

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

Strategic matters

Capacity-building

CAPACITY-BUILDING FRAMEWORK

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.40 to 19.43 on *Capacity-building*, as follows:

Directed to Parties

19.40 *Parties are invited to share ideas, experiences, and information related to the development of an integrated capacity-building framework aiming to guide Parties, the Secretariat and external partners, as appropriate, to identify capacity-building needs and to prioritize, plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and review the benefit of their capacity-building efforts for more effective implementation of the Convention.*

Directed to the Standing Committee, with inputs from the Animals and Plants Committees, the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, and the Secretariat

19.41 *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *continue the development of an integrated capacity-building framework, including a common language and clear definitions, to improve the implementation of the Convention, with inputs from the Animals and Plants Committees, the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, and the Secretariat;*
- b) *in doing so, ensure the representation of perspectives and contexts of different regions and stakeholders (including from Parties that fund and Parties that receive capacity-building support) and consider developing a mechanism for Parties to identify the specific needs that, if met, would allow them to achieve full capacity to implement CITES; and*
- c) *provide a draft integrated capacity-building framework (which may include conceptual models, tools and guidance), along with its recommendations, for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.*

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

19.42 *The Animals and Plants Committees shall engage in consultations with the Standing Committee, as called for in Decision 19.41; and with the Secretariat as called for in Decision 19.43.*

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees

19.43 *The Secretariat shall provide input to the Standing Committee and, subject to the availability of external funding and in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, organize technical workshops and regional consultations that would facilitate the implementation by the Standing Committee of Decision 19.41.*

3. In the previous intersessional period (2020-2022), the Standing Committee had established an intersessional working group on capacity-building to consider the potential development of an integrated capacity-building framework to improve the implementation of the Convention. This resulted in the following general agreement that was noted at CoP19 (see document [CoP19 Doc.16](#)):
 - a) a CITES capacity-building conceptual framework or strategy is needed;
 - b) the objective of the CITES capacity-building framework is to guide Parties, partners and the Secretariat to identify capacity-building needs and to plan, prioritize, coordinate, implement, monitor and review the effectiveness of their capacity-building efforts for the enhanced implementation of the Convention;
 - c) there is a need for the capacity-building framework to demonstrate clear linkages with the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) and the possible country-wide Review of Significant Trade (RST), along with other measures and tools;
 - d) consideration will be given to two possible conceptual models: (1) simplified and high-level, demonstrating steps and feedback systems for planning; and (2) mapping capacity needs and intervention points in more detail;
 - e) taking a "needs-based" approach (acknowledging the sensitive nature of the needs assessment) and considering examples of needs assessments and tools created by other entities such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
 - f) need for a common language, particularly the adoption of clear definitions, taking into account definitions used in other multilateral environmental agreements; and
 - g) work on performance indicators, monitoring and evaluation tool, and resource tracking tool may be best developed following the developments of other elements of the framework.
4. In document [SC77 Doc. 23.3](#) to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat proposed that a CITES integrated capacity-building framework could be potentially guided by and aligned with the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) to support nationally determined priorities for KMGBF implementation.

KMGBF long-term strategic framework

5. The [KMGBF long-term strategic framework](#) underscores the importance of strengthening capacities at national, regional, and global levels through targeted support for institutions, knowledge exchange, and resource mobilization. It prioritizes the integration of traditional knowledge, scientific expertise, and innovative technologies to address biodiversity challenges effectively. Key objectives of this framework include building technical skills, improving governance structures, and fostering inclusive partnerships with indigenous peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders. Additionally, the framework highlights the importance of sustained financial investments, monitoring progress, and promoting gender equality in biodiversity actions, ensuring that no one is left behind in efforts to restore and protect ecosystems globally.

Biodiversity Capacity-Building and Development Forum

6. The [First Biodiversity Capacity-Building and Development Forum](#), organized during CBD CoP16, brought together representatives of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, non-governmental organizations, private sector, academia and other relevant stakeholders involved in capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation initiatives. Participants discussed the key challenges for the effective implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). These challenges include insufficient financial resources, limited capacity for data collection and monitoring, and inadequate integration of biodiversity goals into broader development policies. Technical expertise and

human resource shortages further impede progress, particularly in developing countries. Additionally, translating ambitious NBSAP goals into actionable plans remains a significant hurdle, compounded by poor coordination among stakeholders and fragmented government efforts. Ineffective management structures were also highlighted as barriers to achieving biodiversity objectives.

