

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Joint sessions of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and
the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee
Online, 4 and 21 June 2021

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

COUNTRY-WIDE SIGNIFICANT TRADE REVIEWS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.71 to 18.73 on *Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews* as follows:

18.71 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *consider the 'Outlook and recommendations' regarding country-wide significant trade reviews, as articulated in the Annex to document AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3, and the resources required to undertake such reviews, and provide advice as to whether the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar can be integrated into other existing CITES mechanisms or programme activities, including capacity-building activities the proposed Compliance Assistance Programme, or whether a new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties at a national level;*
- b) *determine how Parties might qualify or apply for support under a 'country wide review' under existing mechanisms or any new mechanism; and*
- c) *prepare a report on its findings and recommendations, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees at their 32nd and 26th meetings respectively, and subsequently for the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting.*

18.72 Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report by the Secretariat and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

18.73 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review the report and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees at its 74th meeting, and in consultation with the Secretariat, make

recommendations for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which may include proposals for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species or other existing resolutions, or a new resolution.

3. At CoP18, the Parties also adopted Decisions 18.39 to 18.46 on *Capacity-building*, and Decisions 18.68 to 18.70 on the *Compliance Assistance Programme* (CAP), which are presented in Annexes 1 and 2 to this document respectively. There is interdependence and complementarity between these two work streams and the Decisions on Country-wide Significant Trade Review. Progress on the implementation of Decisions 18.39 to 18.46 is available for the present meeting in document [AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc. 11](#) and its Addendum, whereas progress on the implementation of Decisions 18.68 to 18.70 is detailed below.

Progress on the *Compliance Assistance Programme* (Decisions 18.68 to 18.70)

4. The Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) streamlines and consolidates the Secretariat's assistance to Parties subject to compliance measures under different CITES compliance mechanisms. This includes the Review of Significant Trade and the recommendations agreed by the Animals and Plants Committees. The objective of the CAP is to strengthen the capacity of CITES authorities, with a specific focus on their compliance needs. It provides Management and Scientific Authorities with tailored support to effectively implement the Convention and deal in an integral manner with legal, scientific, enforcement and other relevant matters. The CAP applies especially in cases of multidimensional and persistent non-compliance, and where the causes of the non-compliance relate to capacity constraints and not lack of political will or engagement. By placing the Parties concerned at the centre of the programme, the CAP is expected to enable Parties to prioritize and sequence interventions, leverage resources, ensure coherence and maximize efforts while avoiding fragmented, uncoordinated, or duplicative assistance. The CAP is Party-driven and the technical support is provided by the Secretariat and its partners building upon existing capacity and ongoing efforts undertaken by relevant stakeholders.
5. Thanks to generous funding received from the European Union and Switzerland, the Secretariat is moving forward on the implementation of Decisions 18.68 to 18.70. The progress made will be reported to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting (SC74). It is therefore premature for the Animals and Plants Committees to evaluate whether or not the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar can be addressed through the CAP, or whether a new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties in relation to RST at a national level.

Next steps

6. Decision 18.71, paragraph c), envisaged that the Secretariat would prepare a report on its findings and recommendations, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees at their 32nd and 26th meetings respectively, and subsequently for the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting. However, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, there will only be a single meeting of the Animals and Plants Committee during the current intersessional period. The progress updates on the CAP and capacity-building activities through the SC working group on *capacity-building* will be reported at SC74, which will take place after AC31 and PC25. It is therefore proposed that the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the leads on these items, as identified in the respective work plans of the Committees (AC31 Doc. 7.2 and PC25 Doc. 7.2), represent the views of the Committees on these issues through the SC working group and at SC74. It is further proposed that, taking into account the outcome of the discussions at SC74, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the leads work closely with the Secretariat to make further recommendations including, if appropriate, draft decisions for submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendations

7. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to:
 - a) request the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the leads on Decision 18.72 as per their respective work plans (AC31 Doc. 7.2 and PC25 Doc. 7.2) to work with the Secretariat to develop recommendations on Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews; and,
 - b) present outcomes of this work to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decisions adopted by the 18th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties
on Capacity-building

18.39 Directed to Parties

Parties are invited to:

- a) provide information to the Secretariat regarding capacity-building materials and efforts that could be shared among Parties;
- b) utilize the CITES Virtual College to support capacity-building activities and provide the Secretariat with inputs and financial support to update and improve its services, including translation of the contents into national languages;
- c) use the CITES implementation reports, as well as direct expression of interest, to inform the Secretariat about their capacity needs;
- d) support the capacity-building efforts of other Parties by providing scholarships for in- person training or training opportunities, and by translating materials into non-working languages of the Convention; and
- e) share ideas, experiences, and information related to the development of a capacity building framework in response to the Notification to Parties issued by the Secretariat under Decision 18.46, paragraph a).

18.40 Directed to the Animals Committee and Plants Committee

The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report of the Secretariat called for in Decision 18.46, paragraph c), and provide input and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.

