

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 5 – 9 June 2023

Strategic matters

CITES AND FORESTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.32 to 19.34 on *CITES and forests* as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the Plants Committee

19.32 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *prepare a report for the consideration of the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee summarizing existing Resolutions and Decisions and supportive provisions relevant to the implementation of the Convention relevant to forests, focusing on CITES-listed tree-species, (a 'CITES forest compendium') and provide information on possible measures to enhance the implementation of the Convention to contribute more effectively to, global forest-relevant mandates and forest policies and initiatives, while avoiding duplication and supporting joint action; and,*
- b) *subject to the availability of external resources, and following consultation with the Plants Committee on the terms of reference, prepare an interdisciplinary study to assist decision-making processes on the future of any initiative relating to CITES and forests by:*
 - i) *defining the scope of such an initiative;*
 - ii) *furthering the understanding of the role of sustainable use and conservation in trade of CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species, in the conservation and sustainable use of forests;*
 - iii) *developing recommendations to enhance the timely and effective implementation of the CITES forest compendium, including exploring resource mobilization strategies.*

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.33 *The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *provide input to and consider any report from the Secretariat resulting from the implementation of Decision 19.32; and,*
- b) *advise the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 19.32 and the Standing Committee on its implementation of Decision 19.34 to ensure that any initiative relating to CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species, is technically and scientifically coherent, and supportive of provisions relevant to the implementation of the Convention.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.34 *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider any report by the Secretariat and the Plants Committee resulting from the implementation of Decisions 19.32 and 19.33;*
- b) *based on the above, explore options aligned with the mandate and the CITES Strategic Vision to:*
 - i) *enhance the implementation of the Convention with respect to CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species, and CITES' contribution to global forest-relevant mandates and forest policies and initiatives, while avoiding duplication and supporting joint action; and,*
 - ii) *raise awareness of the importance of investing in the conservation, sustainable management and legal trade of CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species;*
- c) *assess the merits of proposing to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties any measures, including the development of a resolution on CITES and forests, aimed at enhancing the implementation of CITES mandates, that would improve visibility, funding opportunities and contributions to global forest policies and initiatives, while avoiding duplication and supporting joint action; and,*
- d) *prepare a report on its implementation of the present Decision and submit any resulting recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.*

Discussions during the previous intersessional period

3. The Secretariat recalls that, at the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC25; online, June 2021), it had provided a rationale for the development of a resolution on *CITES and forests* and its proposed structure in document [PC25 Doc. 12](#) and its [Addendum](#). At PC25, the Plants Committee retained two options for progressing the development of a resolution on CITES and forests and recommended that the Secretariat submit both to the Standing Committee for consideration. As a first option, it recommended that the Secretariat develop and submit a draft resolution on CITES and forests (Annex 1A to document [SC74 Doc. 15](#)); and as a second option, it offered two draft decisions on the subject (Annex 2 to document [SC74 Doc. 15](#)).
4. The proposed resolution as envisioned by the Secretariat would serve a strategic purpose and therefore did not intend to replace more technical Resolutions. Rather, the goal was to represent a strategic point of reference to highlight the importance of the Convention in the conservation of forest ecosystems more effectively and contribute to the timely implementation of CITES provisions relevant to forests, including by building upon the collective knowledge, resources, mechanisms and networks of the existing global governance framework on forests.
5. Following consideration of the recommendations contained in document SC74 Doc. 15 and the two options, the Standing Committee, while noting the importance of forests, advised that it was premature to submit a draft resolution on CITES and forests for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat submit draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties that would ensure that the Plants and Standing Committees are involved in the development of any resolution on CITES and forests.
6. In accordance with this recommendation, at CoP19, the Secretariat presented document [CoP19 Doc. 19](#) on CITES and forests and on this basis, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.32 to 19.34.

Progress in the implementation of Decision 19.32

7. Regarding paragraph a) of Decision 19.32:
 - a) In Annex 1 to the present document, the Secretariat has prepared for consideration by the Plants Committee the report called for in paragraph a) of Decision 19.32 (i.e., the 'CITES forest compendium').

The CITES forest compendium is structured in three sections: (1) Resolutions that may provide a strategic or policy framework for any new initiative on *CITES and forests* with a focus on tree-species; (2) Decisions relevant to tree-species with potential for implementation via a programmatic approach for any new initiative on *CITES and forests*; and (3) a selection of cross-cutting processes of the Convention that could be labelled as flagship initiatives under a *CITES and forests* programmatic approach for the period between CoP19 and CoP20.

