

18th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP18)
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
23rd May to 3rd June 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Visa Procedure for travel to Sri Lanka

The following information has been provided by Sri Lanka to facilitate the visa procedure for CoP18.

1. Visa for accredited participants (i.e. those in possession of a *Priority Pass*) will be processed by the Department of Immigration & Emigration of Sri Lanka.
2. Sri Lanka has agreed to waive visa fees for accredited participants.
3. Accredited participants are encouraged to apply for visa, immediately upon accreditation with the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, to avoid delays in granting gratis visa.
4. Passport of the applicant must be valid for at least six months from the date of arrival in Sri Lanka.
5. The following countries have been declared as yellow fever endemic countries by the Ministry of Health of Sri Lanka. Therefore, delegates from such countries will need to carry the yellow fever vaccination certificate to be submitted to the immigration officer at the port of entry;

Central South America & the Caribbean region

Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

African region

Angola, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.

6. Accredited participants are requested to submit the following documents by email to acvisa@immigration.gov.lk when applying for a visa;
 - Duly filled visa application form
 - Copy of the passport
 - Copy of the letter of invitation issued by the CITES Secretary - General
 - Copy of the *Priority Pass* issued by the CITES Secretariat

Accredited media delegates when applying for visa, in addition to the above, should also submit a passport size digital photograph and the list of media equipment that they would carry to Sri Lanka, to the designated email acvisa@immigration.gov.lk, with copy to publicity@mfa.gov.lk.

Accredited media delegates also need to produce a Carnet certificate in respect of the media equipment that they carry, upon arrival at the Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

7. Accredited participants who encounter a problem while applying for visa are requested to contact the Department of Immigration and Emigration of Sri Lanka at the designated email: acvisa@immigration.gov.lk with copy to cites2019@mbs.gov.lk. Contact Person: Ms. Harshani Amarathunge, Assistant Controller (Visa), Contact No: 0094 77 29 24 417.

Non-accredited persons or accompanying spouses and families should apply for a tourist visa through the online platform: <http://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/>