

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

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE 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 19.44 to 19.46 on the *Compliance Assistance Programme*, as follows:

Directed to Parties

19.44 *Parties are invited to continue to provide financial or technical support to Parties subject to compliance mechanisms and other related compliance measures as specified in Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on CITES compliance procedures to further strengthen their institutional capacity.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.45 *The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding:*

- a) *upon request, conduct technical missions and facilitate the organization of in-country assistance coordination mechanisms to selected Parties eligible to benefit from the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP);*
- b) *in consultation with the International University of Andalucía which hosts the Masters Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade – The International Framework' and other relevant universities, explore the possibility and feasibility of training and deploying short term consultants to assist Parties benefiting from the Compliance Assistance Programme; and*
- c) *report to the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of Decisions 19.44 and 19.45.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.46 *The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) and report its findings and recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Background

3. The primary objective of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) is to support Parties in achieving or restoring compliance. The CAP provides tailored support to address recommendations by the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties and take action under specific compliance mechanisms. This includes the Article XIII process, the National Legislation Project, annual reporting, the Review of Significant

Trade (RST) process, the review of trade in specimens reported as captive-bred, and other processes such as the National Ivory Action Plans (NIAP).

4. The CAP is a needs-driven programme. Technical support is provided by the Secretariat and partners and is tailored to the strengths and needs of individual beneficiary Parties in collaboration with them. Parties undergoing compliance procedures may have insufficient capacity or may be in need of optimization to meet CITES implementation requirements. These Parties often require coordination of the existing capacity of the country to deliver on the recommendations required under the various CITES compliance mechanisms. Bringing relevant stakeholders together for the first time is often one of the initial activities under the CAP.
5. At SC77, the Secretariat provided an update on the CAP implementation and in-country compliance assistance to the beneficiary Parties. The Standing Committee acknowledged the beneficiary Parties for their commitment to participate in the CAP and welcomed the progress made in its implementation.

Implementation of Decision 19.44

6. As reported in document [SC77 Doc. 24](#), the implementation of the CAP since CoP19 was made possible thanks to the financial support from the European Union, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.
7. The Secretariat is currently providing dedicated CAP support to Guinea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria, Solomon Islands, Suriname and Togo. As part of the capacity-building activities, compliance-related support is also being provided to Cambodia and Viet Nam.
8. In order to manage an increasing CAP portfolio, the Secretariat brought on board a programme management officer (CAP case manager) on a project post, ensuring full and regular monitoring of the implementation of CAP activities in the beneficiary countries. The programme management officer has been on board since September 2024.

In-country compliance assistance to selected countries by the Secretariat [Decision 19.45, paragraph a)]

9. A brief overview of the dedicated in-country compliance support under CAP and other capacity-building activities is provided below.
10. Beneficiary Parties have shown commitment to the delivery of CAP activities and have taken ownership of the process, thus contributing to the effective implementation of the activities. Some implementation delays and shortcomings were experienced for a variety of reasons, especially due to institutional and administrative constraints in the supported countries, and therefore short-term extensions have been granted, to ensure sufficient time for actual implementation.
11. All information below is as of the time of writing and based on the latest updates provided by the Parties. Most of the projects are still ongoing. Some preliminary conclusions on the effectiveness of the activities can be drawn, while a full picture will be available only after their completion.

Cambodia

12. The compliance support activities are included in a capacity-building project in Cambodia managed by the Secretariat, which focuses on support for the preparation of LAFs for parental/breeding stock of captive-bred specimens; strengthening of capacities of officials on law enforcement for better implementation of wildlife legislation; improved NIAP implementation regarding ivory stockpile inventory; and registration and improved management of domesticated live elephants. The CITES MA of Cambodia is implementing a series of activities, which are planned to be completed by the end of 2024.
13. At SC77, the Standing Committee noted the progress made by Cambodia in implementing its NIAP; agreed an overall rating of 'achieved' for Cambodia, and invited the Secretariat to engage with relevant experts to further evaluate progress made so that it can make a recommendation on whether Cambodia can exit the NIAP process for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.
14. In the framework of the project, Cambodia organized a "Training Workshop on CITES Convention and the CITES Implementation in Cambodia", on 27-28 March 2024 and developed two sets of Guidelines, namely "Guidelines on Ivory Stockpile Inventory and Management" and "Guidelines on Registration of Domesticated Live Elephant in Cambodia", which have been shared with the Secretariat. Guidelines on LAF for Captive-

Breeding Species of Wildlife are under development and expected to be finalized and shared with the Secretariat in December 2024, together with a video clip on Conservation of Domesticated Live Asian Elephant in Cambodia and a final list and record of domesticated live elephants in Cambodia.

