

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

CITES TREE SPECIES PROGRAMME

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 19.49 and 19.50 on *CITES Tree Species Programme*, as follows:

Directed to the Parties

19.49 *Parties are invited to provide financial and in-kind support for a capacity-building programme that provides long-term support to Parties on their implementation of the Convention for CITES-listed tree species.*

Directed to the Secretariat, the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee

19.50 *The Secretariat shall bring to the attention of the Plants Committee relevant technical and scientific results of the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP) and, subject to external funding:*

- a) *develop and implement a capacity-building programme covering all relevant regions on the implementation of CITES for tree species included in the Appendices;*
- b) *seek advice and guidance from the Plants and Standing Committees to assess the potential for the CITES Tree Species Programme to be made a permanent programme;*
- c) *continue cooperation with organizations working on forest related matters, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and private economic actors to strengthen the support to Parties for implementing the Convention for listed tree species; and*
- d) *report on the implementation of this Decision at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Progress on the implementation of Decision 19.49

3. To date, the following financial support has been provided to support Parties in their implementation of the Convention for CITES-listed tree species:
 - a) EUR 500,000 from the European Union towards 'bridging activities' that allow the support of follow-up activities from the previous phase of the CITES Tree Species Programme while continuing to search for additional sources of funds (see Annex 1 to the [summary record PC26 SR](#)); and

- b) EUR 10,000,000 from Germany, through the International Climate Initiative (IKI), under a six-year project entitled *CITES Tree Species Project – Sustainable trade and forest governance* (see [summary record PC27 SR](#), agenda item 14).

The Secretariat appreciates the support provided in this regard.

Implementation of Decision 19.50

4. Using the 'bridging activities' funds from the European Union, the Secretariat organized a regional workshop on capacity-building for West African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) range states in Douala, Cameroon from 2 to 6 September 2024 (see document SC78 Doc. 33.4 on *Application of Article XIII in Cameroon*, paragraph 4 and 5 and its Annex). The Secretariat briefed the workshop participants regarding the upcoming call for concept notes, which will be announced through a Notification to the Parties once the German project becomes operational.
5. In order to assess the type and level of capacity-building needs expected by the potential beneficiaries, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2024/060 of 6 May 2024 entitled *CITES Tree Species Project: Call for preliminary expressions of interest*. This yielded 33 responses from 26 Parties, which have been used as a basis for the development of a draft project proposal for Germany. The formal call for proposals (concept notes) from potential beneficiaries under the CTSP was scheduled for October 2024. However, further refinements to the final CTSP project proposal have caused a delay in the launch of this step, which is now planned to take place in early 2025 upon the agreement of the final project proposal with the donor.
6. The Secretariat reported to the Plants Committee at its 27th meeting (PC27; Geneva, July 2024) that the extrabudgetary contribution of the two donors mentioned above allows for continued capacity-building efforts, providing support to Parties for their implementation of tree species listings, including the new listings adopted at CoP19, and covering all relevant regions on the implementation of CITES for tree species included in the Appendices, pursuant to Decision 19.50, paragraph a). This support will also allow further cooperation with organizations assisting Member States on tree-related matters, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), as well as other economic actors, pursuant to Decision 19.50, paragraph c).
7. Regarding the implementation of Decision 19.50, paragraph b), further consideration is needed to assess whether the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP) could be made a permanent programme, considering that the two projects have only recently commenced. Capacity-building support for the implementation of CITES-listed tree species has so far relied entirely on extrabudgetary funding and would benefit from a structured programmatic approach.
8. The Secretariat will continue to provide updates on the progress of the project through Notifications and information on the CITES website, as well as reports to the meetings of the Plants Committee, Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, under the relevant agenda items (e.g. *Access to funding, Capacity-building*, and other agenda items related to tree species).
9. The Plants Committee considered the matter at PC27 and agreed that Decisions 19.49 and 19.50, paragraphs a) and c), had been implemented on the basis of the report in document PC27 Doc. 14. As for Decision 19.50, paragraph b), the Plants Committee agreed that it should be renewed as a new stand-alone Decision, as it supported the Secretariat to look further into the potential for the CITES Tree Species Programme to be made a permanent programme.
10. Accordingly, the Secretariat has drafted a stand-alone decision entitled *CITES Tree Species Programme* (see the Annex to this document) to renew the mandate contained in Decision 19.50 paragraph b), while monitoring the progress of the current projects.

Recommendations

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) review and submit the draft decision contained in the Annex to the present document for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and

b) agree that Decisions 19.49 and 19.50 can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISION ON *CITES TREE SPECIES PROGRAMME*

Directed to the Secretariat, the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee

20.XX The Secretariat shall:

- a) report to the Plants and Standing Committees on the implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme as appropriate, bringing to the attention relevant technical and scientific results;
- b) seek advice and guidance from the Plants and Standing Committees to assess the potential for the CITES Tree Species Programme to be made a permanent programme; and
- c) report on the implementation of this Decision at the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.