

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

Strategic matters

CAPACITY-BUILDING NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
AND COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION:
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 Decisions 17.31 to 17.35 on *Capacity-building*. Decisions 17.34 to 17.35 are directed to the Secretariat and the Standing Committee:

17.34 The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding where needed:

- a) continue to develop and enhance the CITES website as well as the CITES Virtual College as an electronic means of providing capacity-building support to Parties, including the incorporation of the following information:*
 - i) a list of references to capacity-building found in the current Resolutions and Decisions, as well as the relevant sections of the CITES implementation reports, so as to enhance the continued monitoring of capacity-building activities; and*
 - ii) a list of possible financial resources and mechanisms to support the implementation of CITES (such as the Global Environment Facility and the African Elephant Fund);*
- b) within the scope of Goals 1 and 3 of the CITES Strategic Vision, provide targeted technical capacity-building support and deliver general and specialized training, to: CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, Customs and law enforcement entities, the judiciary, legislators and other stakeholders, particularly in new Parties, developing country Parties, Parties identified through the compliance mechanism and Small Island Developing States.*
- c) in consultation and cooperation with the Animals and Plants Committees, undertake the revision and development of selected capacity-building and identification materials, including materials related to the development, establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas;*
- d) issue a Notification to the Parties inviting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to provide to the Secretariat precise information on their capacity-building needs, and report to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting on the answers received; and*
- e) further cooperate with institutions and organizations to provide Parties with joint capacity-building assistance of relevance to CITES, 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, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

17.35 *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *monitor the implementation of activities related to capacity-building found in the current Resolutions and Decisions through information provided by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 17.34 a) i);*
- b) *review the results of the survey initiated through the Notification to the Parties referred to in Decision 17.34 d), as well as information submitted in the relevant sections of the CITES implementation reports;*
- c) *review the work of the Animals and Plants Committees in the implementation of Decision 17.32, and provide guidance, as necessary; and*
- d) *make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, on how capacity-building activities specified in Resolutions and Decisions may be consolidated, rationalized and made more coherent.*

Report on the progress of implementation of Decisions 17.34 & 35

3. The Secretariat has developed a dedicated page on the CITES website on capacity-building, which is available at https://cites.org/eng/prog/capacity_building/index.php. In accordance with Decision 17.34 paragraph a), the page contains a list of references to capacity-building found in the current Resolutions and Decisions, and a list of possible financial resources and mechanisms to support the implementation of CITES, as well as other information relevant to capacity-building. An update on the implementation status of these Resolutions and Decisions is contained in Annexes 1 and 2 to this document.
4. Since CoP17, the Secretariat has provided significant and varied types of capacity-building support and training, in implementation of Decision 17.34 paragraph b).¹ While the Secretariat tries to respond to expressed needs and invitations by Parties for in-person participation in capacity-building and training workshops, given limited human and financial resources, preference is given to interventions of a regional or subregional nature in order to maximize the available resources of the Secretariat. The availability of any given Secretariat staff member to provide in-person support may also be subject to the relevance of the subject matter, scheduling, or the availability of external funds.
5. Capacity-building activities have also been strengthened through partnerships with other organizations. The implementation update in Annexes 1 and 2 include references to collaborations with partner institutions and organizations as per Decision 17.34 paragraph e). Notable partners include, but are not limited to:
 - INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization through the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) in the implementation of the ICWC Strategic Programme;
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on marine species listings;
 - International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) on CITES-listed tree species;
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through the CITES National Legislation Project;

¹ *Some activities address a particular compliance issue, or deal with technical support on a specific topic. However, these activities are also included as part of the “capacity-building” activities for the purpose of this document, considering that much of the Secretariat’s work involves assisting Parties to acquire specific knowledge and skillset to better understand and implement the Convention.*

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on electronic CITES permit management;
 - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) on marine turtles; and
 - CMS and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on supporting lion conservation and management.
6. To complement its in-person support, the Secretariat is increasingly using virtual means such as Voice over Internet Protocol (e.g. Skype) and webinars for capacity-building and training to Parties. This has proved to be particularly useful when budget and time constraints prevent the Secretariat from providing direct participation, and is more environmentally friendly than travelling. Examples of meetings where such virtual support was provided by the Secretariat can be found in Table 1 below:

Table 1. List of meetings where the Secretariat provided technical assistance by virtual means