Guinea

15. The implementation plan developed by the MA in cooperation with the Secretariat focused on activities to address the recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee at its 71st meeting (see summary record [SC71 SR](#)), in particular those related to: i) strengthening of capacities of the MA and Scientific Authority (SA) to perform their obligations under the CITES provisions; ii) legislative reforms needed at national level; iii) implementation of a system for proper handling and processing of CITES documentation; iv) the development of a protocol for the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs); v) establishment of voluntary national export quotas for species expected to be in trade; vi) implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework for wildlife and forest crime; and vii) development of a protocol for the management and disposal of seized and confiscated specimens.
16. The planned activities were implemented with the engagement of the relevant authorities and support provided by a local consultant recruited for this purpose. Despite some significant setbacks reported at SC77, the structural changes, i.e. important changes in national structures and procedures in place relevant to CITES implementation, and strengthening of capacities supported through the CAP are expected to have a positive impact on the country's compliance with CITES requirements.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

17. The project implementation plans, developed by the MA in collaboration with the SA, focus on strengthening the capacity of the MA, as well as improving the monitoring and registration of zoos and wildlife farms through enhanced training of provincial forestry staff. Additionally, outreach campaigns to raise public awareness of national laws protecting fauna and flora are conducted. Other key areas include enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials in inspection and investigation techniques and building the technical expertise of the SA in NDF practices. The legal instrument with Lao People's Democratic Republic has been signed and implementation now started.

Nigeria

18. The work led by the MA focuses on activities to address recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting, (see summary record [SC70 SR](#)), in particular those related to: i) the making of scientifically-based NDF for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee; ii) the strengthening of the regulatory framework in relation to forestry management; iii) the assessment and strengthening of capacities of law enforcement agencies; iv) the establishment of efficient information systems; and v) the strengthening of the handling and disposal of seized stockpiles of ivory and pangolin scales.
19. Despite some delays in starting the activities on the ground, the work to inform the NDF for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* is ongoing with support from a consultant. An online training workshop on CITES reporting requirements was held in September 2024 and additional trainings and capacity-building activities are planned to be completed prior to the present meeting.

Solomon Islands

20. The project implementation is led by the MA and focuses on strengthening the capacity of the MA in areas such as permit management [Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Permits and certificates*], interagency collaboration, and communication. Key priorities include improving processes for LAFs, annual illegal trade reports and addressing long-term compliance issues regarding species in the RST process. The project also aims to enhance the understanding of CITES requirements among enforcement officials. The Secretariat undertook a compliance assessment mission to Solomon Islands from 12 to 15 September 2023 to meet with relevant authorities and identify the country's capacity needs.
21. The CITES MA organized a national workshop on LAF from October 9-10, 2024, in Honiara, Solomon Islands. The workshop aimed to enhance the MA's capacity in permit management, collaboration, and communication with relevant stakeholders to strengthen priority areas such as LAF, annual reports, and illegal trade reports. It also sought to foster networks and collaborations among stakeholders involved in CITES permitting.

Suriname

22. The MA of Suriname is responsible for the implementation of the work, which focuses largely on institutional and legislative reforms, but also some technical support and capacity-building that are required to enhance the level of compliance of the Party with CITES provisions. The Secretariat signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Suriname country office to support with the administrative and financial aspects of CAP implementation in the country.
23. The Suriname CAP places emphasis on the training and formalization of the newly established SA to improve on the development of scientifically based NDFs as well as the standardization of the coordination and interaction with the MA, including through development of a protocol on coordination between the two Authorities. A joint workshop with members of both the MA and the SA to review these cooperation arrangements is foreseen. Work is also ongoing on the establishment of centralized data collection system. Through a mission of the Secretariat in Suriname in April 2023, a number of legislative gaps were identified which are included in the workplan and are currently addressed with support from a local consultant. Scientific related activities are progressing as well: NDF for four species and relevant case studies have been developed and two online training workshops for the members of the SA with the support of the Secretariat was organized in September and November 2024.