- b) In celebration of the International Day on Forests on 21 March 2023, the Secretariat launched through its social media networks the webpage on [CITES and forests](#).
- c) The webpage also hosts information on the past and current CITES flagship initiatives relevant to a programmatic approach for forests, such as the [CITES Tree Species Programme \(CTSP\)](#) and the [CITES-FAO project on improved forest governance in the Lower Mekong Region \(LMR\)](#). Any new programme and projects relevant to CITES and forests will be hosted under the new webpage.

8. Regarding paragraph b) of Decision 19.32:

- a) The Secretariat estimates the cost of the implementation of the interdisciplinary study called for in paragraph b) of Decision 19.32 at USD 90,000 (see Notification No. 2023/024 on *Status of funding for the implementation of valid decisions after CoP19*). At the time of writing, the Secretariat is in the process of identifying the external funds required for the timely and effective implementation of Decision 19.32 and will provide any update on this at the present meeting.
- b) In parallel, and in anticipation of the availability of external funds for its implementation, in Annex 2 to the present document, the Secretariat has included draft terms of reference for the study for consideration by the Plants Committee at the present meeting.
- c) The draft terms of reference in Annex 2 to the present document build upon the documentation that laid the foundations for Decisions 19.32 to 19.34 on *CITES and forests* adopted at CoP19.

Progress in the implementation of Decisions 19.33 and 19.34

- 9. In accordance with paragraph b) of Decision 19.33, the Plants Committee shall advise the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 19.32 and the Standing Committee on its implementation of Decision 19.34 “(...) *to ensure that any initiative relating to CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species, is technically and scientifically coherent, and supportive of provisions relevant to the implementation of the Convention*”.
- 10. Linked to the above, Decision 19.34, paragraph c), instructs the Standing Committee to, *inter alia*, “(...) *assess the merits of proposing to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties any measures, including the development of a resolution on CITES and forests (...)*”.
- 11. The Secretariat recalls that a draft on a resolution on *CITES and forests* already exists, as was submitted for consideration of the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74; Lyon, March 2022) in Annex 1A to document SC74 Doc. 15. The Secretariat believes this could be a good starting point for a discussion if the development of such a resolution is agreed.
- 12. The Secretariat has included Annex 1A to document SC74 Doc. 15 as Annex 3 to the present document for ease of reference at the present meeting. This draft resolution has also been considered by the Secretariat in drafting the terms of reference for the study called for in Decision 19.32.

Recommendations

13. The Plants Committee is invited to:

- a) provide input to the Secretariat's report in Annex 1 to the present document, in accordance with paragraph a) of Decision 19.33;
- b) in accordance with paragraph b) of Decision 19.33, advise the Secretariat on the draft terms of reference contained in Annex 2 to the present document, to ensure that any future initiative on CITES and forests is technically and scientifically coherent, and supportive of provisions relevant to the implementation of the Convention; and

- c) formulate recommendations to the Secretariat in preparation to its reporting to the Standing Committee in accordance with Decision 19.34, as appropriate.

THE 'CITES FOREST COMPENDIUM: COP19-COP20'
REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH A) OF DECISION 19.32

Introduction

Decisions 19.32 and 19.33 request that any new initiative on CITES and forests focuses on or prioritizes, as a first step, CITES-listed tree species. In congruence, the compendium is focused at this stage on CITES provisions relevant to tree-species.

The compendium is structured in three sections, as follows:

- Section 1: Resolutions that may provide a strategic or policy framework for any new initiative on *CITES and forests* with a focus on tree-species.
- Section 2: Decisions relevant to tree-species with potential for implementation via a programmatic approach for any new initiative on *CITES and forests*.
- Section 3: a selection of cross-cutting processes of the Convention that could be labelled as flagship initiatives under a *CITES and forests* programmatic approach for the period between CoP19 and CoP20.

Section 1: Resolutions that may provide a strategic or policy framework for any new initiative on *CITES and forests* with a focus on tree-species

The approach for this section is adapted from the rationale contained in the Annex 1 to document [PC25 Doc. 12](#), and updated on the basis of the Resolutions in effect following CoP19.

Resolution	Title	Possible measures as per paragraph a) of Decision 19.32
Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18)	Implementation of the Convention for tree species	The Resolution is mostly of a technical nature, but its paragraph 1 a) includes recommendations that are strategic and political in nature [i.e. collaboration with international organizations, including some that are part of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)]. Proposed action: Whilst the technical aspects of the resolution would remain unmodified, the Secretariat proposes that cooperation elements of paragraph 1 a) could be migrated and merged under a resolution on <i>CITES and forests</i> .
Resolution Conf. 16.10	Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa	No immediate action envisioned, beyond the recommendations proposed in document PC26 Doc. 27.
Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18)	Regulation of trade in plants	No immediate action envisioned, beyond the recommendations proposed in document PC26 Doc. 24.
Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15)	Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes	No immediate action envisioned.
Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19)	Standard nomenclature	No immediate action envisioned, beyond the recommendations proposed under items 42 and 43 of the present meeting.
Resolution Conf. 14.4	Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber	The Resolution was adopted at CoP14 in 2007 and has not been updated since.

