

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

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 19.41 to 19.43 on *Capacity-building* as follows:

Directed to the 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. During the previous intersessional period (2020-2022), the Standing Committee, through its intersessional working group on capacity-building, considered the possible development of an integrated capacity-building framework to improve 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;
 - 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 December 2022, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological diversity adopted in Annex I of CBD [decision 15/8](#) a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development to support nationally determined priorities for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The long-term strategic framework, further elaborated in document [CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1](#), outlines the expected high-level capacity results; provides a menu of guiding principles, key strategies and approaches for improving the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building and development initiatives and programmes; and describes mechanisms to facilitate and support its implementation at the global, regional and country levels. The *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* includes an objective of ensuring the recognition of the importance of achieving CITES' aim as a contribution to the GBF. Therefore, the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building of the GBF could potentially provide guidance on how the CITES capacity-building framework could be shaped to ensure alignment and synergy.
5. Based on the above and subject to available funding, 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 technical consultations that would facilitate the implementation by the Standing Committee of Decision 19.41. 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.
6. To date, no external funds have been identified to support the organization of the regional technical consultation(s). The Secretariat welcomes offers of extrabudgetary contributions for the organization of one or more regional technical consultations. The outcomes of the consultations, should they take place, will be reported to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting.

Recommendations

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