Togo

24. The MA has led the work in Togo. The project focused on a number of structural changes to enhance the overall compliance on issues related to strengthening the capacities of the MA and the SA; infrastructure improvement for the collection and submission of CITES-related data; preparation of NDFs for ten key species within Togo; standards for captive-breeding operations (legal and technical aspects); and strengthening of law enforcement capacities, including purchasing of storage equipment for the safekeeping of seized and confiscated dead specimens.
25. The activities have been implemented and resulted in strengthening of capacities of the MA on CITES procedures, establishment of a CITES database, development of a protocol for NDF for ten key species in Togo, strengthening of regulatory framework with a focus on captive breeding operations, and improvements in law enforcement.

Viet Nam

26. The compliance support in Viet Nam is provided in the context of a capacity-building project which aims to complete the remaining activities of the National Ivory and Rhino Action Plan and implement CITES provisions related to rhino horn and elephant ivory. It also focuses on building the capacity of enforcement officers and forest rangers to strengthen their ability to combat wildlife crime and providing support in planning the e-permitting system.
27. Since SC77, the activities to be implemented were reformulated at the request of Viet Nam, and they are now underway. The Secretariat made a visit to Hanoi on 18-22 November 2024, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) ASYCUDA, to conduct a feasibility assessment for the implementation of the e-permitting system. This included assessment of the legal framework, permit procedures, human resources availability, ICT readiness, time and costs etc., and discussion on possible options for the e-permitting system solutions.

Overall findings and recommendations of the Secretariat on CAP implementation

28. Through monitoring of the CAP activities and compliance support in different Parties, the Secretariat has been collecting information on the added value of the CAP in supporting countries to address multidimensional compliance issues, as well as on the difficulties and challenges faced during its implementation. The aim of this analysis is to present to the Standing Committee the benefits and possible shortcomings of the CAP and to propose a way forward to strengthen its positive aspects and to mitigate or overcome challenges in future implementation of the CAP.

Selection of beneficiary Parties

29. As set out in document [CoP18 Doc. 28](#), the Secretariat identifies eligible CAP beneficiary Parties through a desk-based review that analyses Parties that are subject to multiple compliance processes over a length of time. CAP also gives priority assistance to Parties with the greatest needs in the best possible, timely and

cost-effective manner. In this respect, and as presented in document [SC74 Doc. 29](#), the Secretariat followed a comprehensive selection process to prioritize the beneficiary Parties, including the collection of information on the national implementation of and compliance with the Convention, an analysis of Parties' strengths and weaknesses for a long list of Parties and a final shortlisting of selected Parties following direct contact and exchange of information with them. Criteria considered in this process included: current matters under the CITES compliance mechanisms and related compliance measures as specified in Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures*; significant volumes of exports of CITES-listed species; formal requests by Parties for compliance-related capacity-building support received by the Secretariat; ongoing CITES-related projects and activities; geographical balance; and potential for impact.

30. Taking into consideration the scope of the CAP and the limited financial and other resources available for its implementation, a similar approach should be followed in the selection of Parties to be supported by the CAP in the future. Any future selections should take duly into consideration the capacities of the country to implement the CAP activities, its commitment expressed through various means, as well as the proportionality of the requested support *vis-à-vis* the needs and challenges to be addressed.

