

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November - 1 December 2017

Administrative and financial matters

Access to funding

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.10 to 17.16 on *Access to funding*, of which Decisions 17.10 and 17.11 refer to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and read as follows:

17.10 *Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *continue their efforts to include their CITES priorities in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to enhance access to Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding;*
- b) *contribute to the development and implementation of GEF projects that may have components related to the implementation of CITES, by communicating with their national GEF counterparts and informing them of relevant CITES requirements and processes; and*
- c) *closely monitor the progress of the GEF Global Wildlife Program and its projects to enhance Parties' ability to meet their obligations under CITES.*

17.11 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *convey CITES priorities to the GEF for it to take them into account when developing the biodiversity strategy in GEF-7, consistent with the mandate of the GEF;*
- b) *provide inputs to the GEF Global Wildlife Program to ensure that GEF projects under the programme are, as far as possible, consistent with CITES Decisions and Resolutions and contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention;*
- c) *continue, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat as well as with the GEF Secretariat, to enhance the biodiversity strategy in GEF-7 by strengthening the species-based component; and*
- d) *report on progress to the Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties as appropriate.*

Report on the progress of implementation of Decision 17.11

3. The Secretariat conveyed the outcomes of CoP17 to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) both in writing and through oral communication. In particular, the CITES Secretary-General met with the Chief executive officer/Chair GEF during a mission to Washington DC in March 2017, where he thanked the GEF for the progress made through the Global Wildlife Program (GWP). He also encouraged the GEF to further enhance its support to combating illegal wildlife trade in the biodiversity strategy in GEF-7. The GEF Chief executive officer/Chair stated that the GEF wanted to ensure that the GWP supports the implementation of relevant CITES Decisions.
4. A total of 20 projects in 19 countries are now part of GWP, including those still in the project pipeline. The projects are listed in the table below, and a request has been sent to the GWP Secretariat team based at the World Bank to provide a more detailed overview of the national projects in an information document.

Country	Lead national agency/agencies	Implementing Agency	Budget (in million USD)
Afghanistan	National Environmental Protection Agency Ministry of Agriculture, Immigration & Livestock	UNDP ¹	2.7
Botswana	Ministry of Environment & Tourism	UNEP ²	6
Cameroon	Ministry of Forests & Wildlife	UNDP	4
Congo	Ministry of Forest Economy & Sustainable Development	UNDP	3.1
Congo	Ministry of Forest Economy & Sustainable Development	World Bank	6.5
Ethiopia	Ministry of Environment & Forests	UNDP	7.3
Gabon	National Agency of National Parks Directorate General for Fauna & Protected Areas (DGFAP)	World Bank	9.1
India	Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change	UNDP	11.5
Indonesia	Ministry of Environment & Forestry Indonesian Police Department	UNDP	7
Kenya	Ministry of Environment, Water & Natural Resources Kenya Wildlife Service	UNDP	3.8
Malawi	Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy & Mining Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation & Water Department	UNDP	5.6
Mali	Ministry of Environmental Protection Ministry of Environment & Sanitation National Directorate of Water & Forests	UNDP	4.1
Mozambique	National Agency for Conservation Areas (ANAC)	UNDP	15.8
Philippines	Department of Environment & Natural Resources	Asian Development Bank	1.8
South Africa	Department of Environmental Affairs South Africa National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) SANParks	UNEP	4.9
Tanzania	Ministry of Natural Resources & Tourism, Wildlife Division	UNDP	5.4
Thailand	Department of National Parks, Wildlife & Plant Conservation	UNDP	4

¹ United Nations Development Programme.

² United Nations Environment Programme.

Country	Lead national agency/agencies	Implementing Agency	Budget (in million USD)
Viet Nam	Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Public Security Ministry of Justice	World Bank	3
Zambia	Department of National Parks and Wildlife	World Bank	8.1
Zimbabwe	Ministry of Environment, Water & Climate	UNDP	10

5. The Secretariat continues to participate in the GWP Program Steering Committee as a non-implementing member in order to ensure linkages between the Programme and CITES. It has attended the virtual meetings of the Program Steering Committee as well as the GWP Knowledge Management sessions held at regular intervals. The Secretariat also participated in the following face-to-face meetings related to GWP:
- The Government of Gabon and GWP co-convened a technical conference Reducing Human Wildlife Conflict and Enhancing Coexistence in La Lope and Libreville, from 3-7 April 2017.³ CITES was represented by the MIKE sub-regional support officer.
 - The *Africa-Asia symposium on strengthening legal frameworks to combat wildlife crime* in Bangkok, from 4-6 July 2017, which was co-organized by UNEP and UNDP, under the auspices of the UN Inter-Agency Task force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products. CITES is a founding member of the Inter-Agency Taskforce. The CITES Secretariat acted as resource persons and co-organized one of the sessions.
 - At the time of writing the Annual GWP Meeting was scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 2-6 October 2017 and will bring together all national project representatives as well as the members of the Program Steering Committee. As the scheduling of the meeting was provisional at the time of writing, the Secretariat will provide an oral update at the present meeting.
6. The Secretariat worked with the GWP coordination team to organize a knowledge management webinar on *Implementation of electronic CITES permits to improve control of trade in wildlife*, which was attended by the largest audience of any GWP Knowledge Management session held so far (with around 40 participants online). As a follow-up to the webinar, the Secretariat provided direct technical advisory support to individual project proposals for a number of countries in the area of electronic permitting.
7. The GWP is working closely with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to support targeted activities, outside of the regular GEF pipeline, to ensure effective coordination and collaboration between ongoing initiatives. These activities will also complement the GWP national projects by synchronizing and leveraging the support of ICWC to promote effective wildlife law enforcement. A total of nine such activities were initially suggested by ICWC, the following three of which were approved by GWP for funding (lead ICWC partner shown in brackets):
- Directory of Subject Matter Experts (World Bank, USD 18,000);
 - Implementation of the ICWC Anti-Money Laundering Training programme in Kenya and Tanzania (World Bank, USD 62,680) in support of CITES Decision 17.83 b);
 - Anti-corruption guidelines related to the illegal wildlife trade to promote policies integrity and ethics, and mitigate the risks of corruption in the trade chain (UNODC⁴, USD 75,000) in support of CITES Decision 17.83 a).

³ See <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/04/03/global-wildlife-program-partners-with-gabon-to-promote-human-wildlife-coexistence>.

⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Recommendation

8. The Standing Committee is invited to note the information provided in this report.