Meeting	Venue and date	Related Decision(s)	Partners
FAO/General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) workshop on Red Corals	Tunisia, March 2017	Dec.17.34 b), Resolution Conf. 10.3	FAO, GFCM
Global Environment Facility (GEF) Global Wildlife Program Knowledge Management Webinar on implementation of electronic CITES permits to improve control of trade in wildlife	United States of America (Virtual session) May 2017	Dec.17.159	GEF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, etc.
Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) regional preparatory workshop of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee	June 2017	Resolution Conf. 10.3	ACTO
Regional workshop on risk assessment for CITES Appendix II listed marine species	Guatemala, June 2017	Decision 17.209, 17.212	
National shark non-detriment finding (NDF) workshop	Sri Lanka, June 2017		
FAO Port State measures Agreement national workshop	Thailand, September 2017	Decision 17.213	FAO
Caribbean regional meeting on sharks	Barbados, October 2017	Decision 17.209, 17.212	

7. Regarding support to Parties through virtual means, the CITES Secretary-General also provides many statement to meetings via video, such as the Regional Project to Manage, Monitor and Control Wild Fauna and Flora Species Endangered by Trade (Brazil, April, 2017); the CITES Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles Task Force (Singapore, April 2017); and the CITES workshop on livelihoods, (South Africa, November 2016).
8. Pursuant to Decision 17.34 paragraph c), an intersessional working group on capacity-building and identification materials was established at the joint session of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 23rd session of the Plants Committee (AC29/PC23). A draft workplan proposed by the Secretariat², including activities related to the revision and development of capacity-building and identification materials, is currently being reviewed by the co-Chairs in light of comments received at AC29/PC23. The proposed workplan includes the review of Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical Cooperation*. The working group is expected to commence the implementation of the workplan once it is finalized.
9. Pursuant to Decision 17.34 paragraph d), the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2017/038 of 15 May 2017 on *Information to be submitted by Parties for the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee*. The

² The draft workplan proposed by the Secretariat can be found in document AC29 Doc.9 / PC23 Doc.10.

Secretariat, in paragraph 2 c) of the Notification, requested developing countries and countries with economies in transition to provide information on their capacity-building needs, in particular: the area of capacity-building activity needed; preferred method for delivery; target audience; and whether or not funding or in-kind contribution is available for the requested activity. Parties were given until 1 August 2017 to provide the information. The Secretariat received the following information from two Parties in response to the Notification, as seen in Annex 3 to the present document.

10. Since only two Parties responded to the above-mentioned Notification in reference to capacity-building needs, the Standing Committee may wish to wait until further information is submitted in the relevant sections of the CITES implementation reports before undertaking any review of Parties' capacity-building needs as per Decision 17.35 paragraph b).

Towards more consolidated, rationalized and coherent capacity-building activities

11. In Decision 17.35 paragraph d), the Conference of the Parties requests the Standing Committee to consider how capacity-building activities specified in Resolutions and Decisions may be consolidated, rationalized and made more coherent, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties as appropriate. As shown in Annexes 1 and 2 to this document, capacity-building activities span across a wide range of Resolutions and Decisions – in fact, much of the Secretariat's work may be considered capacity-building, as its main task is to serve Parties in their acquisition of knowledge and skillset to better understand and implement the Convention.
12. The Standing Committee may first wish to consider different approaches to effectively collect and monitor these activities. In order to assist this effort, the Secretariat has made a preliminary assessment of some possible solutions and proposes the following approaches that may be most effective:

Collecting and monitoring

- a) Collection of information on capacity-building from CITES implementation reports³ is potentially a powerful means for monitoring activities and needs in the long term. As seen in the table below, there are a few sections in the implementation report where Parties are requested to provide information on ongoing capacity-building activities, as well as needs. The Secretariat proposes to extract the information from these sections and make the summary available on the capacity-building page on the CITES Website in the future.

Table 2. Sections of the CITES implementation report where information related to capacity-building is requested

CITES Strategic Vision indicator	Information to be provided by Parties in the implementation report on capacity-building activities and tools
1.6.3a	Capacity-building activities for range States provided by external sources on the conservation and management of shared, CITES listed, species
1.6.3b	Capacity-building activities provided to other range States on the conservation and management of shared, CITES listed, species
1.6.3c	Other modes of collaboration with other Parties
1.8.1a	Availability of information resources or training to support: the making of NDFs; permit officers; and enforcement officers
2.3.1a	Number of training and capacity-building activities that took place during the reporting period
2.3.1b	Type of training and capacity-building activities that took place
3.3.3a	Availability of funding to facilitate CITES workshops, training or other capacity-building activities

³ The new CITES implementation report format can be found in [Notification to the Parties No.2016/006 of 5 February 2016](#).

