



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/047

Geneva, 14 April 2023

CONCERNING:

CHINA

Talent Exchange Programme for CITES Scientific Authorities (TESA) - Call for applications

1. This notification is published at the request of China.
2. In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Endangered Species Scientific Commission, People's Republic of China (ESSC) as China's Scientific Authority, China has launched a talent exchange programme for CITES Scientific Authorities (TESA).
3. The main purpose of the TESA initiative is to build capacities of Scientific Authorities, in line with the role of the Scientific Authorities, as outlined in the text of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 10.3 on *Designation and role of the Scientific Authorities*.
4. The TESA initiative is financed and hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and organized by the ESSC. The ESSC will undertake scientific exchanges and cooperative research within its mandate. Priority areas to be covered by the TESA initiative in line with CITES Resolutions and Decisions and Strategic Vision 2021-2030 will be identified and shared with the Secretariat.
5. TESA aims to schedule around 4 to 5 research sessions between 2023-2025. Each research session invites one or two research personnel to undertake cooperative research projects for a duration of three months in China. The CAS President's International Fellowship for Visiting Scientists will set the criteria for funding/sponsorship under the TESA programme. The fellowship provides economy-class round-trip international travel, health insurance and a monthly stipend of RMB 20,000 to 30,000 (USD 2,857 to 4,286) per month to cover living expenses in Beijing, China.
6. Further details on the terms, eligibility conditions and indicative timeline of the 2023-2025 TESA are available in **Annex 1** to the present Notification.
7. Parties and relevant stakeholders are encouraged to nominate candidates for the first phase of the TESA initiative, by completing the form in **Annex 2** to the present Notification, submitting it by 30 June 2023 at ccites@ioz.ac.cn.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

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Talent Exchange Programme for CITES Scientific Authorities (TESA)

OVERVIEW, TERMS AND WORK PLAN

1. Objective

Over the years many capacity-building initiatives have been established in the CITES context, such as the CITES Virtual College developed by the CITES Secretariat, 14 editions of Master's course at the International University of Andalusia, Spain, CITES training materials on CD-ROM and the CITES website, and 12 Hangzhou training seminars for CITES Parties organized by China for Parties from Asia and Africa, to name a few. The increasing number of bilateral exchanges and law enforcement training activities have also greatly facilitated the implementation of the Convention.

Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building* adopted at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) invites Parties to ensure the inclusion of capacity-building, including targeted, technical, enforcement and compliance assistance, in the relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes. These efforts will be of particular benefit to Parties facing diverse and specific challenges in fulfilling their role and functions mandated by CITES.

In response to the calls of Resolution Conf. 19.2, the "Belt and Road" Initiative of the Chinese government and the UN's South-South Cooperation Framework, China has launched the Talent Exchange Programme for Scientific Authorities for CITES (TESA) as an endeavour to support the CITES capacity-building efforts.

The TESA is designed to support face-to-face exchange between personnel from specific scientific bodies, joint scientific research, and the preparation of scientific reports and documents. The programme's primary purpose is to build and enhance the capacity of Scientific Authorities in order to promote technical cooperation as called for in the text of the Convention, Resolution Conf. 10.3 on *Designation and role of the Scientific Authorities* and Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building*. The programme will also contribute to the establishment of scientific partnerships for wildlife conservation.

2. Strategy and budget

The Talent Exchange Programme for Scientific Authorities for CITES (TESA), which is funded and hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CSA), is organized by the Endangered Species Scientific Commission and People's Republic of China (ESSC), as China's Scientific Authority.

The ESSC participates in scientific exchanges and cooperative research within its mandate. The ESSC will identify priority areas in line with CITES Resolutions and Decisions and Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and share these with the CITES Secretariat. The Secretariat will inform Parties about the programme through Notifications to the Parties.

The first phase of the TESA programme aims to set up 4 to 5 sessions between 2023-2025. Each session invites one or two research personnel to undertake cooperative research projects for a duration of three months in China. The CAS President's International Fellowship for Visiting Scientists will set out as the criteria for funding/sponsorship under the TESA programme. The fellowship provides round-trip international travel, health insurance and a monthly stipend of RMB 20,000 to 30,000 per month to cover living expenses in Beijing, China.

Parties are encouraged to nominate candidates for the first phase of the TESA programme between 2023-2025.

3. Priority research areas

The project encourages research in the following areas:

- a. Species-specific assessments, such as evaluating the threatened status, drafting proposals for amending Appendices, periodic reviews of CITES Appendices;
- b. NDFs (Non-detriment findings), including case studies, guidelines, application of local and traditional

- knowledge in NDFs, and community-based conservation management;
- c. Wildlife international trade monitoring and analysis, reviews of significant trade;
- d. Promoting the integration of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, genomics, networked sensors or eDNA, etc., with CITES scientific issues.

4. Eligibility

The first phase of the TESA programme is expected to sponsor approximately 10 individuals through a period of FIVE sessions. Applicants should possess a master's degree or above. Among them, priorities will be given to scientific authorities from countries along the "Belt and Road" initiative with developing countries accounting for 80% of the participants, and ensuring gender balance.

Personnel will formally publish or submit scientific outputs within three years of the exchange programme. The first phase of TESA is expected to produce 8 reports that will support the scientific advancement of the Convention and address the implementation challenges faced by the Parties.

The first phase will establish the CITES Scientific Partnership for Wildlife Conservation and pave the way for the implementation of the second phase of the TESA.

5. Tentative work schedule for 2023

TOPIC	KEY ACTION STEPS	LEAD(S)	INDICATIVE TIME FRAME
(1) APPLICATION PROCESS	Submitting preliminary research projects and exchange time intentions in China.	Candidate (s)	End of Jun 2023
	Review of applications and selection of candidates.	ESSC	Jul 2023
	Reporting progress to the Chinese Academy of Sciences.	ESSC	Aug 2023
FIRST TESA RESEARCH SESSION 2023			
(2) FORMALITIES	Obtaining the approval of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, applying for the procedures for coming to China, and arranging the itinerary.	Personnel and ESSC	Sep 2023 onwards
(3) EXCHANGE AND RESEARCH	Implementation of the first session of the TESA.	Personnel and ESSC	Sep-Nov 2023
	Summarizing the progress and experience of the implementation of the first session and adjusting, if necessary.	ESSC	End of 2023
	Reporting progress to the Chinese Academy of Sciences.	ESSC	End of 2023
SECOND TESA RESEARCH SESSION 2024*			
	*See details in quarterly work plan in Section 6.		

