

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3-8 February 2025

Administrative and financial matters

ACCESS TO FUNDING

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties maintained Decision 18.4 and adopted Decisions 19.4 to 19.9 on *Access to funding* as follows:

Directed to the Parties

18.4 *Parties are invited to provide non-reimbursable loan of personnel services to the CITES Secretariat noting that the salary and administrative fee of non-reimbursable loan personnel shall be covered by the Party, with such personnel remaining under the administrative authority of the sending Party. Non-reimbursable loan personnel shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the mandate of the CITES Secretariat.*

19.4 *Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *engage with their Global Environment Facility (GEF) national focal points in order to take part in the national GEF processes and facilitate use of allocated GEF funding through the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program;*
- b) *contribute to the development and implementation of GEF projects, in line with existing GEF procedures and guidelines, that may have components related to the implementation of CITES, by communicating with their national GEF counterparts and informing them of relevant CITES requirements and processes; and*
- c) *monitor the progress of the GEF Global Wildlife Program and the discussion on the establishment of the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program under the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-8) and ensure that national projects, where applicable, can enhance the beneficiary Parties' ability to meet their obligations under CITES.*

Directed to the Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities

19.5 *All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are invited to provide financial or technical assistance for ensuring the effective implementation of the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.*

19.6 *In providing financial assistance, Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are encouraged to take into consideration the administrative and financial management support needed to ensure that the funded activities are managed in an efficient, effective and accountable manner, and that they do not affect the Secretariat's core administrative tasks.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.7 The Secretariat shall:

- a) continue to participate in the Program Steering Committee of the GEF Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, or other GEF mechanisms as appropriate, to ensure that GEF projects under the program are, as far as possible, aligned with CITES Decisions and Resolutions and contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention; and
- b) provide technical advice and in-kind support to Parties in the development and implementation of their GEF projects under the Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, or other GEF mechanisms as appropriate.

Directed to the Parties

19.8 The Secretariat shall report on the progress on the implementation of Decisions 19.5 and 19.7 and make any recommendations, as necessary, to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.9 The Standing Committee shall review the Secretariat's report and make recommendations, as necessary, to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Implementation of Decision 18.4

3. Since CoP19, the CITES Secretariat has not received any non-reimbursable loan of personnel services.

Implementation of Decision 19.5

4. Document SC78 Doc. 9.1 on *Administrative matters: Report of the Secretariat* provides a summary of extrabudgetary financial support provided for the implementation of the Convention since CoP19, which amounts to over USD 20 million. The confirmed funds deposited during the period from 31 September 2023 to 31 September 2024, were contributed by the following Parties: China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Germany, Japan, Monaco, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. In addition, the Animal Welfare Institute, Conservation Force, Dallas Safari Club Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Society have provided extrabudgetary contributions.
5. The Secretariat responds to individual *ad hoc* queries from potential donor Parties on the funding gaps for the implementation of CITES Resolutions and Decisions. To facilitate the efforts of Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities in considering their financial or technical assistance to support the effective implementation of CITES Decisions and Resolutions, the Secretariat also issued the following Notifications to Parties:
 - a) Notifications [No. 2023/122](#) of 23 October 2023 and [No. 2023/024](#) of 10 March 2023 to inform on the status of funding for the implementation of all valid Decisions after CoP19; and
 - b) Notifications [No. 2024/087](#) of 12 August 2024, [No. 2024/077](#) of 3 July 2024 and [No. 2023/061](#) of 10 May 2023 to make calls for external funding on a small number of priority activities where additional external funds were needed
6. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America regularly request the Secretariat to issue Notifications to Parties on their national funding opportunities.¹

¹ These are UK Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund ([Notification to Parties No. 2023/058](#) of 9 May 2023) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Fund Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for various species ([Notifications to Parties No. 2024/065](#) of 23 May 2024; [No. 2024/020](#) of 17 Jan 2024; [No. 2023/141](#) of 19 December 2023; [No. 2023/117](#) of 3 October 2023; [No. 2023/110](#) of 11 September 2023; [No. 2023/099](#) of 11 August 2023; and [No. 2023/097](#) of 10 August 2023).

Implementation of Decision 19.6

7. To provide dedicated support for project management, an Associate Project Management Officer and a Programme Management Assistant are on board using a portion of the project budget from the European Union, Germany, and the United States of America. The recruitment of an additional Project Manager for the CITES Tree Species Project, as well as Fund Management Officer has begun, combining several sources of funds, to address the additional administrative and financial management support needed for the projects.

Implementation of Decision 19.7

8. The [Global Wildlife Program](#) (GWP; previously Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program) is currently supporting the development of projects for 15 countries under the latest replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8) in Colombia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Paraguay, the Philippines, Thailand, Uganda and Zambia.²
9. The CITES Secretariat has supported the work of the countries under the GEF-8 Global Wildlife Program projects through contributing to the GWP GEF-8 Project Preparation Grant Guidebook and presenting in a virtual informational session (webinar) on *Enhancing synergies between GWP GEF-8, CITES, and CMS*.

Additional information and observations of the Secretariat

10. Pursuant to the recommendations made in the United Nations Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audit, the Secretariat is developing a resource mobilization strategy to review the current context and needs of the CITES Secretariat's work; assess the existing and potential donors in different sectors; and consider potential and realistic, given the limited human resources in the Secretariat, fundraising actions/mechanisms for the CITES Secretariat to assist the Parties in fundraising efforts to implement their Decisions.
11. Considering that the actions called for under Decisions 18.4, and Decisions 19.4 through 19.7 are of a longer-term policy-oriented nature, the Secretariat suggests that they be incorporated as operative paragraphs in the Resolution on the *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium*, which is renewed at every meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendations

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) take note of the update provided by the Secretariat on access to funding;
 - b) propose to incorporate Decisions 18.4, and Decisions 19.4 through 19.7 in Resolution 19.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium* contained in Annex to the present document for consideration by the Conference of Parties at its 20th meeting (CoP20); and
 - c) agree that, with the amendments to Resolution 19.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium*, Decisions 18.4, and Decisions 19.4 through 19.7 can be proposed for deletion.

² See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/global-wildlife-program/partners>

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 19.1 ON
*FINANCING AND THE COSTED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECRETARIAT
FOR THE TRIENNIUM 2023-2025*

(new text is underlined)

After paragraph 19, insert the following new paragraphs:

- X. INVITES Parties to provide non-reimbursable loan of personnel services to the CITES Secretariat, noting that the salary and administrative fee of non-reimbursable loan personnel shall be covered by the Party, with such personnel remaining under the administrative authority of the sending Party. Non-reimbursable loan personnel shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the mandate of the CITES Secretariat;

- X. ENCOURAGES Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities to provide financial or technical assistance for ensuring the effective implementation of the Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. In providing financial assistance, consideration shall be made for the administrative and financial management support needed to ensure that the funded activities are managed in an efficient, effective and accountable manner, and that they do not affect the Secretariat's core administrative tasks;

- X. REQUESTS the Secretariat to:
 - a) continue to participate in the Program Steering Committee of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Programme and other GEF mechanisms as appropriate, to ensure that GEF projects under the program are, as far as possible, aligned with CITES Resolutions and Decisions and contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention; and

 - b) provide technical advice and in-kind support to Parties in the development and implementation of their GEF projects under the Global Wildlife Program as appropriate;