

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Geneva (Switzerland), 17–28 August 2019

**Committee II**

Strategic matters

CAPACITY BUILDING

*This document has been prepared by the working group on capacity building on the basis of documents CoP18 Doc. 21.2, and 21.3, after discussion in the fifth sessions of Committee II (see document CoP18 Com. II Rec. 5).*

***Directed to Parties***

18.AA Parties are invited to:

- a) provide information to the Secretariat regarding capacity-building materials and efforts that could be shared among Parties;
- b) utilize the CITES Virtual College to support capacity-building activities and provide the Secretariat with inputs and financial support to update and improve its services, including translation of the contents into national languages;
- c) use the CITES implementation reports, as well as direct expression of interest, to inform the Secretariat about their capacity needs;
- d) support the capacity-building efforts of other Parties by providing scholarships for in-person training or training opportunities, and by translating materials into non-working languages of the Convention; and
- e) share ideas, experiences, and information related to the development of a capacity building framework in response to the Notification to Parties issued by the Secretariat under Decision 18.HH a).

***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

18.BB The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report of the Secretariat called for in Decision 18.HH c), and provide input and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

18.CC The Standing Committee shall establish a working group on capacity-building to advise the Standing Committee on the actions outlined in 18.DD and 18.EE for the development of an integrated capacity-building framework to improve implementation of the Convention .

The working group shall include, but not be limited to, participation of: members of the Standing Committee, the Animals and Plants Committees, the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee, and the Secretariat. The working group shall also include a balanced representation of Parties from each region, as well as Parties that are donors and Parties that are recipients of capacity support.

18.DD The Standing Committee shall provide guidance to the Secretariat to refine and consolidate the areas of capacity-building efforts, taking into account the discussions on the *Compliance Assistance Programme* and *Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews*, as well as the discussion on the development of an integrated capacity building framework outlined in Decision 18.EE.

18.EE The Standing Committee shall undertake the following:

- a) review Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical Cooperation* with the view to incorporating capacity building needs;
- b) consider the inputs and recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees pursuant to 18.BB, and
- c) make recommendations, including a possible new or revised draft resolution as well as models, tools and guiding documents on capacity building, as appropriate, based on the outcome of the work in 18.HH as well as documents CoP18 Doc. 21.2 and Doc.21.3, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

18.FF The Secretariat shall:

- a) collect information on capacity-building materials and efforts from Parties and others, and make them available to Parties through the CITES website;
- b) subject to the availability of external funding, undertake the revision and enhancement of the CITES website and of the CITES Virtual College, including selected online courses, to update the content and to improve their effectiveness in providing access to capacity-building resources to Parties;
- c) subject to the availability of external funding, provide compliance-related and other general capacity-building support to Parties;
- d) inform the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees when needs arise for their review or inputs on capacity-building materials; and
- e) subject to the availability of external funding, further cooperate with institutions and organizations to provide Parties with joint capacity-building assistance of relevance to CITES, and provide scholarships for in-person training or training opportunities, and translate materials into non-working languages of the Convention, 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 (ICCWC) (including each of its partners), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International University of Andalusia (UNIA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

18.GG In carrying out capacity-building activities the Secretariat shall pay particular attention to the needs of Parties identified through compliance procedures, recently acceded Parties, developing country Parties, and Small Island Developing States.

18.HH The Secretariat shall:

- a) based on document CoP18 Doc.21.3 Annex 5 and in consultation with the Standing Committee, develop a questionnaire and issue a Notification to Parties transmitting the questionnaire to gather input to inform the development of an integrated capacity-building framework;
- b) liaise with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements to collect information regarding how their capacity building efforts are targeted, accomplished, and tracked;
- c) prepare a report summarizing the outcomes of its implementation of Decision 18. HH a) and b), the outcomes of the needs assessment working group summarized in SC66 Doc.20.2 Rev.1, and

the information on capacity building needs provided by Parties through their implementation reports, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees; and

- d) subject to the availability of external funding and in consultation with the Standing Committee, Animals and Plants Committees, and the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee, organize a workshop that would facilitate the Standing Committee's tasks set out in Decision 18.DD and 18.EE.