

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

COOPERATION WITH OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

1. This document has been prepared by the Standing Committee.*
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.55 (Rev. CoP18), 17.56 (Rev. CoP18), 18.47 and 18.48 on *Cooperation with other biodiversity-related Conventions* as follows:

Directed to Parties

17.55 (Rev. CoP18) *Parties are encouraged to strengthen synergies among biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity-building activities.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.56 (Rev. CoP18) *The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as appropriate, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This should involve the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and, as appropriate, engagement with other relevant organizations and processes, including processes under the Rio Conventions. The Standing Committee shall report on the implementation of this Decision at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the Secretariat

18.47 *The Secretariat shall prepare a report summarizing existing CITES Resolutions and Decisions related to synergies, partnerships and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities, and advise on any measures to enhance the implementation of the Convention in this regard, drawing on the practices of other relevant biodiversity-related entities, together with the outputs resulting from the decisions and resolutions of their governing bodies.*

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.48 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report of the Secretariat under Decision 18.47 and the merits of proposing to the Conference of the Parties any measures to enhance the implementation of the Convention through a more streamlined, cohesive, and effective approach to synergy, partnership and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities; and
- b) prepare a report on its implementation of the present Decision and submit any resulting recommendations for consideration by the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. At its 74th meeting, the Standing Committee (SC74, Lyon, March 2022) considered a report prepared by the Secretariat ([SC74 Doc. 23](#)) as directed in Decision 18.47. The report included an overview of Resolutions and Decisions related to synergies, partnerships and cooperation, formal and informal partnerships, and resolutions and decisions adopted by other biodiversity related conventions to address cooperation and partnerships. The overview allowed the Standing Committee to put in perspective the role of cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities in the implementation of the Convention.
4. SC74 noted the advice provided by the Secretariat on this area of work and the importance of synergies. The Secretariat highlighted the need to identify priorities in terms of collaboration, cooperation and partnerships essential to enhance implementation of the Convention, its effectiveness and efficiency and raising its profile. In this regard, the Standing Committee supported the submission of a draft decision to the Conference of the Parties directing the Secretariat to prepare a partnership strategy for the Parties, the Permanent Committees and the Secretariat to enhance the implementation of the Convention through strategic partnerships (Annex 1). The Committee noted the Secretariat's suggestion that the Committee form an intersessional working group at its 76th meeting to advance the consideration of this matter. The Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of Decisions 18.47 and 18.48. It should be noted that SC74 summary record (SC74 SR) and the executive summary [SC74 Sum. 2 (Rev. 1)] incorrectly referred to the deletion of Decisions 18.48 and 18.49, rather than 18.47 and 18.48.
5. The *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* recognizes that Parties' efforts to implement the Convention may also provide benefit to, and draw strength from, efforts being undertaken in other fora. The goals of the Vision are designed *inter alia* to further improve the relationship with complementary international efforts to achieve conservation and sustainable development, including with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and related conventions, agreements and associations. Goal 5 of the Vision in particular aims to use existing or new mutually supportive partnerships to help its achievement. Thus, CITES Parties can also help advance other international goals or targets by simultaneously advancing the achievement of CITES goals. Objective 5.1 under Goal 5 is of particular relevance (*Objective 5.1 Parties and the Secretariat support and enhance existing cooperative partnerships in order to achieve their identified objectives*). SC74 agreed to propose to the 19th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP 19) the renewal of Decision 17.55 (Rev. CoP18) (Annex 2), encouraging Parties to strengthen synergies among biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity-building activities [[SC74 Sum. 2 \(Rev. 1\)](#)].
6. The Committee furthermore agreed to revise Decision 17.56 (Rev. CoP18) (Annex 2) to take into account the outcomes of the Bern II workshop when exploring options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals [[SC74 Sum. 2 \(Rev. 1\)](#)].

Recommendations

7. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
 - a) adopt the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to the present document;
 - b) adopt the revisions to Decisions 17.55 (Rev. CoP18) and 17.56 (Rev. CoP18) contained in Annex 2 to the present document; and
 - c) delete Decisions 18.47 and 18.48.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to the present document and the revisions to Decisions 17.55 (Rev. CoP18) and 17.56 (Rev. CoP18) contained in Annex 2 to the present document. The Secretariat furthermore concurs with the recommendation to delete Decisions 18.47 and 18.48.

- B. The 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) will take place from 7 – 19 December 2022, in Montreal, Canada. CBD COP15 will consider the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as well as other decisions to operationalize the framework, including a draft decision on *Cooperation with other Conventions and international organizations* ([CBD/SBI/REC/3/12](#)). In view of the fact that the Conference of Parties to CBD will take place after the 19th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, Parties could consider to further elaborate on the decisions to be adopted in this regard by CoP19.

DECISIONS ON
COOPERATION WITH MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.AA** Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, prepare for consideration by the Standing Committee a partnership strategy for the Parties, the Permanent Committees and the Secretariat to identify priorities for collaboration that specifically enhance the implementation of the Convention, as well as its effectiveness and efficiency, through strategic partnerships.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.BB** The Standing Committee shall review the draft partnership strategy developed by the Secretariat under Decision 19.AA and make recommendations for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties.

REVISED DECISIONS ON
COOPERATION WITH MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Added text shown underlined and deleted text shown in ~~strike through~~.

Directed to Parties

17.55 (Rev. CoP4~~8~~19) Parties are encouraged to strengthen synergies among biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity-building activities.

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.56 (Rev. CoP4~~8~~19) The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and ~~the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and~~ the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account the outcomes of the Second Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Bern II), as appropriate, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This should involve the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and, as appropriate, engagement with other relevant organizations and processes, including processes under the Rio Conventions. The Standing Committee shall report on the implementation of this Decision at the ~~19th~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS**

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding.

Decision	Activity	Estimated costs (USD) (excludes Programme Support Costs)	Source of funding
19.AA	Development of partnership strategy	100,000	Extrabudgetary funds