CITES Strategic Vision indicator	Information to be provided by Parties in the implementation report on capacity-building needs
1.7.3c	Capacity needs to use forensic technology to support the investigation of CITES offences
1.7.3g	Capacity needs to implement the legislative provisions against CITES offences
2.3.1c	Capacity-building needs

- b) Improved monitoring of the implementation of activities related to capacity-building found in the Resolutions and Decisions may be continued through the Secretariat's reporting, as necessary, to the Standing Committee as well as the Animals and Plants Committees using the tables contained in Annexes 1 and 2 to the present document. These tables will also be featured on the capacity-building page on the CITES website. The Standing Committee may find it particularly important to monitor the progress of the implementation of Decisions during the intersessional period, as well as to assess whether the capacity-building activities were realistic and achievable at the end of each intersessional period.

Consolidation

- c) Consolidation through the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2020 already exists to some extent: Goal 1 Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention, Objective 1.8 Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity-building programmes in place; and Goal 2 Secure the necessary financial resources and means for the operation and implementation of the Convention, Objective 2.3 Sufficient resources are secured at the national and international levels to implement capacity-building programmes explicitly address capacity-building. While the Strategic Vision is not in itself effective in consolidating the capacity-building activities, it becomes useful when linked to the new CITES implementation report. The Standing Committee may wish to consider how these may be further consolidated and rationalized during its discussion on the agenda item on the Revision and replacement of the CITES Strategic Vision.
- d) Consolidation through a resolution on capacity-building may allow for a consolidation of the strategic direction of capacity-building activities. The working group on capacity-building and identification materials of the Animals and Plants Committees has in its workplan a review of Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical Cooperation* and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*, which may serve this purpose.

Typology and prioritization

- e) In addition to the consolidation of capacity-building activities found in Decisions and Resolutions, the Standing Committee may also wish to consider whether and how they may be further rationalized and made more coherent, possibly through typology or prioritization of the activities. Typology may involve: geography (Party or region), scope (taxonomic group or topic), target group (Management Authority, Scientific Authority, enforcement authorities, or other); methodology (information-sharing, technical assistance, targeted training/workshops, development of tools); or other categories.
- f) Prioritisation may require one or more criteria, such as: impact level (significant change in the implementation of the Convention); urgency (species and issues that require immediate response); and opportunity and potential (expressed needs by Parties, ease of implementation, and availability of funds). The Secretariat does not believe that a strict prioritization would be necessary or practicable, but the adoption of criteria that would help guide the process may assist Parties and the Secretariat.

Recommendation

13. The Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to:
- a) take note of the present document;
 - b) take into account the increasing importance of the use of virtual and other innovative means for capacity-building to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, in addition to in-person support; and
 - c) consider the Secretariat's observations in paragraphs 11 and 12 of this document and endorse the proposed approaches in paragraph 12, or otherwise, provide additional guidance on whether and how to approach the consolidation and rationalization of the capacity-building activities.

Decisions containing references to capacity-building

Decision	Title	Text	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
17.40	Livelihoods	Subject to the availability of external financial resources, the Secretariat shall: c) cooperate with relevant UN agencies and programmes, international and regional organizations to establish ad hoc livelihoods funding and promote capacity-building activities that support Parties to implement the Convention as an important part of enabling livelihoods; and	CITES and Livelihoods workshop was held in South Africa in November 2016. China has offered financial support to organize a capacity-building workshop on CITES and livelihoods in 2018. Further funding is needed particularly for national capacity-building activities.
17.55	Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions	Parties are encouraged to strengthen synergies among biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity-building activities .	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat)
17.64	National laws for implementation of the Convention	The Secretariat shall: d) subject to external funding, provide legal advice and assistance to Parties on the development of appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention , including legislative guidance for and training of CITES authorities, legislative drafters, policymakers, the judiciary, parliamentarians and other relevant government officials responsible for the formulation and adoption of CITES-related legislation; e) subject to external funding, cooperate, in the provision of legislative assistance , with the legal programmes of United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme(UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime(UNODC) the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as regional organizations, such as the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), League of Arab States (LAS), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); ...	The Secretariat, in cooperation with UNEP, organized a National Legislation Project workshop with focus on Parties in West Africa (February 2017) and provided technical support. The Secretariat cooperated with various partners within the UN Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest products to provide support to the Africa-Asia Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Combating Wildlife Crime (July 2017).

