

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

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee.*
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.68 to 18.70 on the *Compliance Assistance Programme* as follows:

Directed to the Parties

18.68 *Parties are invited to:*

- a) *provide financial or technical support to Parties subject to compliance mechanisms and other related compliance measures as specified in Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES compliance procedures to further strengthen their institutional capacity, including the possibility of deploying short-term 'placements' or 'secondments' to the Parties concerned and peer capacity-building activities as part as the Compliance Assistance Programme (e.g. bilateral cooperation and mentoring by fellow authorities of another Party); and*
- b) *provide to the Secretariat any relevant information on bilateral or multilateral financial or technical assistance provided to Parties subjected to CITES compliance measures to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the recommendations of the Standing Committee.*

Directed to the Secretariat

18.69 *The Secretariat shall establish, subject to the availability of external funding, a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) and:*

- a) *issue a Notification to the Parties requesting information on any compliance assistance currently provided by governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental entities;*
- b) *upon request, conduct technical missions and facilitate the organization of in-country assistance coordination mechanisms to selected Parties eligible to benefit from the Compliance Assistance Programme;*
- c) *in consultation with the Masters Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade, the International framework' hosted by the International University of Andalucía and other relevant masters, explore the possibility and feasibility of training and deploying short*

* *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.*

term consultants or interns to assist Parties benefiting from the Compliance Assistance Programme;

- d) in consultation with the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and development aid agencies of potential donor countries, explore the possibility and feasibility of strengthening the compliance-based component of the GEF Global Wildlife Program and other relevant programmes, by developing a subprogramme on CITES Compliance Assistance taking into account the recommendations of the Standing Committee and the needs of the Parties concerned;*
- e) in collaboration with the Montreal protocol and other relevant multilateral environment agreements, conduct a rapid assessment of the lessons learnt from the implementation of a Compliance Assistance Programme under the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and any other similar initiatives that specifically provide compliance-related assistance; and*
- f) report to the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of Decisions 18.68 and 18.69 and on the feasibility of mainstreaming a compliance assistance component in the Global Wildlife Program of GEF and other relevant programmes.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.70 *The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP); consider whether Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES compliance procedures should be amended to reflect the creation of a CAP and assess the report submitted by the Secretariat regarding the collaboration with the Masters Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade, the International framework' hosted by the International University of Andalucía and other relevant masters; the feasibility of mainstreaming a compliance assistance component in the Global Wildlife Program of GEF and other relevant programmes; and report its findings and recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. At its 74th meeting (SC74, Lyon, March 2022), the Standing Committee discussed the implementation of Decisions 18.68, 18.69 and 18.70 on the basis of the Secretariat's report pursuant to Decision 18.69, contained in document [SC74 Doc. 29](#). In its report, the Secretariat reported that, thanks to the financial support provided by the European Union and Switzerland, it had established a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) aimed at providing targeted support to Parties facing persistent compliance challenges. A full description of the programme, including definitions, principles, methodologies, budget and timeframes, was provided in [document CoP18 Doc. 28](#). Additional information can be found in the [webpage on CITES compliance procedures](#) on the CITES website.
4. For the establishment of the CAP, the Secretariat reported that it has followed a step-by-step approach and has short-listed four countries to conduct a pilot phase of the CAP, namely Guinea, Nigeria, Suriname and Togo. Intensive compliance assistance is also provided to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Madagascar through other channels of cooperation. The Secretariat also provided information on financial and technical peer assistance provided by Parties to other Parties regarding compliance.
5. The Standing Committee noted the information provided by the Parties and the observers which is used by the Secretariat in the design of assistance programmes to eligible Parties. The Committee agreed to submit to CoP19 amendments to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures*. The proposed amendments are contained in Annex 1 to the present document and reflect the creation of the CAP. The Committee further agreed to submit draft decisions to CoP19 to replace Decisions 18.68 to 18.70 (contained in Annex 2 to the present document). Some Parties thanked the Secretariat for the implementation of the CAP, the assistance provided and looked forward to collaborating with the Secretariat on the CAP.

Cooperation with the University of Andalucía

6. After SC74, the Secretariat provided the Chair of the Standing Committee with updated information on the 14th edition of the UNIA Master's Degree course in management and conservation of species in trade. This edition was attended by 40 participants from 32 countries: Benin; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Canada; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon;

Germany; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea Bissau; Kenya; Liberia; Mexico; Niger; Nigeria; Paraguay; Rwanda; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Solomon Islands; Suriname; Switzerland; The Gambia; Togo; Tonga; United Republic of Tanzania (Zanzibar); and the United States of America. In total, after 14 editions, the Master has been completed by 390 participants from 106 countries.

