

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Committee II

Action plan on gender related matters

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This document has been prepared by the working group¹ on Action plan on gender related matters on the basis of document CoP19 Doc. 25 after discussion in the second session of Committee II [See document CoP19 Com. II Rec. 2 (Rev.1)].

Draft resolution on Gender and international trade in wild fauna and flora

NOTING that gender equality and gender mainstreaming are vital to global sustainable development efforts and have been recognized by various international agreements and policy instruments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

FURTHER NOTING that the engagement and empowerment of women and girls is high on the United Nations (UN) agenda and is being achieved through gender programmes and action plans of various UN organizations; and that the UN General Assembly Resolution 70/219² calls upon Member States to ensure full and effective participation and equal opportunities for women, and further calls upon UN agencies to ensure gender mainstreaming into all UN policies and programs;

ACKNOWLEDGING that gender differences, norms and inequalities anchor and shape legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora and the responses to it;

RECOGNIZING that gender is generally overlooked, with little understanding and awareness of its role and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to international trade in species of wild fauna and flora;

RECOGNIZING that women and girls are integrally involved in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and protection of endangered species, and yet continue to face discrimination and remain marginalized in decision-making processes, and access and benefits from the sustainable use, international trade and protection of wild species;

CONSIDERING that gender-blind approaches to tackling illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora result in significant gaps in understanding real-world illegal wildlife trade activities, processes, and opportunities for intervention; and also deepen inequality and discrimination, thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty and extreme poverty, potentially further entrenching gender inequality; and

¹ *Members of the working group acknowledge that the representative of Indonesia does not agree with the use of the term “all genders” throughout this document, and instead recommends the exclusive use of the terms “women and girls”. The representative expressed disagreement with the language “gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors” and preferred the term “gendered dynamics”.*

² https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_219.pdf

CONSIDERING that a better understanding and consideration of gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors can improve the likelihood of conservation success, improve living conditions and governance, and reduce conflict, while being a catalyst for challenging social inequalities and eradicating gender-based violence;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. URGES Parties to enhance efforts to understand gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora, with a view to taking these into account when designing responses and interventions;
2. ENCOURAGES Parties to ensure that research, programming, and monitoring activities related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora become gender-aware and gender-responsive;
3. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Parties and relevant organizations to include gender-specific indicators in strategic planning and, with this in mind, collect data disaggregated by gender, age and other demographic factors concerning people involved in legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora;
4. RECOMMENDS that Parties explore ways to further enhance the representation and participation of people of all genders, particularly women and girls, in conservation and address issues relating to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora, including through community engagement, professional opportunities, employment in this field, and policy development, including in CITES decision-making;
5. INVITES Parties, as their understanding of this topic increases, to increase public awareness of gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora;
6. INVITES Parties and observer organizations to ensure representation of people of all genders, especially women, on official delegations, and to provide capacity building-opportunities for such people in CITES authorities and at CITES meetings;
7. ENCOURAGES Parties, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and other appropriate bodies, to support capacity-building and research efforts with respect to considering all genders, particularly women and girls, in legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora;
8. CALLS on donors and the international cooperation community to provide financial support and other means to achieve the objectives of this Resolution.

Draft decisions on a gender action plan

Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.AA The Secretariat and Chair of the Standing Committee, subject to available resources, shall draw on the available body of knowledge, lessons and experiences on gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to legal and illegal international trade of wild flora and fauna, to develop a draft gender action plan for submission to the Standing Committee. The draft gender action plan should:
- a) consider the needs of indigenous and local peoples of all genders, especially women and girls, as well as how to incorporate their perspectives, skills and talents at all ages, and local and traditional knowledge;
 - b) aim to ensure that women and girls in all their diversity have equal access to, ownership and/or control over the use of wild flora and fauna, can fully and effectively engage in international trade of species of wild fauna and flora, and receive a fair and equitable share of benefits arising from the use and trade of such wildlife; thus reducing poverty and gender gaps through the promotion of economic and decision-making freedom;

- c) aim to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in wild flora and fauna international trade chains;
- d) promote gender equality and increase and strengthen the participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making and participation in processes related to international wild flora and fauna trade;
- e) enhance the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of all genders, in particular women, in the implementation of the Convention, including through the engagement of civil society organizations, women's groups and women delegates, and provide opportunities for building their capacities; and
- f) identify specific actions to advance the objectives above, across international trade chains for sustainable and legal wild flora and fauna, including parts and derivatives, as well as associated activities, including harvesting, law enforcement, and policy-making.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.BB The Standing Committee shall consider any draft gender action plan received from the Secretariat under Decision 19.AA and, if considered appropriate, submit a final version of that action plan, as an annex to the Resolution on Gender and international trade in wild fauna and flora, for approval by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

19.CC Parties and relevant stakeholders, are encouraged to:

- a) support the preparation of the "CITES Gender Action Plan" by sharing knowledge, case studies and other relevant experiences with the Secretariat;
- b) strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the gender-differentiated impacts of sustainable use and international trade in species of wild flora and fauna, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing; and
- c) provide financial support towards the development and implementation of the Gender Action Plan.