Decision	Title	Text	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
17.82	National ivory action plans process	The Secretariat shall approach Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources to provide financial and/or technical assistance for the development and effective implementation of the NIAPs process.	The Secretariat held a technical mission to Mozambique in July 2017. For further details, see SC69 document on <i>Rhinoceroses</i> . The Secretariat also actively reached out to ICCWC partner agencies to support NIAP implementation as part of their ongoing activities.
17.83	Enforcement matters	The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding: b) work with the World Bank and other ICCWC partner organizations to mobilize the “Wildlife crime and anti-money laundering” training programme developed under the auspices of ICCWC, to enhance capacity amongst law-enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges , to detect and investigate illegal transactions and suspicious activities associated with wildlife crime, and to effectively prosecute and adjudicate money-laundering cases associated with wildlife crime;	The Secretariat worked with the World Bank on the delivery of a pilot training on financial investigations in Kenya in June 2017. Based on experiences from this pilot training, the programme is being further tailored and improved, with plans for further national training sessions to be conducted in the future. See SC69 document on <i>ICCWC</i> for further details.
17.93	Combating wildlife cybercrime	The Secretariat shall: b) in its enforcement-support role, provide assistance and expertise regarding wildlife cybercrime enforcement operations and investigations;	The Secretariat cooperated with INTERPOL in providing a practical cyber wildlife crime investigations course in June 2017, where police and wildlife officers from Asian countries received training to be better equipped with the necessary skills to combat illegal wildlife trade via online platforms and assist investigators in the use of online intelligence sources.
17.102	Captive-bred and ranched specimens	The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, engage in a capacity-building project using materials prepared under Decisions 16.63 a) vii) and 15.52 a). ...	In the margins of the consultation workshop on the regulation of trade in CITES specimens of captive bred and ranched source (United Kingdom, March 2017), bilateral meetings were held with a number of countries to gather information and views on capacity-building needs. Further outreach in key countries is expected in key countries over the next year. Funds were secured to publish the two publications: <i>A guide to the application of CITES source codes</i> and <i>Guidance for inspection of captive breeding and ranching facilities</i> on the CITES website and translate them into a number of South-East Asian languages.

Decision	Title	Text	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
17.113	Bushmeat	Subject to the availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), and other organizations as appropriate, develop guidance materials, activities and tools aimed at enhancing Parties' capacity to regulate bushmeat trade , and shall report on these efforts at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.	As part of the CPW partnership (of which CITES is a member), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are working on producing a technical guidance on wildlife governance towards a sustainable bushmeat sector. This guidance is expected to be launched at the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) meeting in December 2017.
17.153	Traceability	Parties are invited to: e) collaborate in the provision of capacity-building programmes that promote South - South and North -South cooperation in the development of traceability systems.	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat)
17.159	Electronic systems and information technologies	The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding: c) provide capacity-building and advisory services to support Parties interested in implementing electronic solutions for the management of CITES permits and certificates.	The Secretariat attend the UNNeXT workshop on implementation of electronic certificates (October - November 2016) to raise awareness among Parties in the Asia and the Pacific about the importance of and requirements for eCITES. The Secretariat has provided capacity-building and advisory services to interested Parties, mostly through virtual means, including: the Bahamas (and other Parties in the Caribbean region), Botswana, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates.
17.164	Identification (tiger skins)	The Secretariat shall: a) issue a Notification to the Parties, to request the tiger range States to inform the Secretariat whether they have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins , and if so, the contacts of the relevant National focal points or agencies; and b) inform the Parties which tiger range states have photographic identification databases for tigers, and the capacity to identify tigers from photographs of tiger skins , and the contacts of the relevant National focal points or agencies; ...	Notifications No. 2017/038 and No. 2017/058 were issued to seek relevant information. A dedicated page on identification materials will be developed on the CITES website, where the gathered information will be featured.

