

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Strategic matters

COOPERATION WITH OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS:  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.55 (Rev. CoP18), 17.56 (Rev. CoP18), 18.47 and 18.48 on *Cooperation with other biodiversity-related Conventions* as follows:

**17.55 (Rev. CoP18) Directed to Parties**

*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.*

**17.56 (Rev. CoP18) Directed to the Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as appropriate, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This should involve the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and, as appropriate, engagement with other relevant organizations and processes, including processes under the Rio Conventions. The Standing Committee shall report on the implementation of this Decision at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

**18.47 Directed to the Secretariat**

*The Secretariat shall prepare a report summarizing existing CITES Resolutions and Decisions related to synergies, partnerships and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities, and advise on any measures to enhance the implementation of the Convention in this regard, drawing on the practices of other relevant biodiversity-related entities, together with the outputs resulting from the decisions and resolutions of their governing bodies.*

**18.48 Directed to the Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the report of the Secretariat under Decision 18.47 and the merits of proposing to the Conference of the Parties any measures to enhance the implementation of the*

*Convention through a more streamlined, cohesive, and effective approach to synergy, partnership and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities; and*

b) *prepare a report on its implementation of the present Decision and submit any resulting recommendations for consideration by the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. As directed in Decision 18.47, the Secretariat has prepared below a snapshot of CITES Resolutions and Decisions and of existing partnerships and cooperation agreements that it has with partner organizations. While Decision 18.47 focuses on other biodiversity-related entities understood as Multilateral Environment Agreements and other United Nations entities with a mandate focused on biodiversity, the Secretariat has used this opportunity to take stock of all its partnerships that can include cooperation on trade, the environment or enforcement, among other themes. Since the aim of Decision 18.48 is for the Standing Committee to propose “measures to enhance the implementation of the Convention through a more streamlined, cohesive, and effective approach to synergy, partnership and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities”, an overview of all existing partnerships allows the Standing Committee to put in perspective the role of cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities in the implementation of the Convention.
4. This report is structured as follows:
  - a) existing Resolutions and Decisions related to synergies, partnerships and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities;
  - b) an overview of existing formal agreements with other biodiversity-related Conventions and other entities;
  - c) an overview of Resolutions and Decisions adopted by other conventions on cooperation and synergies;
  - d) conclusions; and
  - e) recommendations.

Existing Resolution and Decisions related to synergies, partnerships and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities

5. Out of the 99 valid Resolutions after CoP18, 11 Resolutions have significant references to synergies, partnerships and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities:
  - Resolution Conf. 18.5 on *Cooperation and synergy with the World Heritage Convention*
  - Resolution Conf. 18.4 on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*
  - Resolution Conf. 18.3 on *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030*
  - Resolution Conf. 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*
  - Resolution Conf. 16.4 on *Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions*
  - Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber*
  - Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*
  - Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines*
  - Resolution Conf. 12.4 (Rev. CoP18) on *Cooperation between CITES and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources regarding trade in toothfish*
  - Resolution Conf. 11.4 (Rev. CoP12) on *Conservation of cetaceans, trade in cetacean specimens and the relationship with the International Whaling Commission*
  - Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity*
6. Out of the 357 valid Decisions after CoP18, 17 Decisions are related to synergies, partnerships and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities and three of these Decisions focus on the same entities as some of the Resolutions listed above:
  - Decisions 17.55 (Rev. CoP18)-17.56 (Rev. CoP18) & 18.47-18.48 on *Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions*

- Decisions 18.49 to 18.51 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*
- Decisions 18.52 to 18.54 on *Cooperation with the World Heritage Convention*
- Decision 18.55 on *Cooperation on the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin* (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*)
- Decisions 18.56 to 18.61 on *Joint CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative*

7. In the Resolutions listed above, cooperation is usually encouraged at three different levels: cooperation between the Secretariats of each Convention, including by participating in each other's meetings; cooperation between the national focal points of each Convention; and, sometimes, cooperation between the governing bodies of each Convention with a role for the Chairs of the Standing, Animals or Plants Committees. Cooperation is understood in these Resolutions as increased awareness of each other's work, better communication and avoiding duplication or working at cross purposes. Where joint programmes are implemented, cooperation entails working on implementation and enforcement, including encouraging donor coordination and fundraising efforts. Some Resolutions include a reporting requirement. Finally, Resolutions Conf. 18.3 and Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) investigate how CITES, by cooperating with other entities, can contribute to broader biodiversity and sustainable development goals.

