



# NOTIFICACIÓN A LAS PARTES

No. 2025/009

Ginebra, 23 de enero de 2025

ASUNTO:

CHINA

## Convocatoria de candidaturas para la 4ª y 5ª sesiones del Programa de Intercambio de Talentos para las Autoridades Científicas CITES (TESA)

1. Esta notificación se publica a petición de China.
2. Según la [Notificación a las Partes No. 2023/047](#), China lanzó el Programa de Intercambio de Talentos para las Autoridades Científicas CITES (TESA) para conmemorar el 40 aniversario del establecimiento de la Comisión Científica de Especies Amenazadas, República Popular China (ESSC). El programa está financiado y acogido por la Academia China de Ciencias (CAS) y organizado por la ESSC, con el objetivo de mejorar la capacidad de las Autoridades Científicas de acuerdo con la Convención y la Resolución Conf. 10.3.
3. En 2024, TESA llevó a cabo con éxito tres sesiones, en las que participaron becarios de varias Partes para realizar programas de investigación e intercambio en China. Los programas dieron lugar a cuatro informes de investigación, centrados en la conservación y gestión de especies amenazadas (véase el Anexo 1). Estos informes han sido examinados por expertos y están contribuyendo al avance científico de la Convención.
4. Las sesiones de 2024 han mejorado la capacidad de cooperación internacional del TESA, han profundizado sus relaciones con la Secretaría de la CITES y otros socios internacionales, han facilitado una amplia cooperación e intercambios entre los becarios del TESA y diversos centros de investigación dentro y fuera del CAS, y han ayudado a los becarios a comprender mejor las tendencias y herramientas en sus investigaciones. La Cumbre 2024 del Foro de Cooperación China-África (FOCAC) fue testigo de la profundización de los vínculos emocionales y operativos entre China y África, y destacó la importancia de la conservación de la biodiversidad y el desarrollo verde.
5. TESA convoca ahora candidaturas para la 4ª y 5ª sesiones, que tendrán lugar en China en 2025. Cada sesión de investigación invita a dos investigadores a emprender proyectos de investigación cooperativa durante tres meses en China. La Beca Internacional del Presidente de la CAS para Científicos Visitantes establecerá los criterios de financiación/patrocinio en el marco del programa TESA. La beca proporciona viaje internacional de ida y vuelta en clase económica, seguro médico y un estipendio mensual de 20.000 a 30.000 RMB (2.857 a 4.286 USD) al mes para cubrir los gastos de manutención en Pekín, China.

Secretaría de la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres (CITES)

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6. En 2025, el programa dará prioridad a los talentos de las Partes a lo largo de la iniciativa “*Belt and Road*”, en particular de los países asiáticos y los Estados miembros de la Organización de Cooperación de Shanghai (OCS). La selección se centrará en las autoridades científicas de estas regiones y garantizará el equilibrio de género. En el **Anexo 1** de la Notificación a las Partes No. 2023/047 figuran otros detalles sobre las condiciones y las áreas prioritarias de investigación de TESA.

**Calendario provisional de trabajo para 2025**

TAREA	DESCRIPCIÓN	ASIGNADA A	DURACIÓN
(1) SOLICITUD	Presentación de solicitudes preliminares de proyectos de investigación junto con los calendarios de intercambio propuestos en China.	Candidatos	Febrero-marzo
	Examen de la solicitud y selección del candidato mediante entrevista en línea.	ESSC	Abril
(2) PLANIFICACIÓN DE VIAJES	Obtención de la aprobación de la CAS, solicitud de los trámites necesarios para viajar a China y organización del itinerario.	Becarios y ESSC	Mayo y junio
(3) INTERCAMBIO E INVESTIGACIÓN	<b>CUARTA SESIÓN DE INVESTIGACIÓN TESA</b>		
	Llegada y organización logística	Becarios y ESSC	1ª semana de junio
	Inmersión en la consulta inicial y presentación de un informe de apertura	Becarios	2ª y 3ª semana de junio
	Intercambio cooperativo e investigación documental	Becarios y ESSC	Junio-agosto
	Finalización del informe de investigación y defensa de la presentación final	Becarios	Finales de agosto
	<b>QUINTA SESIÓN DE INVESTIGACIÓN TESA</b>		
	Llegada y organización logística	Becarios y ESSC	1ª semana de julio
	Inmersión en la consulta inicial y presentación de un informe de apertura	Becarios	2ª y 3ª semana de julio
	Intercambio cooperativo e investigación documental	Becarios y ESSC	Julio-sep
	Finalización del informe de investigación y defensa de la presentación final	Becarios	Finales de septiembre
(4) RESUMEN	Resumir los resultados y la experiencia de la aplicación de la cuarta y quinta sesiones en secuencia.	ESSC	Octubre y noviembre
	Informar de los avances y solicitar financiación para la siguiente fase.	ESSC	Finales de 2025