Impact

31. Each CAP has been designed by the MA of each selected country, with the support of the Secretariat, and in consultation with the SA and the enforcement focal point, as appropriate, with the aim to support Parties to effectively address compliance matters, including any recommendations of the Standing Committee in the context of Article XIII. The activities implemented in this framework have therefore been needs-based and results-oriented. This approach has helped the beneficiary countries in their efforts to focus on pending compliance issues and to generate a positive impact.
32. In terms of thematic focus of the CAP activities, these are mainly focused on institutional, legislative and scientific support. Some activities on enforcement are also included in the plans, mainly by meeting capacity-building needs. However, this component has been minor compared to the other areas, taking into consideration that enforcement-related matters are also addressed in the framework of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC).
33. As indicated in document [CoP18 Doc. 28](#), CAP should be seen as an accelerator of compliance, taking into account the assessments and recommendations made under the different compliance mechanisms and processes, mentioned in paragraph 3 above. CAP responds to the different requirements of the Convention (institutional, legal, scientific, enforcement, etc.), integrating transversal and recurrent issues and focusing on those that cannot be sufficiently addressed by existing mechanisms and processes separately. CAP can therefore serve as an appropriate support mechanism for Parties facing multiple types of challenges.
34. This is for instance illustrated in the case of Togo, which undertook activities in the context of the CAP to make progress in addressing the recommendations of the Animals Committee under the RST process on *Pandinus imperator*. At its 33rd meeting, the Animals Committee recommended the removal of the recommendation to suspend trade under the RST process and accepted an annual export quota of 20,000 specimens noting that, before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Animals Committee for their agreement (see summary record [AC33 SR](#)). With support through CAP, Togo also prepared an NDF for other species including three species for which Togo is currently under review in RST, i.e. *Chamaeleo gracilis*, *Varanus ornatus*, and *Python regius*, using the updated NDF guidance and template developed under Decision 19.132. The NDFs for *Varanus ornatus*, and *Python regius* are under review by the Animals Committee before being submitted for consideration at the present meeting.
35. In the framework of its project under CAP, the Solomon Islands has made progress towards developing NDFs for species that have been subject to longstanding trade suspensions under RST, i.e. *Corucia zebrata* and *Ornithoptera* spp. The Solomon Islands has also made progress on an NDF on *Tridacna* spp. (see document SC78 Doc. 34.2 on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species: Implementation of recommendations of the Animals Committee*).
36. Furthermore, activities in Guinea and Nigeria targeting Article XIII recommendations of the Standing Committee, as well as the progress of Cambodia in implementing its NIAP, will help Parties to provide adequate responses and showcase improved compliance performance *vis-à-vis* specific recommendations.
37. The CAP should continue to be result-oriented and have as its core objective the potential impact of the activities in supporting the countries to respond to and address compliance related recommendations in the

short term, while building the Parties' capacities and thus provide them with the necessary tools to avoid facing similar compliance issues in the long term.

Ownership by the beneficiary Parties

38. The Secretariat ensured that the CAP-supported activities are led by the Management Authority (MA) in each country. The intention of this approach was to strengthen ownership and accountability by the authorities, as well as to support and, as appropriate, improve their project management capacity, which will benefit the Parties in the long term. These objectives have been largely achieved, despite difficulties faced in some countries, as further discussed below.
39. While promoting country leadership of the process, the Secretariat supported the authorities in both the design phase of activities and in the actual implementation phase, including through missions to countries where needed. The support provided by the Secretariat encompassed regular communication with the countries involving relevant stakeholders and assistance in monitoring of implementation progress, including identification of corrective actions and plan revisions, as appropriate.

Sustainability

40. As part of the implementation of the current CAP, the Secretariat has worked with the beneficiary Parties to identify and implement activities that are sustainable in the long run. Institutional and legislative improvements and reforms have been core to the implementation plans of the projects. CAP has supported structural changes at country level, including *inter alia* the formal establishment of SAs, standardization of the cooperation between MA and SA, codification or revision of legal and regulatory frameworks for CITES implementation etc. These activities have set the ground for better compliance performance of the countries beyond the end date of their projects.
41. The national projects have also included activities related to the establishment or improvement of infrastructure and technical capacities of the countries, i.e. development and update of databases for CITES data collection and submission, which will be maintained and used beyond the project implementation period. The CAP should therefore continue focusing on activities that have the strongest potential to be sustained beyond the timeframe of a specific project.

Adaptability and Scaling up

42. Activities implemented through the CAP should ideally act as valuable references for other Parties to adapt to their own context, considering that many other countries face similar challenges with multiple CITES compliance mechanisms and processes. Sharing of best practices and lessons learnt between CAP-supported Parties and with other interested Parties should be continued and strengthened for maximizing the impact of the programme. The Secretariat is capitalizing on the knowledge and experience gathered through the CAP to share lessons learnt and best practices with interested Parties. Similar CAP activities may be also used to guide similar efforts within the same country, e.g. by applying a similar process for the development of NDF/LAF to different species, which reinforces the self-sustainability of the CAP.

