



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2021/063

Geneva, 14 October 2021

CONCERNING:

Compliance Assistance Programme

1. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.68 to 18.70 on the *Compliance Assistance Programme* (see Annex 1 to the present Notification).
2. Pursuant to paragraph a) of Decision 18.69, Parties are hereby requested to provide information on any compliance assistance currently provided by governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental entities. The CITES Secretariat has developed an excel table (Annex 2 to this Notification) to facilitate the process of collecting and providing the information required.
3. Responses should be submitted by email to penelope.benn@cites.org no later than **19 November 2021**.

DECISIONS 18.68 TO 18.70 ON THE
COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

18.68 *Directed to Parties*

Parties are invited to:

- a) provide financial or technical support to Parties subject to compliance mechanisms and other related compliance measures as specified in Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures* to further strengthen their institutional capacity, including the possibility of deploying short-term 'placements' or 'secondments' to the Parties concerned and peer capacity-building activities as part as the Compliance Assistance Programme (e.g. bilateral cooperation and mentoring by fellow authorities of another Party); and
- b) provide to the Secretariat any relevant information on bilateral or multilateral financial or technical assistance provided to Parties subjected to CITES compliance measures to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

18.69 *Directed to the Secretariat*

The Secretariat shall establish, subject to the availability of external funding, a Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) and:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties requesting information on any compliance assistance currently provided by governmental, intergovernmental and non- governmental entities;
- b) upon request, conduct technical missions and facilitate the organization of in-country assistance coordination mechanisms to selected Parties eligible to benefit from the Compliance Assistance Programme;
- c) in consultation with the Masters Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade, the International framework' hosted by the International University of Andalucía and other relevant masters, explore the possibility and feasibility of training and deploying short term consultants or interns to assist Parties benefiting from the Compliance Assistance Programme;
- d) in consultation with the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and development aid agencies of potential donor countries, explore the possibility and feasibility of strengthening the compliance-based component of the GEF Global Wildlife Program and other relevant programmes, by developing a subprogramme on CITES Compliance Assistance taking into account the recommendations of the Standing Committee and the needs of the Parties concerned;
- e) in collaboration with the Montreal protocol and other relevant multilateral environment agreements, conduct a rapid assessment of the lessons learnt from the implementation of a Compliance Assistance Programme under the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and any other similar initiatives that specifically provide compliance-related assistance; and
- f) report to the Standing Committee on the progress made in the implementation of Decisions 18.68 and 18.69 and on the feasibility of mainstreaming a compliance assistance component in the Global Wildlife Program of GEF and other relevant programmes.

18.70 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall monitor progress in the implementation of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP); consider whether Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES compliance procedures* should be amended to reflect the creation of a CAP and assess the report submitted by the Secretariat regarding the collaboration with the Masters Course in 'Management and Conservation of Species in Trade, the International framework' hosted by the International University of Andalucía and other relevant masters; the feasibility of mainstreaming a compliance assistance component in the Global Wildlife Program of GEF and other relevant programmes; and report its findings and recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.