

RESOLUTION CONF. 12.2

PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL OF EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

1. In Resolution Conf. 12.2, the Conference of the Parties:

ADOPTS the procedure for approval of externally funded projects contained in Annex 1, providing guidelines and procedures to be followed by the Parties in developing proposals for projects and to be followed by the Secretariat in prioritizing project implementation and in seeking external funds.

2. As is stated in paragraph 1 d) of the Annex to that Resolution, the procedure for approval of externally funded projects does not apply to:

- i) *activities or projects derived from Resolutions and Decisions adopted at meetings of the Conference of the Parties;*
- ii) *organization of and participation in meetings for training, legislation, enforcement or specialist consultations;*
- iii) *provision of assistance to developing countries in improving their administration of the Convention; and*
- iv) *production of CITES capacity building materials such as implementation manuals.*

3. Over the seven years since that Resolution was adopted, the number of project proposals received by the Secretariat from Parties has significantly diminished.

4. In the meantime, the Conference of the Parties, through the Standing Committee, has also approved a Costed Programme of Work of the Secretariat and has specified the projects for which funds must be sought as a priority. The main kinds of projects for which the Secretariat seeks funding are the kinds listed in paragraph 2 above, which are not covered by the procedure contained in Resolution Conf. 12.2.

5. Whenever the CITES Secretariat has sought to obtain funds for national projects related to wildlife trade (such as population studies as a basis for management programmes), through international financial institutions or development cooperation agencies, it has been told that requests for funding would be better coming directly from the States concerned. All these institutions have their own procedures and criteria to approve projects and it is therefore an unnecessary duplication to create separate procedures to access their funds. Resolution Conf. 12.2 therefore raises false expectations since it develops a series of procedures to apply for funds without creating a financial mechanism for the provision of funding.

6. Finally, it should in particular be noted that the Secretariat is approaching international financial institutions, cooperation agencies, foundations and other donors to encourage them to include support for CITES-listed species in their biodiversity portfolios. This would allow Parties to access funds for species conservation, recovery and sustainable-use activities that are not included in the Costed Programme of Work. In conducting fund-raising, however, the Secretariat is required to focus on the priorities determined by the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee.

Recommendation

7. For all of the above reasons, the Secretariat recommends to the Conference of the Parties that it:
 - a) repeal Resolution Conf. 12.2; and
 - b) adopt the draft decision presented in Annex 10 b).

DRAFT DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Funding for projects related to species conservation and management

Directed to the Secretariat

15.xx The Secretariat shall:

- a) in cooperation with international financial institutions and potential donors, investigate possible ways to establish a financial mechanism to secure long-term funding to support the provision of technical assistance to CITES Parties in relation to regulating wildlife trade (including population studies as a basis for management programmes); and
- b) report its findings and recommendations at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.