Decision	Title	Text	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
16.58 (Rev. CoP17)	Physical inspection of timber shipments	By the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall: c) incorporate this information into its capacity-building activities related to timber trade.	No information provided by Parties yet.
16.48 (Rev. CoP17)	Introduction from the sea	The Secretariat shall report at the 69th or 70th meetings of the Standing Committee on the implementation of the Convention by the Parties concerned in relation to the provision on chartering arrangements provided for in Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Introduction from the sea. ... It should especially assess the capacity of chartering States and the States in which the vessels are registered to control compliance with the provisions of the CITES Convention.	See SC69 document on <i>Introduction from the sea</i> .
17.204	Malagasy ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.)	Madagascar shall: ... c) subject to the availability of funds, organize workshops in support of the implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of this Decision, and to strengthen the national capacity to formulate non-detriment findings , and identify and agree on monitoring mechanisms that include appropriate technology (e.g. timber tracking); ...	To date, no funding has been identified for the implementation of these Decisions. The Secretariat has issued Notification No. 2017/056 requesting Parties and relevant partners for relevant information.
17.208	The Secretariat shall: ... b) subject to available funding, assist with relevant capacity-building activities in Madagascar and transit and destination countries concerned by the trade in specimens of <i>Diospyros</i> spp. and <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. from Madagascar, including through international capacity-building workshops ; and ...		
17.209	Sharks and rays (Elasmobranchii spp.)	Parties are encouraged to: ... b) share experiences and examples of making non-detriment findings for trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays including, where appropriate, how artisanal fishing is taken into consideration, and communicate them to the Secretariat for publication on the CITES Sharks and Rays Portal (https://cites.org/prog/shark) in order to improve capacity and knowledge of national and regional harvest levels and management measures ; ...	Notification No. 2017/031 was issued to gather information from Parties. The sharks and rays page of the CITES website is currently being revised.
17.212		Recognizing the continued requests from Parties for assistance in implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings, and the need for further capacity-building activities in this regard, the Secretariat shall seek additional funding to address the capacity needs raised at regional implementation meetings (Casablanca, Dakar and Xiamen)* and identified in	The European Union (EU) has offered financial support for capacity-building of Parties to better implement the CITES-listings of sharks and rays.

Decision	Title	Text	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
17.213		<p>the course of the 2013-2016 EU -CITES project. * See Annex 1 of document AC28 Com. 9.</p> <p>The CITES and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Secretariats are invited to continue and expand their collaboration concerning the conservation of and trade in sharks and rays, in particular by: ...</p> <p>e) continuing to support the development and application of guidance and capacity-building tools for making NDFs, in particular for situations where data availability is low, the fishery is mostly artisanal, sharks are caught as bycatch, or where catches concern sharks that are part of shared stocks, and, upon request, supporting Parties with targeted advice to ensure compliance with Article IV for trade in CITES Appendix -II listed sharks and rays.</p>	<p>The CITES Secretariat continues to collaborate with FAO in the development of guidance and tools, including for making NDFs.</p> <p>The Secretariat has seen a large increase in the number and specificity of requests for financial/technical support on sharks and ray listings since CoP17. Unfortunately, the Secretariat has not succeeded in raising sufficient funds to date, which may require a scaling-down of implementation of these Decisions.</p>
17.225	Asian big cats (Felidae spp.)	Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical support to Parties requesting additional capacity and resources to implement Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17) on Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species effectively. Parties are also encouraged to implement the relevant recommendations from relevant international forums and tools, including but not limited to the Zero Poaching Symposium outcomes and Zero Poaching toolkit and the relevant Global Tiger Initiative/Global Tiger Forum processes addressing resources that are needed to combat poaching, trafficking and illegal trade.	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat)
16.153 (Rev. CoP17)	East African sandalwood (<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>)	<p>The Plants Committee and Eastern African range States of <i>Osyris</i> species shall: ...</p> <p>c) identify mechanisms to help build capacity to carry out non-detriment findings for currently-listed populations; ...</p>	The Plants Committee discussed this matter at its 23rd meeting (Geneva, July 2017), and a working group has been established to consider, among other things, this Decision's paragraph.
17.241	African lion (<i>Panthera leo</i>)	<p>Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in collaboration with African lion range States, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):</p> <p>g) support capacity-building in lion conservation and management, including where appropriate the making of non-detriment findings where a range State requests it;</p>	<p>The EU has offered financial support to start implementing the Decision.</p> <p>The CITES Secretariat has collaborated closely with the CMS Secretariat and IUCN to develop a comprehensive programme of work for the implementation of Decision 17.241, and to collectively seek ways to secure funding for the planned activities.</p>
17.285		The range States of <i>Strombus gigas</i> shall:	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat)

