

Information for NGOs requesting approval to attend the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

Organizations, including non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and industry associations, wishing to attend the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP19), must receive approval to attend the meeting. All organizations seeking to attend CoP19 as observers must register with the CITES Secretariat no later than **September 15, 2022**.

International organizations seeking to attend CoP19 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 non-governmental organizations at the 17th or 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016; CoP18, Geneva, 2019) do not need to provide this information again.

National organizations, including non-governmental organizations and private sector entities, seeking to attend CoP19 must receive advance approval of the Management Authority of the country 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 (DMA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The request must include documentation 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 non-governmental organizations at CoP17 or CoP18 do not need to provide the above information again and only need to provide the names of their delegation members in their request to DMA. All requests from U.S. national organizations seeking approval to attend CoP19 as observers should be submitted to DMA no later than **August 18, 2022**.

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 CoP19 can be found at <https://cites.org/eng/cop19>. Once available, CoP19 meeting documents, including the agenda and working programme, will be posted at <https://cites.org/eng/meetings/cop>.