

REITERATING Goal 3 of the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* as set out in Resolution Conf. 18.3, and specific objectives 3.2, 3.3 and 3.7, that Parties (individually and collectively) have the tools, resources and capacity to effectively implement and enforce the Convention, contributing to conservation, sustainable use and reduction of illegal trade in CITES listed species;

RECALLING that the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* recognizes the relationship of CITES with and the contribution it makes to other international efforts and actions, including achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

FURTHER RECALLING that the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* requests cooperation among Parties, relevant international partners, international financial mechanisms and other related institutions to support activities that contribute to CITES implementation and enforcement;

ACKNOWLEDGING the availability of the technological tools and innovations that support capacity-building activities are rapidly evolving;

RECOGNIZING the need for a more integrated and coherent approach to capacity-building in supporting the implementation of the Convention;

AWARE that many Parties would benefit from both general capacity development and capacity-building targeted to help address implementation, compliance, and enforcement issues;

RECOGNIZING the special and diverse needs of developing country Parties, in particular the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, with regard to difficulties in the establishment, staffing, training and equipment of Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities, as well as enforcement authorities and entities;

RECOGNIZING that capacity-building and compliance assistance efforts to improve the effectiveness of CITES can involve every aspect of the Convention, and need to be broadly integrated;

NOTING with appreciation efforts by various national, regional and international organizations and initiatives to support Parties in the effective implementation of the Convention; and

ACKNOWLEDGING that CITES capacity-building efforts benefit from external funding, that improved coordination among donors is needed to make efficient and strategic use of limited resources, and that an integrated framework for capacity-building can provide a vehicle for more effective coordination;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. AGREES that full implementation of CITES requires the provision of adequate tools and resources and timely capacity-building efforts;
2. INVITES Parties to:
 - a) support the capacity-building efforts of other Parties through sharing of information regarding capacity-building materials and efforts, translating materials into both the working languages and non-working languages of the Convention, offering advice related to CITES implementation, as appropriate, and providing of financial support for in-person training or training opportunities;
 - b) ensure the inclusion of capacity-building, including targeted, technical, enforcement and compliance assistance, in the relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes; and
 - c) utilize the CITES Virtual College to support capacity-building activities and provide the Secretariat with inputs for the improvements of its services;
3. ENCOURAGES Parties to use the CITES implementation reports, as well as direct expression of interest, to inform the Secretariat about their capacity needs, underlining their most urgent needs;
4. DIRECTS the Secretariat to:
 - a) seek external funding and provide capacity-building support to Parties, particularly for needs identified in Resolutions and Decisions and through compliance procedures, considering CITES implementation reports and direct expressions of interest and needs of Parties, giving

priority to those Parties recently acceded, the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

- b) cooperate with institutions and organizations in planning and delivering joint capacity-building activities of relevance to the Convention, in consultation with the Standing Committee and with the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, as they relate to the development of new partnerships that have a scientific nexus or new or revised capacity-building materials of a scientific nature, including scholarships for in-person training or training opportunities;
 - c) collect information on capacity-building materials and efforts from Parties and others, and make these resources available to Parties through the CITES website;
 - d) continue to undertake the revision and enhancement of the CITES website and of the CITES Virtual College, in consultation with the Standing Committee and with the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, including selected online courses, to update the content and to improve their effectiveness in providing access to capacity-building resources to Parties; and
 - e) report to the Standing Committee and to the Animals and Plants Committees on capacity-building activities and seek their advice and input, as appropriate.
5. REQUESTS the Animals and Plants Committees to offer advice and input as appropriate to Parties and to the Secretariat related to CITES implementation and capacity-building activities, which may include identifying capacity-building needs and priorities and making recommendations for developing or improving capacity-building materials and tools;
 6. INVITES Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to make funding available to the Secretariat for carrying out its capacity-building projects and activities, and provide appropriate materials that facilitate the capacity-building activities and efforts of Parties and the Secretariat; and
 7. REPEALS Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical cooperation*.