		<p>The collaboration between CITES and ITTO has evolved and grown considerably, particularly in the framework of the CITES Tree Species Programme and collaboration through the CPF.</p> <p>Proposed action: Guidelines on collaboration with ITTO to be updated (e.g. through a revision to the Resolution Conf. 14.4) and aligned with, and acknowledged in, a resolution on <i>CITES and forests</i>.</p>
Resolution Conf. 16.5	Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity	<p>The Resolution was adopted at CoP16 (2013) and, given the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other relevant Decisions adopted at CBD COP15, it will likely require revision.</p> <p>Proposed action: See recommendations contained in document PC26 Doc. 11 on Cooperation with the GSPC. Any future revision of Resolution Conf. 16.5 would need to be acknowledged by a resolution on <i>CITES and forests</i>.</p>
Resolution Conf. 18.3	CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030	<p>In document PC26 Doc. 9/AC32 Doc. 9 the Secretariat reports progress in the implementation of Decisions 19.11 to 19.14 on the <i>CITES Strategic Vision</i>.</p> <p>Amongst the recommendations of the document, the Animals and Plants Committee are invited to review the areas of alignment between the CITES strategic Vision and the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>Proposed action: Any new initiative on CITES and forests (such as a resolution) should be taken into consideration in the implementation of Decisions 19.11 to 19.14 (see document PC26 Doc. 9/AC32 Doc. 9).</p>

Section 2: Decisions relevant to tree-species with potential for implementation via a programmatic approach for any new initiative on CITES and forests

In addition to focusing the table below on CITES-listed tree species, special consideration was given to Decisions that call for the implementation of relevant projects or studies that are dependent on the availability of external financial resources. This is intended to give an idea of how any future CITES programme on forests could be tailored, and how future flagship initiatives under a *CITES and forests* 'label' could take shape.

Decision No.	Title	Baseline for implementation via a programmatic framework on CITES and forests (e.g. studies and projects)
Strategic matters		
19.32 to 19.34	CITES and forests	PC26 Doc. 13
<i>Capacity-building</i>		
19.49 and 19.50	CITES Tree Species Programme	PC26 Doc. 15 (see also section 3 of the present annex)
Compliance		
19.71 to 19.73	Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.) and ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.)	To be discussed by the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting (SC77).
Regulation of trade		
19.145 to 19.148	Identification of timber and other wood products	PC26 Doc. 20 (see also section 3 of the present Annex)
<i>Exemptions and special trade provisions</i>		
19.182 to 19.183	Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated'	PC26 Doc. 24
Species conservation and trade		
<i>Flora</i>		
19.243 to 19.245	Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]	PC26 Doc. 29 (see also section 3 of the present Annex)
19.249 to 19.253	Brazil wood (<i>Paubrasilia echinata</i>)	PC26 Doc. 31
Appendices of the Convention		
<i>Annotations</i>		
18.321 (Rev. CoP19) to 18.322 (Rev. CoP19)	Annotation #15	PC26 Doc. 37
18.317 (Rev. CoP19) and 19.265	Information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species	PC26 Doc. 38
<i>Nomenclature matters</i>		
18.307 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.308 (Rev. CoP19)	Production of a CITES Checklist for rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.)	PC26 Doc. 43.1
19.281 and 19.282	Nomenclature for ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.) (populations of Madagascar)	PC26 Doc. Doc. 43.4
19.290 and 19.291	Nomenclature for yews (<i>Taxus</i> spp.)	PC26 Doc. 43.9

Section 3: a selection of cross-cutting processes of the Convention that could be labelled as flagship initiatives under a CITES and forests programmatic approach for the period between CoP19 and CoP20

This section of the compendium is devoted to a selection of featured projects for tree species that relate to the implementation of cross-cutting provisions and processes of the Convention.

To illustrate how this section of the compendium could be tailored to the period CoP19-CoP20, the Secretariat includes the following proposal:

3.1. Article XIII and resolutions Res. Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures* and Res. Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings*

- a) Support in the implementation of applicable recommendations for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*/range States subject to a recommendation to suspend trade on the basis of compliance and enforcement (Article XIII) (see also <https://cites.org/eng/resources/ref/suspend.php>). This could include development of case studies on legal acquisition findings for *P. erinaceus* for range States subject to compliance recommendations under the Article XIII process (see [Notification to the Parties No. 2022/045](#)).
- b) Support in the implementation of applicable recommendations for *Dalbergia* spp. for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as a follow up to the relevant outputs of the [CITES-FAO project on improved forest governance in the Lower Mekong Region](#).

