

Needs assessment for strengthening the implementation of CITES

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.30 The Secretariat shall, before the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65):
- a) issue a Notification to the Parties containing a questionnaire on the needs identified in the Annex to document CoP16 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1), entitled *Technological, Logistical and Equipment Needs Assessment to Strengthen the Implementation of CITES in Developing Countries*. The Secretariat shall seek input from all Parties, revise the questionnaire, and report its findings at SC65;
 - b) subject to the availability of external resources, and in order to assist Parties in determining how best to access and utilize new technologies, undertake a study of new and appropriate information and communication technologies needed to implement the Convention, including but not limited to, the use of hand-held devices and tablets, and off-the-shelf or ready-made electronic permitting systems that are affordable, such as UNEP-WCMC's Electronic Permit Information eXchange (EPIX); and
 - c) report the results of the study, with recommendations as appropriate, for consideration at SC65.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 16.31 The Standing Committee shall, taking account of the results of the questionnaire and the report on the *Technological, Logistical and Equipment Needs Assessment to Strengthen the Implementation of CITES in Developing Countries*:
- a) with assistance from the Secretariat, using information provided by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 16.30, and subject to the availability of external resources, develop a mechanism by which the technological, logistical and equipment needs of all Parties to implement the Convention can be assessed on a regular basis, and prepare a draft decision on such a mechanism for consideration at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
 - b) establish a working group on the development of the mechanism, and organize, subject to the availability of external resources, an intersessional meeting to discuss development of the mechanism and the challenges faced by non-English speaking countries regarding translation and interpretation.

Directed to Parties

- 16.32 All Parties are urged to consider, as a priority, the identified needs of developing countries when implementing capacity-building, fund-raising and budget-allocation programmes to strengthen the implementation of the Convention.