20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

1. On 12 September 2024, the Standing Committee agreed by correspondence on a procedure for the selection of nominees for officers to serve at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20). A copy of this procedure is annexed to the present Notification.
2. A Selection Panel that will review nominations for officers at CoP20 has now been established by the Standing Committee and comprises the following members:

Africa (SC vice-chair <i>ex-officio</i> )	Mr. Rinah Razafindrabe Ministère De L'environnement Et Du Développement Durable Direction Générale De La Gouvernance Environnementale Organe de Gestion CITES B.P 243 – Nanisana Antananarivo 101, Madagascar	T: +261 34 05 621 31; +261 34 31 480 24 (Mr Razafindrabe Rinah) E: <a href="mailto:rarinah@yahoo.fr">rarinah@yahoo.fr</a>
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Central and South America and the Caribbean	Ms. Paola Raquel Santillana Segovia Jefa Oficina CITES Administrativa Autoridad Suplente de Fauna, Flora e Hidrobiológicos Final 1a Avenida Norte, 13 calle oriente y Av. Manuel Gallardo, Distrito de Santa Tecla El Salvador	Tel: +503 79974872 Email: <a href="mailto:paola.santillana@mag.gob.sv">paola.santillana@mag.gob.sv</a>

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North America (SC Chair <i>ex-officio</i> )	Ms. Rosemarie Gnam U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service MS: IA 5275 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, VA 22041-3803 United States of America	Tel: +1 (703) 358-2028 Email: <a href="mailto:rosemarie_gnam@fws.gov">rosemarie_gnam@fws.gov</a>
Oceania	Ms. Sarah Bagnall Senior International Advisor Department of Conservation PO Box 10420 Wellington 6011 New Zealand	Tel: +64 27 201 3652 Email: <a href="mailto:sbagnall@doc.govt.nz">sbagnall@doc.govt.nz</a>
Next host country: Uzbekistan ( <i>ex-officio</i> )	Mr. Jakhongir Talipov Head of International Cooperation Department Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change Bunyodkor ave., 7-A Chilanzar district, 100043 Tashkent city Uzbekistan	Tel: +998 71 207 0770 Email: <a href="mailto:jakhongirtalipov@gmail.com">jakhongirtalipov@gmail.com</a> Copy to: <a href="mailto:international.uznature@gmail.com">international.uznature@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:javokhirabdukhalikov@gmail.com">javokhirabdukhalikov@gmail.com</a>
Secretariat ( <i>ex-officio</i> )	Ms. Ivonne Higuero Secretary-General CITES Secretariat Palais des Nations Avenue de la Paix 8-14 1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland	Tel: +41 22 917 23 47 Email: <a href="mailto:ivonne.higuero@cites.org">ivonne.higuero@cites.org</a>

3. The Standing Committee is charged with nominating candidates for the following posts: Chair, Alternate Chair and two Vice-Chairs of the Conference to preside over plenary sessions of CoP20 and a Chair for each of the Committees I and II and the Credentials Committee.
4. In accordance with the procedure agreed by the Standing Committee, the Secretariat hereby informs the Parties that:
  - a) the members of the Panel will be actively seeking proposals for nominees for the above-mentioned posts; and
  - b) Parties should make their proposals to the Panel through the CITES Secretary-General by **24 March 2025** at the latest.

Selection of nominees for chairs of committees  
of the Conference of the Parties

The procedure for the Standing Committee to select its nominees to chair the committees at meetings of the Conference of the Parties is as follows [as decided at SC54 (Geneva, October 2006)]:

1. The Standing Committee should establish, at least one year in advance of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a selection panel for Chairs of CoP sessional committees, comprising:
  - a) the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee as *ex-officio* members;
  - b) four additional members of the Standing Committee to be chosen by the Standing Committee from regions not otherwise represented, in advance of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - c) a representative of the Next Host Country as an *ex-officio* member; and
  - d) the Secretary-General as an *ex-officio* member.
2. Unless the selection panel decides otherwise, the Chair of the Standing Committee should serve as its Chair.
3. On behalf of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat should send a Notification to the Parties to announce that, in preparation for the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
  - a) a selection panel for Chairs of sessional committees of that meeting has been established (including the names and contact details of the members);
  - b) the members of the Panel will be actively seeking proposals for nominees for the committees;
  - c) Parties should make their proposals to the Panel through the Secretary-General not later than eight months before the meeting; and
  - d) the Secretary-General shall inform members of the Panel of all proposals referred to in subparagraph c) above.
4. The members of the selection panel should communicate with each other to share the names of nominees that they have received, and any information about them. They should be guided by the following general principles:
  - a) there is only one strict requirement for nomination, as stated in the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, namely that the person to be nominated must be, on first impressions, “capable of impartially expediting the business of the Conference”. It is therefore clear that nominees should be impartial and have experience of chairing large, culturally-diverse meetings conducted in more than one language;
  - b) there are also certain other possible characteristics that would give candidates an advantage, including:
    - i) a thorough knowledge of CITES and how it works and experience with one or more aspects of the implementation of CITES;
    - ii) for Committee I, familiarity with biological terminology and with discussions of scientific matters (considering that this Committee deals with matters of a primarily biological nature); and

- iii) proficiency in more than one working language of CITES (preferably including English, since this is used as the working language by the majority of Parties); and
  - c) it has been a tradition to try to find chairs from different regions of the world so that, as far as possible, the chair of the Conference and the committees at each meeting are all from different regions.
5. The selection panel should consult with their short-listed nominees to ensure their willingness to serve and their availability and complete the selection of their nominees for chairs of Committee I, Committee II and the Credentials Committee of the CoP five months before the meeting concerned.
  6. The Secretary-General should then inform the members of the Standing Committee of the selected nominees. He should inform the nominees themselves of their selection and arrange the usual briefings for the Chairs-elect of Committees I and II.
  7. At its meeting immediately before the meeting of the CoP, the Standing Committee should formally confirm the nominations from the selection panel.