#### Overview of existing formal agreements with other biodiversity-related Conventions and other entities

8. In addition to the Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, formal cooperation agreements also exist. These are between the partner organizations and the CITES Secretariat.
9. With intergovernmental conventions and entities, cooperation agreements exist with the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity ([CBD](#)), the Convention on Migratory Species ([CMS](#)) (including a [joint work programme](#)), the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer ([Basel and Ozone Secretariats](#)), the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)) and with the International Union for Conservation of Nature ([IUCN](#)). A Memorandum of Understanding with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention) is under development.
10. In the field of law enforcement cooperation, the Secretariat has a [Letter of Understanding](#) with INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO) establishing the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC). The CITES Secretariat chairs the Consortium.
11. On specific thematic issues, the Secretariat has formal cooperation agreements with several organizations on areas of common interest:
- a) on trade with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on its [BioTrade Initiative](#) (BioTrade), [Automated System for Customs Data](#) (ASYCUDA) and its [International Trade Centre](#) (ITC);
  - b) on marine species with the Food and Agriculture Organization ([FAO](#)), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme ([SPREP](#));
  - c) on animal health and welfare with the World Organization for Animal Health ([OIE](#)), the International Air Transport Association ([IATA](#)) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums ([WAZA](#)); and
  - d) on illegal wildlife trade with the [Lusaka Agreement Task Force](#), the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Product, the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs ([DEFRA](#)) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the [Office of Law Enforcement/Clark R. Bavin National Fish & Wildlife Forensic Laboratory](#) of the United States of America.
12. The Secretariat also participates in a number of fora with other organizations where the nature of the relationship may be less formalized. These include the [United Nations Environment Management Group](#), the [United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#) (InforMEA), the [United Nations Forum on Forests](#) (UNFF) the [Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions](#) (BLG) established by the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the [Green Customs Initiative](#), the [Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management](#) (CPW) and the [Collaborative Partnership on Forests](#). The Secretariat has also recently become partner in the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in [Resolution A/RES/73/284](#). This Resolution aims to support and

scale up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide and raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration. It designates the collaborating agencies for the Decade to be “the secretariats of the Rio conventions, other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and entities of the United Nations system”.

13. Finally, the CITES Secretariat has a longstanding partnership with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC), including for the management of the CITES trade database and within the context of the Review of Significant Trade and a more recent partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the management of the illegal trade database.
14. There is only a partial overlap between the organizations mentioned in Resolutions and those that have signed a formal agreement with the CITES Secretariat (see table below). This can be partly explained by the fact that the agreements formalize the partnerships established by the CITES Secretariat, while the Resolutions also include cooperation established by Parties, especially at the national level. Nevertheless, where the Resolutions and the formal agreements overlap, those entities can be considered as strategic partners. The diversity of partnerships established by the CITES Secretariat appears clearly from the overview above, both in terms of format and in terms of content. Indeed, these formal agreements are often entered into to address and strengthen specific areas of collaboration as it relates to the specific organization involved and with the aim to promote strategic partnerships with international stakeholders relevant to CITES.