Decision	Title	Text	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
	Queen conch (<i>Stombus gigas</i>)	e) collaborate in developing and implementing joint research programmes at subregional or regional level to support the making of non-detriment findings, and promote relevant research and capacity-building activities through regional fisheries management bodies;	
17.289		The Secretariat shall, pending the availability of external funding, a) continue to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Working Group on Queen Conch composed of ... to provide assistance to range States of <i>S. gigas</i> in order to enhance the capacity of their CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, fisheries authorities and other stakeholders to implement the Regional Queen Conch Fisheries Management and Conservation Plan and apply the NDF guidance;	The Secretariat is in communication with FAO to pursue this Decision. No funding has however been raised to date for the implementation.
17.302	African tree species	The Plants Committee shall form a working group on African tree species with the following terms of reference, as well as any other terms it deems appropriate: ... c) The working group will seek to identify gaps and weaknesses in the capacity of range States of African tree species to effectively implement CITES for these species; ...	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat)

Resolutions containing references to capacity-building

Resolution	Title	Reference to capacity-building activities	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
Conf. 3.4	Technical cooperation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CALLS on all Parties to ensure the inclusion of technical assistance, in matters relating to this Convention, in the bilateral and multilateral programmes of development aid in which they participate; 2. URGES Parties to make special funding and qualified staff available, possibly by way of ‘associate expert’ assignments to the Secretariat and to developing countries, to carry out such technical assistance projects for the benefits of the other Parties; and 3. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to seek external funding for this purpose, in consultation with the Standing Committee, and to execute the projects so funded. 	<p>Technical assistance by way of expert personnel (secondments, associate experts) has been provided to the Secretariat by Germany and Turkey.</p> <p>Other external funding has been provided for allowing technical assistance. See SC69 document on <i>External funding: Report of the Secretariat</i>.</p>
Conf. 10.3	Designation and role of the Scientific Authorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. ENCOURAGES the Parties, the Secretariat and interested non-governmental organizations to develop and support workshops/seminars designed specifically to improve the implementation of CITES by Scientific Authorities; ... 	<p>The Secretariat undertook a number of general capacity-building and awareness raising activities (See Table 1 in this document).</p> <p>Also see document AC29 Doc. 10 / PC23 Doc. 11.1 on <i>Non-detriment findings</i>.</p>
Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17)	Trade in elephant specimens	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. AGREES that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) iv) building capacity in elephant range States and, as applicable, countries involved in trade in elephant specimens, to implement and make use of MIKE and ETIS in managing elephants and enhancing enforcement; ... 27. URGES all Parties to assist elephant range States to improve their capacity to manage and conserve their elephant populations, including through community-based actions, improved law enforcement, surveys, habitat protection and monitoring of wild populations, and taking account of the African Elephant Action Plan and relevant measures agreed by Asian elephant range States; ... 	<p>The MIKE programme continues to receive funds through the MIKES project (funded by the EU) for capacity-building in elephant range states.</p> <p>The EU has also provided EUR 1 million towards the African Elephant Fund.</p>
Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14)	Traditional medicines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RECOMMENDS that the Parties: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) work closely with groups of traditional-medicine practitioners and consumers in developing public education and awareness programmes towards the elimination of illegal use of endangered 	<p>NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat)</p> <p>The Secretariat has been made aware that a number of Parties are undertaking initiatives in</p>

Resolution	Title	Reference to capacity-building activities	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
		species, and developing awareness of the need to avoid over-exploitation of other wild species;	developing public education and awareness materials.
Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17)	Establishment of committees	1. ... the Animals and Plants Committees shall: ... d) cooperate with the Secretariat on the implementation of its programme of work to assist Scientific Authorities and provide scientific advice on training materials used in capacity-building; ...	The AC/PC intersessional working group on capacity-building and identification materials was established at the joint session of AC29/PC23 (July 2017), whose mandate includes the provision of scientific advice on training materials used in capacity-building.
Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP17)	Compliance and enforcement	12. RECOMMENDS further that Parties and ICPO-INTERPOL: ... c) use the data acquired during monitoring activities to establish strategies regarding enforcement, capacity-building and public awareness; ... 13. RECOMMENDS further that the Parties: n) use the CITES Virtual College, which provides access to courses and training materials to build enforcement capacity; o) explore innovative means of increasing and improving national enforcement capacity; ... q) carry out focused national and regional capacity-building activities with particular focus on fostering inter-agency cooperation and improving knowledge of legislation; species identification; risk analysis and investigation of criminal actions; ... 15. URGES the Parties and the donor community to provide financial support to ICCWC, to ensure that the Consortium can achieve its goals of bringing coordinated support to national wildlife law enforcement agencies and to subregional and regional networks, and of delivering capacity-building activities;	The Secretariat plans to revise and update some of the online courses and training materials on the CITES Virtual College. The extent to which the revision can be made is subject to the availability of external funds. Two regional activities were held on legislation capacity-building: a National Legislation Project workshop and technical support with focus on West African Parties (jointly with UNEP, February 2017), and an Africa-Asia Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Combating Wildlife Crime (UN Inter-Agency Task Force, July 2017). A number of Parties have confirmed financial support to ICCWC. See SC69 document on <i>External funding: Report of the Secretariat</i> and SC69 document on <i>ICCWC</i> for details.
Conf. 11.10	Trade in stony corals	3. URGES: a) interested Parties and other bodies from range and consumer States to collaborate and provide support, coordinated by the Secretariat, to produce as a priority accessible and practical guides to recognizing corals and coral rock in trade and to make these widely available to Parties through appropriate media; and ...	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat)
Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP17)	Conservation of and trade in tigers and other	1. URGES: f) Parties to contribute financial and technical assistance to enable range States to comply with the implementation of this Resolution and enhance capacity-building, improvement of	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat)

