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

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2019/050

Geneva, 17 September 2019

CONCERNING:

Nomination of representatives from indigenous peoples, local and rural communities
to attend GEF Consultations and the 57th GEF Council meeting

1. The Secretariat, as a member of the Programme Steering Committee of the Global Wildlife Program of the
Global Environment Facility (GEF), is informed that the GEF Secretariat has opened the call for applications
for civil society, including indigenous peoples, local and rural communities, to participate in the GEF
Consultations and the 57th GEF Council meeting to be held in Washington D.C., the United States, from 16
to 19 December 2019.

2. Below is the detailed information regarding the call, requested by the Global Wildlife Program to be
transmitted to the CITES network:

• The GEF Council has selected *Illegal Wildlife Trade: A CSO perspective* as a topic for discussion during
the GEF Consultations with Civil Society on Monday, 16 December 2019, the day preceding the 57th
Council meeting.

• The consultations aim to bring civil society, GEF Council members and other stakeholders together to
discuss the threats posed by Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) and the possible solutions to this global threat,
by focusing on the active and positive engagement of rural communities, civil society organizations
(CSOs), indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC), working with government, the private sector
and other relevant stakeholders.

• The GEF Secretariat will be able to sponsor a limited number of representatives of civil society
organizations and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) from developing countries and
economies in transition, following the approved selection criteria.

• If selected, participants will be expected to attend all the events below, as well as any other virtual
preparatory meetings organized prior to the Council meeting to be held in Washington D.C.:
  o Preparatory CSO Consultations meeting, 15 December 2019
  o GEF Consultations with CSOs, 16 December 2019
  o 57th GEF Council meeting, 17 to 19 December 2019

• The deadline for application requesting financial support is **22 September 2019**. Applicants are
requested to use this link for application: https://www.thegef.org/events/57th-gef-council-meeting

• Other CSOs and IPLC not seeking financial support are requested to submit their applications and
registrations by 20 November 2019.

3. Since the topic of the consultations is very relevant to CITES both in terms of the fight against illegal trade
in wildlife and the engagement of indigenous peoples, local and rural communities, Parties and other
stakeholders, particularly civil society organizations, may wish to nominate representatives to participate in
this process.