

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Administrative and financial matters

ACCESS TO FUNDING:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 18th meeting (Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.4 to 18.11 on *Access to funding*:

Directed to the Parties

- 18.4** *Parties are invited to provide non-reimbursable loan of personnel services to the CITES Secretariat noting that the salary and administrative fee of non-reimbursable loan personnel shall be covered by the Party, with such personnel remaining under the administrative authority of the sending Party. Non-reimbursable loan personnel shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the mandate of the CITES Secretariat.*
- 18.5** *Parties are encouraged to:*
- a) *engage with their Global Environment Facility (GEF) national focal points in order to take part in the national GEF processes and facilitate use of allocated GEF funding through the Global Wildlife Program (GWP);*
 - b) *contribute to the development and implementation of GEF projects that may have components related to the implementation of CITES, by communicating with their national GEF counterparts and informing them of relevant CITES requirements and processes; and*
 - c) *monitor the progress of the GEF Global Wildlife Program and the national projects, where applicable, to enhance Parties' ability to meet their obligations under CITES.*

Directed to Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities

- 18.6** *All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are invited to provide financial or technical assistance for ensuring the effective implementation of the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.*
- 18.7** *In providing financial assistance, Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are encouraged to take into consideration the*

administrative and financial management support needed to ensure that the funded activities are managed in an efficient, effective and accountable manner, and that they do not affect the Secretariat's core administrative tasks.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.8 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) continue to participate in the Program Steering Committee of the GEF Global Wildlife Program to ensure that GEF projects under the programme are, as far as possible, aligned with CITES Decisions and Resolutions and contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention; and*
- b) provide technical advice and in-kind support to Parties in the development and implementation of their GEF projects under the Global Wildlife Program.*

18.9 *Subject to the availability of external funding, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions, cooperation agencies and potential donors, shall organize a wildlife donor roundtable with a particular focus on sustainable use, to:*

- a) share information on existing funding programmes on wildlife;*
- b) understand the long-term financial needs of developing countries to implement the Convention; and*
- c) explore the potential for scaled-up financial resources to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife.*

18.10 *The Secretariat shall report on the progress on the implementation of Decisions 18.4 and 18.5 and any recommendations, as necessary, to the Standing Committee and at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

18.11 ***Directed to the Standing Committee***

The Standing Committee shall review the progress of implementation of Decisions 18.4 through 18.10 and make recommendations as necessary to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Progress of implementation: Decisions directed to the Parties

- 3. Since CoP18 (Geneva, August 2019), there has been no loan of personnel services ("secondments") supported by Parties. The Secretariat has benefited from the continued support of Germany for one Junior Professional Officer who started in May 2018 for a total of four years: Germany has provided financial support for three years, with the future commitment of co-financing from the CITES Secretariat for one year. The Secretariat has also welcomed a number of interns in accordance with UN rules and practice during this period. Despite the fact that most of them had to work remotely because of the pandemic, they have been extremely helpful to the Secretariat.
- 4. The Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Global Wildlife Program Phase I and II have supported [projects across 32 countries](#) to date. Many of them have components that are related to the implementation of the Convention, and benefit from the direct involvement of CITES authorities in their activities. The Global Wildlife Program also works closely with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) in promoting an integrated approach for combating wildlife trafficking.

Progress of implementation: Decisions directed to the Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities

5. In support of Decision 18.6, the Secretariat has regularly published Notifications to Parties¹ entitled *Status of funding for the implementation of valid Decisions after CoP18* so that interested Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are better informed of the existing funding gaps and their planning efforts could be better focused and effective in the implementation of the Convention. The status of extrabudgetary funding provided in response is covered by document SC74 Doc. 7 and annexes.
6. Pursuant to Decision 18.7, in its discussions with the donors of possible extrabudgetary contributions, the Secretariat has always included the administrative and financial management support to implement the funded activities and encouraged donors to consider allocating part of the budget for this purpose.

Progress of implementation: Decisions directed to the Secretariat

7. The Secretariat has continued to participate in the Program Steering Committee of the GEF Global Wildlife Program with the aim to align GEF funded projects with CITES objectives and has made itself available for consultations with interested Parties. The annual meeting of the Global Wildlife Program Program Steering Committee took place online on 30 November – 2 December 2021.
8. In late 2020, the GEF Trustee, in cooperation with the Secretariat, started its discussions on the eighth replenishment of resources for the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-8). One of the strategic and programming directions under consideration is to evolve the Global Wildlife Program into the “Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program”, which is one of the 11 integrated programmes that will frame the future GEF investment planning process for the countries. The GEF has held two meetings to date (in April and September 2021). Two more rounds of meetings are planned before the GEF Council meeting and the GEF Assembly in May 2022, when the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund will be agreed and endorsed.
9. With regard to Decision 18.9, the Secretariat has received funds from the European Union for the convening of a wildlife roundtable with a particular focus on sustainable use. The meeting has unfortunately not been convened due to global sanitary measures in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat however plans to convene some form of a dialogue meeting in due course.

Recommendations

10. In light of the above-mentioned developments, the Secretariat invites the Standing Committee to:
 - a) take note of the present document and the progress made in implementation of Decisions 18.4 and 18.5; and
 - b) review the draft decisions contained in the Annex to this document and recommend them for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth meeting.

¹ See Notifications to Parties No.2021/049, 2020/072, and 2020/032.

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Access to Funding

19.AA *Directed to Parties*

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) engage with their Global Environment Facility (GEF) national focal points in order to take part in the national GEF processes and enhance access to GEF funding through the Global Wildlife Program (GWP);
- b) contribute to the development and implementation of GEF projects that may have components related to the implementation of CITES, by communicating with their national GEF counterparts and informing them of relevant CITES requirements and processes; and
- c) monitor the progress of the GEF Global Wildlife Program and the discussion on the establishment of the Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program under the eighth replenishment of resources for the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-8) and ensure that national projects, where applicable, can enhance the beneficiary Parties' ability to meet their obligations under CITES.

Directed to Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities

19.BB All Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are invited to provide financial or technical assistance for ensuring the effective implementation of the Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

19.CC In providing financial assistance, Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other entities are encouraged to take into consideration the administrative and financial management support needed to ensure that the funded activities are managed in an efficient, effective and accountable manner, and that they do not affect the Secretariat's core administrative tasks.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.DD The Secretariat shall:

- a) continue to participate in the Program Steering Committee of the GEF Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, or other GEF mechanisms as appropriate, to ensure that GEF projects under the programme are, as far as possible, aligned with CITES Decisions and Resolutions and contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention; and
- b) provide technical advice and in-kind support to Parties in the development and implementation of their GEF projects under the Global Wildlife Program, Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program, or other GEF mechanisms as appropriate.

19.EE Subject to the availability of external funding and in collaboration with the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions, cooperation agencies and potential donors, the Secretariat shall organize a wildlife donor roundtable with a particular focus on sustainable use, to:

- a) share information on existing funding programmes on wildlife;
- b) understand the long-term financial needs of developing countries to implement the Convention; and

- c) explore the potential for scaled-up financial resources to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife.

19.FF The Secretariat shall report on the progress on the implementation of Decisions 19.BB, 19.DD and 19.EE and make any recommendations, as necessary, to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.GG The Standing Committee shall review the Secretariat's report and make recommendations, as necessary, to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.