

Information for NGOs requesting approval to attend the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

Organizations, including non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and industry associations, wishing to attend the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP18), must receive approval to attend the meeting. **All** organizations seeking to attend CoP18 as observers must register with the CITES Secretariat no later than **March 24, 2019**.

International organizations seeking to attend CoP18 may register directly with the CITES Secretariat. The organization must demonstrate that it is:

- a) qualified in the protection, conservation or management of wild fauna and flora; and
- b) an organization in its own right, with a legal persona and an international character, remit, and program of activities.

Organizations that were registered as international organizations at the 16th or 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013; and CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016) do not need to provide this information again.

National organizations, including non-governmental organizations and private sector entities, wishing to attend CoP18 must receive advance approval of the Management Authority of the State in which they are located, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 4, paragraph 2 b), of the Rules of Procedure.

Organizations located in the United States must submit a request to the Division of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The request must include material that details the technical qualifications of the organization with regard to its functions and activities in the protection, conservation, or management of wild fauna and flora. It must also include copies of the organization's charter and bylaws and a provisional list of the delegation that would represent the organization at the meeting if the request is approved.

Organizations that were registered as national organizations at the 16th or 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013; and CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016) need only provide the names of the delegation members in their request to the Division of Management Authority. All requests from U.S. national organizations seeking approval to attend CoP17 as observers should be submitted to the Division of Management Authority no later than **February 24, 2019**.

Requests should be sent to the following address: 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IA, Falls Church, VA 22041; fax: 703-358-2298; email: managementauthority@fws.gov.

Additional information on CoP18, including the agenda and working programme, can be found at <https://www.cites.org/eng/cop/index.php>.