

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

Strategic matters

Capacity building

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK TO FACILITATE COORDINATION, TRANSPARENCY, AND
ACCOUNTABILITY OF CITES CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS

1. This document has been submitted by the United States of America.*

Background

2. The CITES Parties are challenged to address the varied and significant outstanding CITES capacity building needs that limit the implementation of the Convention in support of legal and sustainable trade. In discussing capacity building, the Secretariat states that “capacity building generally constitutes the development of activities and materials that support the acquisition of specific knowledge and skillsets to better understand and implement the provisions of the Convention.”¹ Capacity to implement and enforce the Convention by all Parties is fundamental to its effectiveness and has been the focus of ongoing efforts, particularly in developing countries and economies in transition. In light of the global donor focus on combating wildlife trafficking, new opportunities for CITES capacity building are available.
3. At the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17; Johannesburg, 2016), the Parties adopted [Decisions 17.31 – 17.35](#) on *Capacity Building*. Decisions 17.32 and 17.34 direct a number of actions to the Animals and Plant Committee and the Secretariat to improve CITES capacity-building materials, provide capacity-building support to Parties, and deliver general and specialized training. Decision 17.35 directs the Standing Committee to monitor the implementation of activities outlined in Decisions 17.32 and 17.34 and to make recommendations on how capacity-building activities in Resolutions and Decisions can be “consolidated, rationalized, and made more coherent.”

Proposal the United States is considering submitting for CoP17

4. With this document we wish to inform the Standing Committee that, in response to Decision 17.35 and the need to develop a framework for CITES capacity building efforts that facilitates Party and donor coordination, transparency, and accountability across an array of investments, the United States is evaluating whether to submit a document for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18; Colombo, 2019) to address this issue. We are considering developing a draft Resolution that will include a framework to more systematically plan, implement, and measure CITES capacity building efforts. This framework was developed using the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, a widely used tool to adaptively plan and assess the effectiveness of conservation actions. Embedded within the framework is a method to identify

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¹ https://www.cites.org/eng/prog/capacity_building/index.php

and track outstanding capacity-building needs to identify more targeted areas for donors and Parties to focus their efforts and measure progress toward shared goals. An information document with more details will be forthcoming.

5. The United States invites feedback from the Standing Committee on the utility of creating such a framework. We also invite the cooperation of other Parties in the development and submission of such a document.