7. In consultation with the Director of the Master, the Secretariat reported that various possibilities are being explored to identify the best dossiers with top qualifications among the 390 students that have followed the Master to be deployed as short-term consultants to assist Parties in the CAP. Initial criteria for an excellency programme were discussed such as the experience on the ground; knowledge of the Convention; recent or current work as members of CITES Authorities; proactive and in regular communication with members of the Master, etc.

GEF 8 and the Global Wildlife Program

8. Pursuant to paragraph d) of Decision 18.69, the Secretariat reported to SC74 on meetings and consultations the GEF and the Global Wildlife Program (GWP). The proposed new Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Programme (WCD IP) includes a component on “Wildlife for Prosperity” which strives to ensure that local communities and governments value, invest in and benefit from wildlife and habitat conservation including the recovery of nature-based tourism, landscape restoration and diversification of sustainable livelihoods and private sector engagement for building sustainable wildlife-based economies.
9. In noting the information in document SC74 Doc. 29, the Standing Committee noted that the CITES Secretariat continues to participate in the GWP as a non-implementing agency member of the Program Steering Committee and is exploring opportunities to promote synergies between the GEF GWP country projects and the CITES-related activities in the context of the GEF8 programme.

Recommendations

10. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
 - a) adopt the amendments to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures* as contained in Annex 1 to the present document to reflect the creation of a Compliance Assistance Programme;
 - b) adopt the draft decisions on the implementation of the Compliance Assistance Programme contained in Annex 2 to the present document; and
 - c) delete Decisions 18.68, 18.69 and 18.70.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the amendments to Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures* as contained in Annex 1 as well as the draft decisions on the implementation of the Compliance Assistance Programme as contained in Annex 2 to the present document, and delete Decisions 18.68, 18.69 and 18.70 as proposed by the chair of the Standing Committee.
- B. Since the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (Lyon, March 2022), a Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) was signed at the end of May 2022 between the Secretariat and Guinea. Training workshops for the Management and Scientific authorities will be organized in Conakry and online, respectively. The Secretariat has also contacted several Parties to ensure an exchange of experiences in the framework of this programme. At the time of writing these comments, Nigeria and Togo have developed a work plan and budget and the SSFAs are being finalized in close consultation with the national authorities. The Secretariat expects these SSFAs to be signed before CoP19 and will provide an oral update on progress made at the present meeting.
- C. Currently, the objective of the CAP is to provide technical and financial support tailored to the strengths and needs of individual eligible Parties. In the future, the CAP is envisaged to evolve from national to regional approaches to provide sub-regional support to address shared challenges and compliance issues among Parties in the same region.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 14.3 (REV. COP18)
ON CITES COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

RECALLING ~~Decision 12.84, whereby that~~ the Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002) instructed the Secretariat to draft a set of guidelines on compliance with implementation of the Convention for consideration by the Standing Committee;

RECALLING FURTHER that the Standing Committee at its 50th meeting (Geneva, March 2004) decided to establish an open-ended working group to draft such guidelines;

RECALLING FURTHER that the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (Geneva, 2019) instructed the Secretariat to establish a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP);

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. TAKES NOTE of the Guide to CITES compliance procedures annexed to this Resolution; ~~and~~
2. RECOMMENDS that the Guide be referred to, when dealing with compliance matters;
3. TAKES NOTE that the Secretariat has established the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) to support Parties facing persistent compliance challenges; and
4. INVITES all Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources to provide financial and/or technical assistance for the effective implementation of the CAP.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Directed to the Parties

19.AA Parties are invited to continue to provide financial or technical support to Parties subject to compliance mechanisms and other related compliance measures as specified in Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures* to further strengthen their institutional capacity.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.BB The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding:

- a) upon request, conduct technical missions and facilitate the organization of in-country assistance coordination mechanisms to selected Parties eligible to benefit from the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP);
- b) in consultation with the International University of Andalucía which hosts the Masters Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade – The International Framework' and other relevant universities, explore the possibility and feasibility of training and deploying short term consultants to assist Parties benefiting from the Compliance Assistance Programme; and
- c) report to the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of Decisions 19.AA and 19.BB.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.CC The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) and report its findings and recommendations to the 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. The Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.

Decision	Activity	Indicative costs (USD) (excludes Programme Support Costs)	Source of funding
19.BB	Compliance Assistant Programme - Coordination Costs per year (x 3 years)	175,226 per annum	Extrabudgetary
	Deployment of short-term consultancies	70,200	
	Four technical compliance missions of the Secretariat (USD 10,000 per mission) per year (3 years)	40,000 per annum	
	In-country assistance (six countries or two sub-regions)	100,000 x 6 (countries) or 300,000 x 2 (sub-regions)	