Biodiversity-related entity	Resolutions and Decisions	Cooperation agreement	Observations
CMS	Resolution Conf. 13.3	MoU between Secretariats	The MoU and Resolution Conf. 13.3 were developed and agreed one after the other and dovetail each other.
IPBES	Resolution Conf. 18.4	MoC between Secretariats	The MoC and Resolution Conf. 18.4 were developed and agreed one after the other and dovetail each other.
WHC	Resolution Conf. 18.5	MoU between Secretariats	The draft MoU with the Secretariat is to be considered by the Standing Committee at the present meeting
CBD	Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14)	MoC between Secretariats	The Resolution is very short and has been the subject of only minor changes since it was agreed in 1997. The MoC was signed in 1996 and has remained unchanged.
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	Resolution Conf. 12.4 (Rev. CoP18)	-	The Resolution addresses the specific question of cooperation over trade in toothfish <i>Dissostichus</i> spp. (a species included in the CITES Appendices)
ITTO	Resolution Conf. 14.4	-	The Resolution encourages Parties and the Secretariat to cooperate with ITTO
CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation	Resolution Conf. 16.5	-	The CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is not specifically mentioned in the Secretariat MoC with the CBD Secretariat.
Other biodiversity-related conventions	Resolution Conf. 16.4	-	The Resolution is rather short with a brief operative section calling for Parties (only) to develop cooperation.

15. The CITES Secretariat has also consistently participated in already established coordination mechanisms, like the [Liaison Group](#) of Biodiversity-related Conventions, in order to contribute to the broader biodiversity and sustainable development agenda through enhanced coherence and cooperation in the implementation of the Conventions.

16. The need for a clear partnership strategy giving the rationale for why and how CITES – understood as its Parties, its Permanent Committees and the Secretariat – cooperates with others emerges from this overview. The strategic alignment of the above mentioned formal cooperation agreements and participation in coordination mechanisms with *inter alia* the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021 – 2030 should be considered as part of a process to develop a partnership strategy, while also clarifying the role the Parties, the Permanent Committees and the Secretariat should play in using agreements and platforms to further enhance the implementation of the Convention.

#### Overview of decisions adopted by other conventions on cooperation and synergies

17. As directed in Decision 18.47, the Secretariat has identified the pertinent decisions on synergies, partnerships and cooperation taken by other relevant biodiversity-related entities in order to better understand how these entities articulate their cooperation and partnerships policies.
- a) International Whaling Commission: [2014 Resolution on Highly migratory cetaceans](#) that decided to “seek enhanced collaboration in the conservation of migratory cetaceans with other intergovernmental organisations whose co-operation is essential to secure the lasting protection of these species in the world ocean” – The IWC clearly indicates the overall goal of this enhanced collaboration, i.e. the lasting protection of highly migratory cetaceans. In its 2018 *Update on IWC cooperation with other organisations* ([IWC/67/19](#)); the IWC Secretariat outlines the organisations it has collaborated with (including CITES) and the actions it has taken, namely attending other organisations’ meetings, organizing side-events and contributing to outcome documents; but also submitting reports and contributions to the SDGs process and others; implementing joint projects or programmes; and signing formal agreements.
  - b) Convention on Biological Diversity: 2016 [Decision XIII/24](#) on *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations* – This CBD Decision is the result of a Party-led process and proposes two detailed action plans, one at the national level and the other at the international level. At the national level, Parties are encouraged to promote synergies within their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and to establish national coordination mechanisms. They are also encouraged to enhance synergies in the management of information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators; in communication and awareness-raising; in the science-policy interface; in capacity-building; and in resource mobilization and utilization. At the international level, there are opportunities to enhance cooperation and cooperation mechanisms, such as the BLG, notably by broadening the BLG to the UN Management Group, FAO, IUCN, UNDP, UNESCO and UNEP. Reflecting the action plans for Parties, biodiversity-related conventions could also enhance management of and avoid duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators; as well as enhance the provision of capacity-building and guidance. CBD Decision XIII/24 has been supplemented in 2018 by [Decision 14/30](#) on *Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives*. This wide-ranging and detailed Decision builds on the earlier one. Amongst its many component parts, it requests CBD’s informal advisory group on synergies to advise on ways to optimize synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework and describes a process for the other conventions, such as CITES, to contribute to the development of the framework. It further encourages cooperation and provides for specific joint work between relevant conventions and processes for instance on forests and on coastal wetland conservation,
  - c) Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: 2012 [Resolution XI.6](#) on *Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*; 2015 [Resolution XII.3](#) on *Enhancing the visibility and stature of the Convention, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* and 2018 [Resolution XIII.7](#) on *Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* – For 2018, the aim is to raise the visibility of the Convention at the national, subnational, regional and international levels. Parties are invited to mainstream wetlands in their national development plans and at the international level. They are also encouraged to contribute to the SDGs. National focal points of different Conventions are encouraged to coordinate their efforts. Just like IWC, the Ramsar Convention has been working with other MEAs and signing MoUs. Ramsar has also focused some of its work on SDG Indicator 6.6.1 on wetland extent for which they are partly responsible.
  - d) International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: 2019 [Resolution 12/2019](#) on *Cooperation with other international bodies and organizations* – the Resolution addressed in its sections the different types of partnerships that have been put in place, namely partnerships with international bodies and organizations and partnerships with “Article 15 institutions”. The Resolution calls for