Resolution	Title	Reference to capacity-building activities	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
	Appendix-I Asian big cat species	conservation measures and sustainable livelihoods, so as to contribute towards the conservation of Asian big cats;	
Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17)	Conservation and management of sharks	5. ENCOURAGES Parties to assist in building financial and technical capacity in developing countries for shark and ray activities under CITES, and for the implementation of the IPOA-Sharks;	The EU has offered financial support for capacity-building of Parties to better implement the CITES-listings of sharks and rays.
12.8 (Rev. CoP17)	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	1. DIRECTS the Animals and Plants Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat and experts, and in consultation with range States ...: g) ii) ... The recommendations should aim to build the range State's long term capacity to implement Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention; ... k) iii) ... keeping in mind the principles that recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should promote capacity-building . 6. DIRECTS the Secretariat to include training on the Review of Significant Trade process as part of its capacity-building activities related to the making of non-detriment findings; ...	The EU has offered financial support for the development of capacity-building tools and activities on the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process. The Secretariat is currently developing the new RST system, which will inform the capacity-building tools and activities.
Conf. 13.4 (Rev. CoP16)	Conservation of and trade in great apes	7. CALLS UPON all governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations, as a matter of urgency, to assist the range States in any way possible in supporting the conservation of great apes including: b) assistance with enforcement, training, capacity-building and education ;	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat) See SC69 documents on <i>Great apes</i> .
13.11 (Rev. CoP17)	Bushmeat	6. ENCOURAGES Parties to, as appropriate: f) provide adequate financial, technical and capacity support to ensure that the harvest of and international trade in CITES-listed species for bushmeat is legal and sustainable;	See implementation update of Decision 17.113 on <i>Bushmeat</i> .
Conf. 14.3< Annex	CITES compliance procedures	29. If a compliance matter has not been resolved, the Standing Committee decides to take one or more of the following measures: a) provide advice, information and appropriate facilitation of assistance and other capacity-building support to the Party concerned;	The EU has offered financial support for the development of capacity-building tools and activities to facilitate Parties' understanding of compliance-related issues.
Conf. 14.4	Cooperation between CITES and ITTO	4. ENCOURAGES Parties to support and facilitate the work of ITTO and CITES to build increased capacity and improve implementation of CITES timber listings ; ...	The EU has offered financial support under the project: <i>Supporting sustainable management of</i>

Resolution	Title	Reference to capacity-building activities	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
	regarding trade in tropical timber		<i>endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant.</i>
Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)	Non-detriment findings	<p>2. ENCOURAGES Parties:</p> <p>f) to offer, on request, cooperative assistance to developing countries, for improvement of capacity to make non-detriment findings, based on nationally identified needs. Such cooperative assistance could take multiple forms, including financial and technical support; ...</p> <p>3. DIRECTS the Secretariat:</p> <p>d) to assist in identifying possible funding sources to help Parties implementing capacity-building activities related to the making of non-detriment findings.</p>	See document AC29 Doc. 10 / PC23 Doc. 11.1 on <i>Non-detriment findings</i> .
Conf. 16.10	Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa	6. DIRECTS Parties and the Secretariat to use the agarwood NDF guidance in capacity-building workshops and relevant training materials ;	No external funding has been identified to date. However, some activities may be implemented under the EU funded project <i>Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant</i> .
Conf. 17.6	Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention	6. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Parties to ensure national enforcement agencies responsible for enforcement of CITES draw upon existing guidance and training materials , ... and to make use of capacity-building opportunities offered by such entities in order to discourage any corrupt behaviour or practices on the part of their personnel;	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat)
Conf. 17.7	Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity	<p>2. DIRECTS the Animals and Standing Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat, relevant experts and in consultation with Parties, ...</p> <p>h) ... aim to promote capacity-building and enhance the ability of the country to implement relevant provisions of the Convention. The Secretariat shall transmit these draft recommendations and ...</p> <p>n) ...the Standing Committee shall decide on appropriate actions and make recommendations to the country or countries concerned, keeping in mind that these recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should, if appropriate, promote capacity-building.</p>	See implementation status under Decision 17.102 on <i>Captive-bred and ranched specimens</i>