7. Participants in the Forum also highlighted the importance of integrating biodiversity into key sectors like agriculture and energy, fostering cross-agency collaboration to align targets with national priorities, and improving biodiversity fiscal reporting for transparent funding allocation. In this connection, tailored training programmes, strategic partnerships with diverse stakeholders, and adaptive funding mechanisms are critical for effective and sustainable action. Participants further emphasized the need for governments to prioritize biodiversity, supported by strong political will and compelling advocacy to link conservation with broader sustainable development goals. Inclusion must empower marginalized groups as active leaders, and capacity-building should be deeply embedded within projects rather than treated as an afterthought.

Development of a CITES integrated capacity-building framework

8. The information presented above offers valuable insights that will inform the development of a CITES integrated capacity-building framework. Building on these insights, the Secretariat intends to organize, in consultation with the Chairs of the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, as well as the Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, one or more regional consultations and technical workshops that would facilitate the implementation by the Standing Committee of Decision 19.41. While some financial resources were made available in 2024 to start this work, the Secretariat was unable to make progress during the course of the year due to constraints in time and human resources. The Secretariat will continue this work in 2025 with the aim of organizing the consultations after the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20). The Secretariat's effort in the next intersessional period will also be facilitated through the guidance from a Standing Committee intersessional working group.
9. The consultations will ensure representation from different regions and stakeholders and from both donors and recipients, in accordance with paragraph b) of Decision 19.41. In preparation of the consultations, the Secretariat will solicit and collect ideas, experiences, and information as per Decision 19.40. Based on this, the Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to propose to the Conference of the Parties to renew Decisions 19.40 to 19.43, with revisions to Decision 19.41 to establish an intersessional working group to work on CITES integrated capacity-building framework.

Recommendations

10. The Standing Committee is invited to propose the renewal of Decision 19.40 and the revisions of Decisions 19.41 to 19.43 as contained in the Annex to the present document to the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS 19.40 AND 19.41 (REV. COP20) TO 19.43 (REV. COP20) ON
CAPACITY-BUILDING FRAMEWORK

(new text is underlined; deleted text is in ~~strike through~~)

Directed to Parties

19.40 Parties are invited to share ideas, experiences, and information related to the development of an integrated capacity-building framework aiming to guide Parties, the Secretariat and external partners, as appropriate, to identify capacity-building needs and to prioritize, plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and review the benefit of their capacity-building efforts for more effective implementation of the Convention.

Directed to the Standing Committee, with inputs from the Animals and Plants Committees, the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, and the Secretariat

19.41 (Rev. CoP20) The Standing Committee shall establish an intersessional working group on the development of an integrated capacity-building framework to:

- a) continue the development of an integrated capacity-building framework, including a common language and clear definitions, to improve the implementation of the Convention, with inputs from the Animals and Plants Committees, the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, and the Secretariat;
- b) in doing so, ensure the representation of perspectives and contexts of different regions and stakeholders (including from Parties that fund and Parties that receive capacity-building support) and consider developing a mechanism for Parties to identify the specific needs that, if met, would allow them to achieve full capacity to implement CITES; and
- c) provide a draft integrated capacity-building framework (which may include conceptual models, tools and guidance), along with its recommendations, for consideration of the Standing Committee and onward submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th 21st meeting.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

19.42 (Rev. CoP20) The Animals and Plants Committees shall engage in consultations with the Standing Committee, as called for in Decision 19.41 (Rev. CoP20); and with the Secretariat as called for in Decision 19.43 (Rev. CoP20).

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees

19.43 (Rev. CoP20) The Secretariat shall provide input to the Standing Committee and, subject to the availability of external funding and in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, as well as the Chair of the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, organize technical workshops and regional consultations that would facilitate the implementation by the Standing Committee of Decision 19.41 (Rev. CoP20).