harmonious implementation of biodiversity international instruments and for enhanced capacity-building. It specifically highlights the importance of the Biodiversity Liaison Group and of InforMEA.

- e) International Plant Protection Convention: No specific governing body decision covers cooperation with other biodiversity-related as whole exist, but there are some references to cooperation with other biodiversity convention over issues such as alien invasive species.
- f) Convention on Migratory Species: 2020 [Resolution 11.10 \(Rev. COP13\)](#) on *Synergies and partnerships* – The Resolution presents an overview of the existing partnerships of CMS and identifies the Biodiversity Liaison Group as a key forum to engage with partners and create synergies, specifically in the following issues: the improvement of a global set of biodiversity indicators within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; national reporting; outreach and communication strategies; monitoring frameworks; and cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, wild meat and invasive alien species. The Resolution also calls for cooperation at the national level and encourages the use of InforMEA.
- g) World Heritage Convention: The World Heritage Centre reports at every session of the World Heritage Committee (the governing body for the Convention) on the cooperation with other conventions as part of their regular secretariat report. Otherwise, governing body decisions encouraging cooperation and synergy with other biodiversity-related conventions are found throughout the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee for instance at its [forty-fourth session](#) (2021).

## Conclusions

- 18. Human and financial resources of governments and international organizations are under increasing pressure. For the Parties and the CITES Secretariat to deliver on their mandates, the benefits of cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions, and other international organizations generally, would appear increasingly apparent.
- 19. The *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* recognizes that Parties' efforts to implement the Convention may also provide benefit to, and draw strength from, efforts being undertaken in other fora. The goals of the Vision are designed *inter alia* to further improve the relationship with complementary international efforts to achieve conservation and sustainable development, including with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and related conventions, agreements and associations. Goal 5 of the Vision in particular aims to use existing or new mutually supportive partnerships to help its achievement. Thus, CITES Parties can also help advance other international goals or targets by simultaneously advancing the achievement of CITES goals. Objective 5.1 under Goal 5 is of particular relevance:  
  
*Objective 5.1 Parties and the Secretariat support and enhance existing cooperative partnerships in order to achieve their identified objectives.*
- 20. Governing bodies of several biodiversity-related conventions have adopted comprehensive and overarching decisions and resolutions on partnerships, cooperation and synergies with other conventions, institutions and international organizations to support the implementation of their mandate. This enables them to determine specific cooperative efforts that would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their work. Further research is required to examine, for each convention, the outputs resulting from these decisions and resolutions.
- 21. As explained in paragraphs 8-16 of the present document, the Secretariat has engaged with a range of international partners which is much wider than other biodiversity-related conventions. Given that the Convention stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development, this is not surprising and highlights the complex strategic context within which the Convention is being implemented. The Parties and the Secretariat should consider the Convention in this strategic context, identify priorities in terms of collaboration, cooperation and partnerships essential to enhance implementation of the Convention, as well its effectiveness and efficiency. The Secretariat is of the view that a partnership strategy could assist in this regard.
- 22. Furthermore, during the course of the ongoing negotiations for a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, there have been regular calls for closer cooperation and synergy at all levels and between the biodiversity-related Conventions in particular. The Framework and its associated headline indicators and monitoring framework are expected to be adopted in 2022 and CITES needs to be ready to respond to any provisions that it may contain in this regard.

