

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



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

Strategic matters

Capacity-building

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 19.2 ON *CAPACITY-BUILDING*

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building*, directing the Secretariat in paragraph 4 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.*
3. Since CoP19, the Secretariat has received external funding that is fully or partially in support of its capacity-building activities from China, European Union, Germany, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Monaco, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. Document SC77 Doc. 13 on *Access to funding* contains further details on the extrabudgetary financial support from these and other donors.
4. The Secretariat has provided dedicated capacity-building support (including compliance support) to a number of Parties, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Ecuador, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Togo, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. In addition, regional capacity-building support was provided in the following subject areas, regions and sub-regions:

- a) Training on Legal Acquisition Findings provided to Spanish-speaking Parties of Central and South America and the Caribbean;
 - b) Post-CoP19 priority-setting for the African region;
 - c) Combatting illegal wildlife trade for the West and Central African region;
 - d) Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal wildlife trade for the Asian region; and
 - e) eCITES implementation in the Asian region.
5. These activities have been strengthened through partnerships with many organizations, such as the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); as well as INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC).
6. Details of these and other capacity-building activities can be found in various reports of the Secretariat to the present meeting, including:
- a) SC77 Doc. 24 on *Compliance Assistance Programme*;
 - b) SC77 Doc. 25 on *CITES Tree Species Programme*;
 - c) SC77 Doc. 30 on *Demand reduction to combat illegal trade*;
 - d) SC77 Doc. 39.1 on *Enforcement matters*;
 - e) SC77 Doc. 39.2 on *International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime: Report of the Secretariat*;
 - f) SC77 Doc. 41.1 on *Asian big cats (Felidae spp.): Report of the Secretariat*; and
 - g) SC77 Doc. 65 on *Saiga antelopes (Saiga spp.)*
7. With regard to in-person training opportunities, Notification to Parties [No. 2023/059](#) of 10 May 2023 was issued to publicize the 15th edition of the *Master's course on Management and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework*, organized by the International University of Andalusia (UNIA). The Secretariat is currently in discussion with UNIA on scholarship and in-kind support opportunities for the course, which will take place from 1 February to 1 September 2024.
8. In making the pre-announcement of the course, the Secretariat issued Notification to Parties [No. 2023/038](#) of 27 March 2023 to call for financial support towards offering scholarships to participants from CITES Management Authorities Scientific Authorities, or CITES enforcement focal points from developing country Parties, and for nominations of course participants interested in receiving the scholarships. The European Union and China confirmed their financial support to the Secretariat towards scholarships. In addition, the [USAID West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development \(WABiLED\)](#) programme will support a number of participants to take part in the course. The WABiLED support is directed towards CITES Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities and Enforcement focal points of ECOWAS Member States.
9. At the time of writing, over a dozen requests for scholarships have been received by the CITES Secretariat, which exceed the funding availability. The Secretariat welcomes offers of additional financial contributions to allow all interested Management and Scientific Authority officers from developing countries to attend the course.

Recommendations

10. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of this document.