7. Se anima a las Partes y a las partes interesadas pertinentes a que designen candidatos para la primera fase de la iniciativa TESA, cumplimentando el formulario que figura en el **Anexo 2** de la presente Notificación, enviándolo antes del 1 de abril de 2025 a [ccites@ioz.ac.cn](mailto:ccites@ioz.ac.cn), con copia al Sr. Shizhe Li (él) a [rockylee0721@gmail.com](mailto:rockylee0721@gmail.com).

# TESA - 2024

Progress of Talent Exchange Programme for CITES Scientific Authorities  
Endangered Species Scientific Commission, PRC  
Chinese Academy of Sciences

As per Notification to the Parties No. 2023/047, China launched the Talent Exchange Programme for CITES Scientific Authorities (TESA) to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Endangered Species Scientific Commission, People's Republic of China (ESSC). The programme is financed and hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and organized by the ESSC, aiming to enhance the capacity of Scientific Authorities in line with the Convention.

The primary objective of TESA is to build and enhance the capacity of CITES Scientific Authorities 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 aims to support face-to-face exchanges between personnel from specific scientific bodies, joint scientific research, and the preparation of scientific reports and documents. TESA also contributes to the establishment of scientific partnerships for wildlife conservation.

Following Notification No. 2023/047, the ESSC received 15 applications from 11 Parties across Africa, Asia, and Central and South America and the Caribbean. The research objectives cover African pangolins, elephants, cranes and turtles, Asian crocodiles, sharks and rays, and plants, with a focus on species conservation, community participation, and policy development. In November 2023, ESSC experts evaluated the applicants and selected the following individuals:

Country	Name	Period
<b>Session I</b>		
Zimbabwe	Nobesuthu Adelaide Ngwenya	February-May
Kenya	Jacob Mueti Ngwava	February-May
<b>Session II</b>		
Togo	Delagnon Assou	April-July
Nigeria	Ajogwu Felix Ejeh	Cancelled for personal reasons
Lesotho	Lerato Seleteng-Kose	Cancelled for personal reasons
<b>Session III</b>		
United Republic of Tanzania	Bigeyo Neke Kuboja	September-November
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Asghar Mobaraki	Cancelled for personal reasons

In 2024, TESA successfully conducted three sessions, engaging fellows from several African countries in research and exchange programs in China. Four TESA fellows undertook a comprehensive process that included project design, preliminary research, kick-off consultations, collaborative exchanges and report reviews. They successfully completed their studies, focused on key areas such as species assessments, identification materials, wildlife trade monitoring, and the impacts of wildlife on local communities, with their topics, methodologies, and results fully acknowledged. Despite the preliminary nature of these studies due to time constraints and other factors, they demonstrate significant potential for further in-depth research to yield important outcomes. The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) provided financial support for the four TESA fellows during their three-month stay in China.





# NOBESUTHU ADELAIDE NGWENYA

TESA Session I  
(20 February- May 18, 2024)

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Ms. Nobesuthu Adelaide Ngwenya

The Ecologist and National Elephant Coordinator for the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

## **The status of Human-Elephant Interactions in the KAZA TFCA component of Zimbabwe**

Focusing on the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), Zimbabwe component, the study showed that Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC) which are generally increasing in the landscape and responses to wildlife conflicts by Authorities are limited by resource availability. Consequently, the tolerance of elephants by local communities was low, with people living in constant fear. Moreover, without compensation for losses, the communities felt that wildlife was more valued than humans. Global Conservation Frameworks such as CITES should aim at understanding and addressing the root causes of conservation problems, particularly focusing on the human dimension of conservation which has a great contribution to determining the success of the same conservation framework.



- Photo: visiting the Chinese Academy of Forestry to learn and practice stumpage quality testing technology.

Nobe said:

*"The TESA programme has been a great opportunity to collaborate, develop networks and learn from China and other TESA Fellows from different countries. It is an amazing platform and I believe we can go far with this type of collaboration..."*



# JACOB MUETI NGWAVA

TESA Session I  
(20 February- May 18, 2024)

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Dr. Jacob Mueti Ngwava

Researcher of the National Museums of Kenya

## Identification Manual for Kenyan CITES Appendix I Turtle Species

The development of an identification manual for Kenya's traded species is necessary since currently there is none available that focuses on CITES listed species, making the species identification task for CITES authorities and enforcement officials difficult. In the first phase, the document presents a detailed manual for identification of six species of turtles. Identification of turtles is based on observable morphological characteristics and review of existing literature/past studies on the species. Comparison was also made with information available in the older CITES ID manual to identify if there were information gaps. This manual will assist the management authorities, custom checks, and general readership with an easy-to-use guide to identify Kenyan species that are the most endangered and threatened by international trade.