23. Aside from eight Conventions which are members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, there are a very large number of potential partners and opportunities for cooperation. As to the Secretariat, the possibilities are extensive, but the staff resources available to successfully engage are limited. Whilst maintaining the ability to respond quickly to emerging opportunities, it would be helpful if the Parties could agree on the broad priorities for cooperation, with a focus on achieving the results of the Convention and raising its profile, as well as identifying opportunities for cooperation and collaboration for Parties and the Secretariat, rather than maximizing the number of engagements. As mentioned in paragraph 21, a partnership strategy could assist CITES Parties and the Secretariat to achieve the aforementioned.
24. The Conference of the Parties meets around every three years, but events move at a faster pace. In the recently agreed Resolution on cooperation with IPBES (Resolution Conf. 18.4), the CoP delegated responsibility to the Standing Committee to make inputs to IPBES processes. There may be a need to increase such delegation, recognizing that, as stated in Resolution Conf. 18.2 on *Establishment of committees*, when attending events or meetings outside those called for by the Conference of the Parties, Members and alternate Members of committees established by the Conference of the Parties do not represent the relevant committee or any CITES body unless specific instructions to do so have been provided by the relevant Committee Chair or by the Conference of the Parties.
25. The particular circumstances of the present intersessional period have meant that the Standing Committee will not have the time to fully reflect on measures to enhance the implementation of the Convention through a more streamlined, cohesive, and effective approach to synergy, partnership and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities and report accordingly to the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat believes that more detailed reflection is required on this matter. Consequently, the Secretariat is proposing the renewal of Decisions 17.55 (Rev. CoP18), 17.56 (Rev. CoP18), 18.47 and 18.48. Amendments are suggested to update the references to future CITES meetings and current international processes and also, as explained in paragraph 19 of the present document, to enlarge the review to widen the range of other international organizations considered.

#### Recommendations

26. The Standing Committee is invited to:
  - a) consider the information presented by the Secretariat in the present document and provide comments to the Secretariat to be addressed in any further work and reports;
  - b) consider the conclusion reached by the Secretariat that a partnership strategy could assist in ensuring a more strategic, streamlined, cohesive and effective approach to cooperation, and agree to propose to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of Decisions 18.48 and 18.49 and the adoption of the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document; and
  - c) agree to propose the renewal of Decisions 17.55 (Rev. CoP18), 17.56 (Rev. CoP18), found in the Annex to the present document to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
27. Should the Standing Committee agree to the recommendation in paragraph 26 b) and the proposals be adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat suggests that the Committee forms an intersessional working group at its 76th or 77th meeting to advance the consideration of this matter.

Draft revised Decisions on  
cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements  
and other international organizations

Added text shown underlined and deleted text shown in ~~strike through~~.

**17.55 (Rev. CoP1819) Directed to Parties**

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.

**17.56 (Rev. CoP1819) Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and ~~the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as appropriate,~~ as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This should involve the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and, as appropriate, engagement with other relevant organizations and processes, including processes under the Rio Conventions. The Standing Committee shall report on the implementation of this Decision at the ~~19th~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**18.47 (Rev CoP19) Directed to the Secretariat**

~~The Secretariat shall prepare a report summarizing existing CITES Resolutions and Decisions related to synergies, partnerships and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities, and advise on any measures to enhance the implementation of the Convention in this regard, drawing on the practices of other relevant biodiversity-related entities, together with the outputs resulting from the decisions and resolutions of their governing bodies.~~

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall prepare for consideration by the Standing Committee a partnership strategy for the Parties, the Permanent Committees and the Secretariat to enhance the implementation of the Convention through strategic partnerships.

**18.48 (Rev CoP19) Directed to the Standing Committee**

~~The Standing Committee shall:~~

- ~~a) consider the report of the Secretariat under Decision 18.47 and the merits of proposing to the Conference of the Parties any measures to enhance the implementation of the Convention through a more streamlined, cohesive, and effective approach to synergy, partnership and cooperation with other biodiversity-related entities; and~~
- ~~b) prepare a report on its implementation of the present Decision and submit any resulting recommendations for consideration by the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.~~

The Standing Committee shall review the draft partnership strategy developed by the Secretariat under Decision 18.47 (Rev CoP19) and make recommendatons for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of Parties.