Timeframes

43. In Guinea, Nigeria, Suriname and Togo, the legal instruments signed to operationalize the CAP country-support had an initial implementation period of one year. Such a timeframe is too short to allow for effective implementation and delivery of expected outputs, taking into consideration the administrative constraints at country level, gaps in internal coordination mechanisms, difficulties in addressing financial matters, etc. In fact, all the legal instruments had to go through a no-cost extension to allow for the completion of the activities – which bears significant administrative costs to the beneficiary and Secretariat.
44. A longer implementation period would allow the delivery of activities which entail structural changes, infrastructure improvement and capacity-building. However, most of the donors provide CAP funds under some form of a time-bound umbrella project, which requires the Secretariat to operate within a set timeframe. Looking ahead, the Secretariat recommends extending the duration of the CAP activities to a period of three years, perhaps in line with a full intersessional period, including a period of up to one year for the development of the workplan, the drafting/signature of legal instruments and the transfer of the first installment. This should be assessed on a case-by-case basis, but is a viable timeline for the nature of the activities usually included in CAP.

Managing expectations

45. In some cases, the planned activities appear to have been too numerous and demanding considering the available budget and time. Thorough assessments are normally made at the workplan stage on the state of play in each country and the gaps and needs, as well as some administrative requirements to implement the project. Further assessments may be needed also on the administrative, timing and other practical constraints that the MA and partners may have on the operationalization and implementation of the activities. This allows the establishment of a realistic implementation plan commensurate with the capacities of the countries to receive and re-commit the funds and implement the activities.
46. The Secretariat has already taken these limitations into account in the current CAP activities. The Secretariat and CAP Parties should use the lessons learnt from this cycle in developing future activities and workplans.

Financial mechanisms and disbursement

47. The majority of legal instruments were signed with the MAs of the Parties. This has facilitated project implementation and ownership by the respective authorities, but difficulties have been faced in some cases on the disbursement and receipt of funds, which had to be mitigated through no cost extensions of the funding agreements. Such difficulties should be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the financial system in the country and relevant regulations in place.
48. In one case, a different modality was followed for which the funds were disbursed to and managed by the UNDP country office which was already implementing another project in the country. This approach works in some circumstances and the Secretariat will further explore other approaches to facilitate the financial delivery of the project to the beneficiaries while retaining the ownership and lead implementation role of the CAP activities with the government. In all cases, the responsibility for monitoring progress of the implementation of the activities remains with the Secretariat.

Budget absorption potential

49. Parties managed to consume the biggest part of budget in line with the implementation plan and budget allocations set out in the work plans. Factors that have caused delays in financial implementation include the process and time of receipt of funds, more time-consuming preparatory activities than anticipated, i.e. intersectoral coordination and meeting, preparation of terms of reference etc., as well as the administrative processes in place at country level. The Secretariat has kept regular communication with the Parties to monitor the progress and propose adjustments as necessary.
50. In most cases, CAP budgets did not exceed USD 100,000 per country. However, as outlined above, CAP activities are often structural, including institutional arrangements and legislative reforms. The allocation of a larger budget per project should be considered in the future implementation of the CAP, based on available funding and a case-by-case assessment of the budgetary needs for the selected activities and the financial and administrative systems in place in each country.

Gender considerations

51. Integration of gender considerations into all operations and projects is a key goal for the United Nations, and therefore gender mainstreaming should be ensured and monitored in its activities, including country-support activities implemented in the framework of CAP. For the CAP-supported activities to date, gender mainstreaming was promoted as part of the Secretariat-wide efforts. However, gender was not fully mainstreamed and monitored systematically as a cross-cutting issue.
52. The Secretariat will ensure that this component is strengthened and further standardized in future CAP implementation, in alignment with the CITES gender action plan under preparation. This will enable the countries and the Secretariat to systematically monitor the achievement of gender-related objectives.

CAP management, monitoring and evaluation

53. The onboarding of a dedicated programme management officer within the Secretariat has allowed for a focused compliance support to each of the CAP countries, combined with the ability to provide project management. Prior to the onboarding of the compliance programme officer, oversight and monitoring were undertaken within the existing limited resources of the Secretariat.

