

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Administrative and financial matters

Meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Arrangements for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17)

SPONSORED DELEGATES PROJECT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. In 1986, the Secretariat initiated the Sponsored Delegates Project (SDP) to solicit financial assistance from various governments and organizations for a fund that would provide 'anonymous' assistance to enable all Parties to attend meetings of the Conference of the Parties, free from inappropriate influence.
3. The goal of full participation at meetings of the Conference of the Parties is important to ensure that all Parties can be part of the decision-making process and thereby ensure that fully informed and balanced decisions are taken. Over ninety per cent of the current Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties were adopted after the SDP began.

Delegates from developing countries sponsored from 1986 to 2010

CoP	Number of sponsored delegates	Number of Parties sponsored per CoP
CoP6 (Ottawa, 1987)	113	No data
CoP7 (Lausanne, 1989)	150	No data
CoP8 (Kyoto, 1992)	152	No data
CoP9 (Fort Lauderdale, 1994)	175	No data
CoP10 (Harare, 1997)	196	No data
CoP11 (Gigiri, 2000)	207	108
CoP12 (Santiago, 2002)	154	100
CoP13 (Bangkok, 2004)	149	97
CoP14 (The Hague, 2007)	181	114
CoP15 (Doha, 2010)	126	94
CoP16 (Bangkok, 2013)	162	87
Total/Average	1765/160	600/100

Current activities

4. The Secretariat has started the process of mobilizing resources to ensure that all Parties are adequately represented at the CoP17. The fund-raising target for CoP17 is USD 1,000,000 to ensure the same level of support is available to eligible Parties as was provided at CoP16.
5. Notification to the Parties [No. 2015/054](#) concerning requests for support under the SDP was posted on the CITES website on 15 September 2015. Regional representatives of the Standing Committee are encouraged to liaise with the Parties that have poor access to the internet to ensure that they are informed of this Notification and have the opportunity to respond on time.
6. A request has been sent to several potential donors, including Parties, international organizations, major foundations and commercial companies in November 2015. Representatives from developed countries will not receive support and amongst those which request financial assistance, priority will be given to those Parties with the lowest percentage in the scale of contributions found in [Annex 4](#) of Resolution Conf. 16.2 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2014-2016*.
7. Financial support for countries to attend CoP17 will depend on the level of funds raised and on the number of requests received from the eligible countries. Applications for support must be received by 30 April 2016 and eligible Parties requesting support will be informed soon after that by the Secretariat about the level of support available to them through the SDP.
8. The SDP pools all of the contributions received into one fund, with all sponsors being prominently acknowledged. The sponsorship of any participant delegation comes from the fund and cannot be traced to any particular donor. This manner of funding participation at the CoP by Parties and other donors, including NGOs and foundations, can assist in avoiding the perception of influence and in ensuring that the Convention is seen to be operating in a fully open and transparent manner.

Recommendations

9. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee encourage, via its regional representatives and any other means that it deems appropriate, Parties and all other organizations interested in providing financial support and wishing to help achieve the goal of full participation of all Parties in CoP17 through the SDP, to contact the CITES Secretariat.
10. Potential donors should be encouraged to make their donations to the Secretariat well in advance of CoP17. This will facilitate the proper planning of the travel and the accommodation of the sponsored delegates and a more efficient allocation of the funds available.
11. The Secretariat also suggests that the Standing Committee recommend to Parties and other potential donors who are considering providing financial support to delegations from developing countries to attend CoP17, to do so through the SDP.
12. The Standing Committee may wish to reflect on the possibility of formalizing the SDP, perhaps through a Resolution of the Conference of the Parties.