



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2017/057

Geneva, 10 August 2017

CONCERNING:

RURAL COMMUNITIES

Standing Committee intersessional working group

1. This Notification is being published at the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee.
2. At its 17th meeting (Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.28 – 17.30 on *Rural communities*. Decision 17.28 directs the CITES Standing Committee to form an intersessional working group “to consider how to effectively engage rural communities in the CITES processes” and Decision 17.29 indicates the intersessional working group shall be comprised of Parties and representatives of rural communities.
3. At its 68th meeting (Johannesburg, 2016), the Standing Committee agreed that Namibia and Ethiopia would act as the leads for this issue, and further agreed that any interested Party or Observer could reach out to the Standing Committee leads to express their interest in participating in the working group when it is formed during the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.
4. Recognizing that interested representatives of rural communities may be unable to attend the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, the purpose of this Notification is to encourage Parties to engage with representatives of rural communities within their country, draw their attention to Decisions 17.28 – 17.30, invite their participation in the working group and communicate that interest to the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.
5. Parties and interested observers are again invited to express their interest in this working group to the Standing Committee leads *via* the CITES Secretariat at info@cites.org.