



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/025

Geneva, 17 March 2020

CONCERNING:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – implications for the work of the Secretariat

1. Parties are aware of the fast-moving situation concerning the spread of COVID-19.
2. In line with instructions from the United Nations administration, the staff of the CITES Secretariat are all telecommuting, 5 days per week, with effect from 16 March 2020 and until further notice. The Secretariat's general telephone number (+41 (22) 917 81 39) and email address (info@cites.org) are functioning as normal and all staff are available to assist Parties through their direct office telephone number and email addresses as usual. Regular mail and courier packages can still be received and will be responded to, but these may experience some delays.
3. We are constantly reviewing upcoming meetings and other activities which we are organizing. We will not hesitate to inform immediately the Parties and other stakeholders involved if there is any need to change our current plans.
4. Our commitment is to continue to maintain an optimal service for our Parties whilst ensuring the health and safety of the staff and contributing to efforts to restrict the spread of the disease in line with United Nations policy and that of our host government.
5. The Secretary-General and her staff thank Parties for their understanding and have trust that the global community will safely get through these difficult times.