Resolution	Title	Reference to capacity-building activities	CITES Secretariat Implementation status and plan (for activities directed to the Secretariat)
		4. DIRECTS the Secretariat to include training on this review process of specimens produced through captive production as part of its capacity-building activities related to the implementation of the Convention ; ...	
Conf. 17.10	Conservation of and trade in pangolins	1. URGES all Parties to: d) carry out capacity-building activities with a particular focus on: i) methods and techniques to detect and identify illegally traded pangolins, including specimens from alleged captive-breeding operations; ii) best practice protocols for safe handling, care and rehabilitation, and release back into the wild of live confiscated pangolins; and iii) promoting the understanding of legal provisions concerning trade in and use of pangolins; ...	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat)
Conf. 17.11	Conservation of and trade in helmeted hornbill	2. CALLS UPON all governments, donor and funding organizations, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, ... b) providing assistance with enforcement, training, capacity-building and education , population monitoring, and the gathering and exchange of scientific, technical and legal information and expertise.	NA (instruction not directed to the Secretariat) See SC69 document on <i>Illegal trade in the helmeted hornbill (Rhinoplax vigil)</i> .
Conf. 17.12	Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes	3. URGES Parties and the Secretariat to use the general NDF guidance contained in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) and any further guidance recommended by the Animals and Standing Committees in capacity-building workshops and relevant training materials ; ...	The NDF guidance for trade in Appendix-II listed snakes was prepared by IUCN and submitted by the Secretariat to AC29. An expert workshop on the making of non-detriment findings (NDF) for trade in CITES-listed snakes was held in Indonesia in May 2017 using the above-mentioned guidance.

Summary of information received in response to Notification No. 2017/038⁴

Area of capacity-building activity and target audience	Preferred method	Co-funding/in-kind opportunity
Philippines		
<p><u>Target Audience:</u> maximum of 30 individuals (personnel of CITES Management Authority and DENR regulatory staff)</p> <p><u>Area of activity needed:</u> Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) and science-based risk assessment</p>	<p>Training with practical exercises</p>	<p>Co-funding and in-kind contribution can be provided by the Philippines, through the DRNR-Biodiversity Management Bureau as the CITES Management Authority for terrestrial wildlife species</p>
Viet Nam⁵		
<p><u>Target Audience:</u> Law enforcement agencies such as police, forest rangers, border guards, and customs.</p> <p><u>Areas of activity needed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Investigation skills and techniques such as: crime scene investigation, evidence handling – Species identification skills for law enforcement agencies to differentiate between CITES-listed specimens and look-alike species, or endangered species and non-endangered species – Legal awareness and updated knowledge on wildlife national and international law for law enforcement agencies – Management authorities need to be trained on international laws – Language barriers prevent management authorities and law enforcement agencies to communicate effectively with foreign counterparts, prevent information exchange – Specimen handling skills and techniques such as care for live specimens, stockpile handling, to handle live and dead seized specimens according to the recommendations of CITES – Forensic analysis skills and knowledge for scientific authorities. In Viet Nam, there are only a few laboratories with the capacity for forensic analysis for prosecution, and the process of sending a large number of samples to be analysed is slow, costly, and not efficient, preventing the prosecution and investigation process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – More funding for such activities to cover broad range of law enforcement agencies – Frequent workshops and trainings, due to the rotational nature of the positions of the law enforcement officers 	<p>A number of organizations supported some funding for these activities, together with in-kind contributions from the management authorities. However, the number of law enforcement officers in need of such training is large, requiring more funds and in-kind contributions to conduct these workshops and trainings.</p>

⁴ The information contained in this table consist of excerpts of responses submitted by Parties, without any editorial changes made.

⁵ The Secretariat also reports on enforcement-related capacity activities in Viet Nam, in the SC69 document on ICCWC.