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- Photo: visiting the National Zoological Museum of China.

Jacob said:

*"Besides the invaluable knowledge acquired during the scientific exchange program, I am grateful for the great support that enabled us to develop ID manuals for all Kenya's CITES Appendix I turtle species. In addition, during the exchange program, we were able to publish two research articles on ecological aspects of the critically endangered pancake tortoise in Kenya. My special thanks go to the organizers of the TESA for their enormous support to me and all the other TESA fellows making our participation a success. Thank you...."*



# DELAGNON ASSOU

TESA Session II  
(April 15 - July 13, 2024)

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- Photo: visiting the Xylotheque at the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

Mr. Delagnon Assou  
PhD student at the Laboratory of Ecology & Ecotoxicology (LaEE), University of Lomé, Togo;  
member of the IUCN-SSC Pangolin Specialist Group and the Monitor Lizard Specialist Group

## **Wild Meat Trade in Lomé, the Capital City of Togo, with Focus on Species Listed in the CITES Appendices Using Publicly Available Social Media Data**

The study examines 80 TikTok videos from Lomé, Togo, showcasing wild meat sales between November 2022 and April 2024. The videos featured various smoked wild animals, totaling approximately 3,526 individuals across 27 inferred species, predominantly mammals, birds, and reptiles. Prices for whole smoked animals varied significantly, depending on the species and the size of the individual animal. The results revealed significant conservation implications for the long-term survival and sustainable management of these species. The demand for wild meat in Lomé is driven by the growing population, cultural and economic benefits, as well as a lack of awareness. The study highlights the urgent need for targeted education, stronger enforcement of wildlife protection laws, and better communication about the legal status and conservation importance of the species. Based on the findings, the development of a national red list for wildlife and plant species in the country is recommended. Additionally, the study advocates for the adoption and dissemination of the CITES implementation framework within the country.

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Assou said:

*"I believe that international collaborations between Parties play a crucial role in fostering knowledge exchange, sharing best practices, and developing joint initiatives to address the challenges of sustainable wildlife management. These partnerships are especially important in addressing issues related to wildlife trade and consumption, enabling information sharing and coordinated actions to combat illegal practices and promote sustainability."*



# BIGEYO NEKE KUBOJA

TESA Session III

(September 1, - November 29,  
2024)

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- Photo: group discussing with the ESSC.

Ms. Bigeyo Neke Kuboja

Researcher at the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute

## **Shark and Ray Trade and Its Sustainability in the Western Indian Ocean: Challenges and Conservation Strategies**

This study examines the dynamics of shark and ray trade in the WIO region, focusing on the fisheries and trade practices of Tanzania, Mozambique and Kenya. Chondrichthyan species, including sharks, rays, and guitarfishes, face severe conservation challenges due to overfishing, high market demand for their fins and meat, and habitat degradation. The WIO, a hotspot for biodiversity, is home to many threatened species, yet illegal trade and unsustainable fisheries practices continue to thrive. This report analyzes fishery and trade data from 2000 to 2022, exploring trends in landings, exports, and the gaps in data and knowledge that hinder effective management. The findings highlight significant discrepancies in trade reporting, the critical role of artisanal fisheries, and the urgent need for improved monitoring and enforcement. Despite existing regulations, including CITES listings, illegal trade routes persist, exacerbating overfishing pressures. The report recommends enhancing regulatory frameworks, implementing species-specific management measures, and strengthening regional cooperation to ensure sustainable management of chondrichthyan species. Moreover, investment in genetic monitoring and habitat conservation, such as coral reef protection, is crucial for the long-term survival of these species. Through this analysis, the study aims to contribute to developing more effective conservation strategies and sustainable trade practices in the WIO region.

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Bigeyo said:

*"The TESA programme represents a unique and invaluable initiative for building the capacity of CITES Scientific Authorities. Emphasizing international collaboration, promoting scientific research, and enhancing technical skills, it aligns seamlessly with the goals of sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation. My involvement in the programme, particularly through research on Chondrichthyan fisheries in the Western Indian Ocean, has had a meaningful impact on advancing CITES objectives."*