

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

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, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, the European Union, Germany, Monaco, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. Document SC78 Doc. 11 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-related support, as described in document SC78 Doc. 23 on *Compliance Assistance Programme*) to Parties, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Ecuador, Guinea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Togo, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. In addition, the Secretariat has offered direct technical support and guidance to many Parties on a bilateral basis, as needed, beyond the scope of funded projects.

5. Furthermore, since the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC77; Geneva, November 2023), the Secretariat organized regional capacity-building workshops in the following subject areas, regions and subregions:
  - a) [Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings \(NDFs\)](#), 4-8 December 2023, Nairobi, Kenya;
  - b) [Online workshop on transport of live specimens](#), 21 March 2024, Geneva, Switzerland.
  - c) [LAF and NDF workshop for African rosewood \(\*Pterocarpus erinaceus\*\)](#), 2-6 September 2024, Douala, Cameroon;
  - d) [Training workshop for the African region on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species](#), 11-12 September 2024, Lusaka, Zambia;
  - e) [Africa regional workshop on electronic CITES permitting systems](#), 9-10 October 2024, Nairobi, Kenya.
6. Details of these and other capacity-building activities can be found in various reports of the Secretariat to the present meeting, including:
  - a) SC78 Doc. 23 on *Compliance Assistance Programme*;
  - b) SC78 Doc. 24 on *CITES Tree Species Programme*;
  - c) SC78 Doc. 33.2 on the *Expedited application of Article XIII for West African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) for all range States*;
  - d) SC78 Doc. 29 on *Demand reduction to combat illegal trade*;
  - e) SC78 Doc. 38.1 on *Enforcement matters – Report of the Secretariat*;
  - f) SC78 Doc. 51 on *Electronic systems and information technology*;
  - g) SC78 Doc. 38.2 on *International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime*;
  - h) SC78 Doc. 67.2 on *Pangolins (*Manis spp.*)*;
  - i) SC78 Doc. 38.3 on *Task Force of illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species*;
  - j) SC78 Doc. 6 on *Report of the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees*;
  - k) SC78 Doc. 39.2 on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa: Report of the Secretariat*.
7. With regard to in-person training opportunities, the 15th edition of the [Master's Degree course "Management and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework"](#), organized by the International University of Andalusia in collaboration with the Secretariat took place from 1 February to 1 September 2024, with 28 participants including eight sponsored participants from Argentina, China, Cuba, Kenya, Solomon Islands, Suriname, and Togo. Three Secretariat staff members and two staff from the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) also attended the course as lecturers for different parts of the course.
8. The participation of sponsored students above, as well as the lecturers from the Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, was supported by the generous contributions of the European Union and China. The United States of America also sponsored over a dozen students from CITES authorities in West African Parties. The Secretariat appreciates the support provided in this regard.
9. As contained in document SC78 Doc. 63, the Animals and Plants Committees recommended the development of a restricted webpage on the CITES website, subject to extrabudgetary resources, to make available to Parties analysis and studies on species not yet listed in the Appendices which might merit such inclusion. In this context, they recommended an amendment of Resolution Conf.19.2 paragraph 2, inviting Parties to upload and update the CITES website, either directly or through the Secretariat with the relevant material.

## Recommendations

10. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the update provided by the Secretariat on capacity-building.