

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014

Strategic matters

Capacity building

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CITES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted a number of interrelated Decisions on capacity building, notably Decisions 16.30 and 16.31 which focus on *Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES* as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

16.30 *The Secretariat shall, before the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65):*

- a) *issue a Notification to the Parties containing a questionnaire on the needs identified in the Annex to document CoP16 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1), entitled Technological, Logistical and Equipment Needs Assessment to Strengthen the Implementation of CITES in Developing Countries. The Secretariat shall seek input from all Parties, revise the questionnaire, and report its findings at SC65;*
- b) *subject to the availability of external resources, and in order to assist Parties in determining how best to access and utilize new technologies, undertake a study of new and appropriate information and communication technologies needed to implement the Convention, including but not limited to, the use of hand-held devices and tablets, and off-the-shelf or ready-made electronic permitting systems that are affordable, such as UNEP-WCMC's Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX); and*
- c) *report the results of the study, with recommendations as appropriate, for consideration at SC65.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.31 *The Standing Committee shall, taking account of the results of the questionnaire and the report on the Technological, Logistical and Equipment Needs Assessment to Strengthen the Implementation of CITES in Developing Countries:*

- a) *with assistance from the Secretariat, using information provided by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 16.30, and subject to the availability of external resources, develop a mechanism by which the technological, logistical and equipment needs of all Parties to implement the Convention can be assessed on a regular basis, and prepare a draft decision on such a mechanism for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and*
- b) *establish a working group on the development of the mechanism, and organize, subject to the availability of external resources, an intersessional meeting to discuss*

development of the mechanism and the challenges faced by non-English speaking countries regarding translation and interpretation.

3. In light of the above, the Secretariat revised the questionnaire contained in the Annex to document CoP16 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1) and, on 26 March 2014, issued Notification 2014/013 on *Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES*, inviting Parties to complete the questionnaire and to return it to the Secretariat.
4. At the time of writing (April 2014), the Secretariat had received 31 responses, these being from the following Parties: Algeria, Austria, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Croatia, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Montenegro, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Viet Nam. The summary of the responses received is available in the Annex to the present document.
5. The Secretariat notes that the necessary external financial resources have not been provided to complete the study referred to in Decision 16.30, paragraph b), nor for the development of the mechanism referred to in Decision 16.31, paragraph a).
6. The Secretariat also notes that the establishment of the intersessional working group referred to in Decision 16.31 may assist in the current assessment exercise as well as in seeking financial resource for the follow-up activities.

Recommendations

7. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to:
 - a) endorse the extension of the deadline for Parties to make inputs to Notification 2014/013 and encourage Parties to submit their responses to the questionnaire on *Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES*, with a view to considering the findings of the survey at its 66th meeting;
 - b) establish the working group called for in Decision 16.31, paragraph b), and request the Secretariat to organize the specified intersessional meeting as soon as external resources are available; and
 - c) invite Parties and stakeholders to contribute financial support to allow the Secretariat to undertake the study outlined in Decision 16.30, paragraph b), and the organisation of the intersessional meeting referred to in Decision 16.31, paragraph b).