18.41 Decision directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall establish a working group on capacity-building to advise the Standing Committee on the actions outlined in Decisions 18.42 and 18.43 for the development of an integrated capacity-building framework to improve implementation of the Convention. The working group shall include, but not be limited to, participation of members of the Standing Committee, the Animals and Plants Committees, the Budget and Finance Sub- Committee, and the Secretariat. The working group shall also include a balanced representation of Parties from each region, as well as Parties that are donors and Parties that are recipients of capacity support.

18.42 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall provide guidance to the Secretariat to refine and consolidate the areas of capacity-building efforts, taking into account the discussions on the Compliance Assistance Programme and Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews, as well as the discussion on the development of an integrated capacity building framework outlined in Decision 18.41.*

18.43 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall undertake the following:

- a) review Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical cooperation* with the view to incorporating capacity-building needs;

* The Secretariat believes that the intention was to refer to Decision 18.41 and not 18.43.

- b) consider the inputs and recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees pursuant to Decision 18.40; and
- c) make recommendations, including a possible new or revised draft resolution as well as models, tools and guiding documents on capacity building, as appropriate, based on the outcome of the work in Decision 18.46 as well as documents CoP18 Doc. 21.2 and Doc. 21.3, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

18.44 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) collect information on capacity-building materials and efforts from Parties and others, and make them available to Parties through the CITES website;
- b) subject to the availability of external funding, undertake the revision and enhancement of the CITES website and of the CITES Virtual College, including selected online courses, to update the content and to improve their effectiveness in providing access to capacity-building resources to Parties;
- c) subject to the availability of external funding, provide compliance-related and other general capacity-building support to Parties;
- d) inform the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees when needs arise for their review or inputs on capacity-building materials; and
- e) subject to the availability of external funding, further cooperate with institutions and organizations to provide Parties with joint capacity-building assistance of relevance to CITES, and provide scholarships for in-person training or training opportunities, and translate materials into non-working languages of the Convention, for example through: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) (including each of its partners), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International University of Andalusia (UNIA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

18.45 Directed to the Secretariat

In carrying out capacity-building activities, the Secretariat shall pay particular attention to the needs of Parties identified through compliance procedures, recently acceded Parties, developing country Parties, and Small Island Developing States.

18.46 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) based on document CoP18 Doc. 21.3 Annex 5 and in consultation with the Standing Committee, develop a questionnaire and issue a Notification to Parties transmitting the questionnaire to gather input to inform the development of an integrated capacity-building framework;
- b) liaise with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements to collect information regarding how their capacity-building efforts are targeted, accomplished, and tracked;
- c) prepare a report summarizing the outcomes of its implementation of Decision 18.46, paragraphs a) and b), the outcomes of the needs assessment working group summarized in document SC66 Doc. 20.2 (Rev.1), and the information on capacity- building needs provided by Parties through their implementation reports, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees; and
- d) subject to the availability of external funding and in consultation with the Standing Committee, Animals and Plants Committees, and the Budget and Finance Sub- Committee, organize a workshop that would facilitate the Standing Committee's tasks set out in Decisions 18.42 and 18.43.

Decisions adopted by the 18th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties
on the Compliance Assistance Programme

18.68 Directed to Parties

Parties are invited to:

- a) provide financial or technical support to Parties subject to compliance mechanisms and other related compliance measures as specified in Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures* to further strengthen their institutional capacity, including the possibility of deploying short-term 'placements' or 'secondments' to the Parties concerned and peer capacity-building activities as part as the Compliance Assistance Programme (e.g. bilateral cooperation and mentoring by fellow authorities of another Party); and
- b) provide to the Secretariat any relevant information on bilateral or multilateral financial or technical assistance provided to Parties subjected to CITES compliance measures to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

18.69 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall establish, subject to the availability of external funding, a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) and:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties requesting information on any compliance assistance currently provided by governmental, intergovernmental and non- governmental entities;
- b) 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;
- c) in consultation with the Masters Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade, the International framework' hosted by the International University of Andalucía and other relevant masters, explore the possibility and feasibility of training and deploying short term consultants or interns to assist Parties benefiting from the Compliance Assistance Programme;
- d) in consultation with the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and development aid agencies of potential donor countries, explore the possibility and feasibility of strengthening the compliance-based component of the GEF Global Wildlife Program and other relevant programmes, by developing a subprogramme on CITES Compliance Assistance taking into account the recommendations of the Standing Committee and the needs of the Parties concerned;
- e) In collaboration with the Montreal protocol and other relevant multilateral environment agreements, conduct a rapid assessment of the lessons learnt from the implementation of a Compliance Assistance Programme under the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and any other similar initiatives that specifically provide compliance-related assistance; and
- f) report to the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of Decisions 18.68 and 18.69 and on the feasibility of mainstreaming a compliance assistance component in the Global Wildlife Program of GEF and other relevant programmes.

18.70 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP); consider whether Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures* should be amended to reflect the creation of a CAP and assess the report submitted by the Secretariat regarding the collaboration with the Masters Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade, the International framework' hosted by the International University of Andalucía and other relevant masters; the feasibility of mainstreaming a compliance assistance component in the Global Wildlife Program of GEF and other relevant programmes; and report its findings and recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.