54. Going forward, for best and consistent results, a stable long-term programme management structure dedicated to CAP should be secured from the beginning of project conception and development, including during the coordination with selected countries for the identification of strengths and needs, the establishment of legal agreements, implementation plans, and timetables, and throughout the project implementation and closure.
55. A programme management structure at the Secretariat will allow for continuous coordination with the countries benefitting from the CAP and monitoring and review of progress on the CAP implementation. This may include a holistic evaluation on the overall effectiveness and bottlenecks of the CAP implementation, bringing its results and recommendations to the attention of the Standing Committee and the CoP.

Cooperation with the University of Andalucía and other universities [Decision 19.45, paragraph b)]

56. Cooperation between the Secretariat and the International University of Andalucía (UNIA) has continued mainly on the basis of the support to the Master's Degree in Management and Conservation of Species in Trade (see document SC78 Doc. 22). As reported at SC77 (see document [SC77 Doc. 24](#)), one aspect of the CAP is to have member(s) of the project implementation team to enroll in the course to gain in-depth knowledge of the Convention, as has been done in Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Suriname, if they have not already obtained the Master's previously.
57. The Secretariat is in contact with UNIA to explore ways to strengthen this form of cooperation and further capitalize on the outcomes of the course for the benefit of future CAP implementation. The coordinator of the UNIA Master's course and the CITES Secretariat have agreed to consider the following aspects in future cooperation:
 - a) liaison, through UNIA alumni networks, with former participants, and dissemination of terms of reference for future consultancies in the framework of CAP projects, so that they can be invited to apply; and
 - b) introduction of a session on the main principles and responsibilities of project management for CAP in future editions of the Master's programme.

Conclusions

58. The progress made so far in the CAP is promising as a specialized capacity support programme, despite its limitations, that is triggered by compliance needs and takes on a holistic approach to the individual Parties. While most of the in-country support is still ongoing, there is merit in continuing this approach, considering that Parties are facing, and may face, multiple compliance issues – particularly with the new listings of tree and marine species. The CAP model of support will be of increased relevance to respond to Parties' efforts in meeting the requirements of the Convention and lifting recommendations to suspend trade and coming out of compliance processes.
59. In continuing and improving the CAP delivery model, the Secretariat aims to maintain its beneficiary selection process, early national ownership and engagement, as well as the prioritization of actions with strong sustainability and adaptability potential for other Parties – which have been the distinct and positive features of the programme. Challenges will be addressed through improved project timelines, budget planning, closer monitoring and adaptive management of the activities, taking into consideration the different circumstances of the beneficiary countries. The support from the dedicated programme management structure brings together much-needed technical and project management support for the smooth operationalization of CAP. The Secretariat will also strengthen Parties' gender mainstreaming efforts across their national CAP activities.
60. The Secretariat wishes to express its appreciation to the Parties that have provided financial and technical resources for its implementation to date. The Secretariat notes that renewed support to the programme is needed if there is a wish to continue to fill the gaps that still exist and meet the needs of eligible Parties.

Recommendations

61. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) acknowledge the commitment of Parties benefitting from the CAP to improve their compliance status, and welcome the results obtained through the CAP by the respective Parties;

- b) encourage Parties facing multiple and long-term compliance issues to express interest in benefitting from the CAP;
- c) take note of the overall findings of the Secretariat relating to the implementation of the CAP and invite the Secretariat and concerned Parties to take them into consideration in the design and implementation of future activities;
- d) review and submit the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting; and
- e) agree that Decisions 19.44 to 19.46 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON
COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Directed to the Parties

20.AA Parties are invited to continue to provide financial or technical support to Parties subject to compliance mechanisms and other related compliance measures as specified in Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *CITES compliance procedures*, including through the Compliance Assistance Programme to meet the needs of eligible Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.BB Subject to extrabudgetary resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) continue assisting Parties through the Compliance Assistance Programme, and extend the CAP to other eligible Parties;
- b) support Parties' mainstreaming of gender in the development, implementation and monitoring of CAP activities, in line with the forthcoming CITES Gender Action Plan;
- c) in consultation with the International University of Andalucía which hosts the Master's Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade – The International Framework' and other relevant universities, encourage the participation of Management and Scientific Authorities of CAP beneficiary Parties in the Master's Course, and consider enriching it with a module on project management; and
- d) report to the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of the CAP and submit for its consideration any proposal for its further development.

Directed to the Standing Committee

20.CC The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of the CAP and report its findings and recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.