3.2. Article IV and Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* (RST)

- a) Support in the implementation of outstanding RST recommendations for selected current cases of tree-species/country combinations (see document PC26 Doc. 16.2)
- b) Support in the implementation of recommendations of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*/country combinations selected as an exceptional case in stage 2 of the RST process (see also document PC26 Doc. 16.4).

3.3. Article IV and Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* (NDF)

- a) Implementation of Decisions 19.243 to 19.245 on *Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]* (see PC26 Doc. 29).
- b) Implementation of the CITES NDF project's workstream on high-value timbers, including any progress in the testing of any new NDF guidance in the field (see document PC26 Doc. 17).

3.4. Article XII and Resolution Conf. 19.4 on *Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species*

Implementation of Decisions 19.145 to 19.148 on *Identification of timber and other wood products* (see also document PC26 Doc. 20)

3.5. Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building*

Implementation of flagship projects and programmes relevant to CITES-listed tree species, such as the *CITES tree species programme* (CTSP; Decisions 19.49 and 19.50), the [CITES-FAO project on improved forest governance in the Lower Mekong Region](#), and other upcoming capacity-building projects on tree species managed by the Secretariat during the period CoP19 to CoP20.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY ON CITES AND FORESTS

Outcome 1: Interdisciplinary study

Activity 1*

*Baseline: documents [PC25 Doc. 12](#) and its [Addendum](#); [SC74 Doc. 15](#); [CoP19 Doc. 19](#); the webpage on [CITES and forests](#); document PC26 Doc. 13 and its report in Annex 1; the outcomes of PC26; and any other relevant information.

- 1.1. Map the intersections and complementarities between the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* (Resolution Conf. 18.3) and that of the global forest commitments and develop recommendations to enhance the timely and effective implementation of the CITES forest compendium. As a starting point to this exercise, special consideration shall be given to the preamble to the background and global framework on forests described in the draft resolution contained in Annex 3 to document PC26 Doc 13, and in particular the *United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030*, the *United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)* and Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forests and Land Use endorsed by over 140 countries in the framework of the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (CoP26).
- 1.2. Assess the contribution of the Convention in the conservation and sustainable use of forests, with particular focus on tree species during the period from CoP16 to CoP20. In doing so, special consideration shall be given to:
 - a) Outcomes and effectiveness of the implementation of processes of the Convention such as non-detriment findings [Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)], the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)], and CITES compliance procedures [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19)]
 - b) The implications of the listings of tree species in the Appendices for the conservation of forest ecosystems.
 - c) Materials and guidance developed to support the implementation of the Convention as it relates to forests, and in particular tree species.
 - d) Trade in forest species listed in the Appendices (changes in levels and trends in trade – select species to be included in consultation with the PC), with a particular focus on tree species.
 - e) Task Force processes and other enforcement related matters.
 - f) Resource mobilization for implementation of Decisions and Resolutions as well as support to Parties to implement the Convention where it relates to tree species.
- 1.3. Assess the contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of forests by flagship projects managed by the Secretariat, using as a starting point a representative selection of projects under the *CITES Tree Species Programme*, and any available findings and outcomes of its external evaluation (see also document PC26 Doc. 15), and the [CITES-FAO project on improved forest governance in the Lower Mekong Region](#).

Outcome 2: Report on the scope of a new initiative on CITES and forests

Activity 2

- 2.1. Define the potential scope of an initiative on CITES and forests that will enhance the implementation of the Convention as it relates to forests (tree species) while contributing to the achievement of other international commitments.
- 2.2. In undertaking the above, special give special consideration to:

- a) a possible programme on *CITES and forests* devoted to ensuring the timely implementation of current and future iterations of the 'CITES forest compendium', and to raising visibility to the outcomes of past current and future flagship initiatives on forests;
- b) a strategic approach to continue or expand partnerships with like-minded organizations in benefit of the implementation of the 'CITES forest compendium', including but not limited to member organizations of the [Collaborative Partnership on Forests](#) (CPF);
- c) enhancing resource mobilization strategies to secure the resources needed for the timely and effective implementation of the 'CITES forest compendium' to be published in the webpage on [CITES and forests](#);
- d) the pertinence of the adoption of a resolution on CITES and forests, using as a starting point the text contained in Annex 3 to document PC26 Doc. 13. In drafting such a resolution, special consideration should be given to the elements outlined in paragraph b) of Decision 19.34.

Outcome 3: Consolidated report for consideration of CITES Committees in preparation for CoP20

Activity 3

Develop an executive summary and extended report on the findings of Outcomes 1 and 2. This shall be written with a view to serve as a basis for the Secretariat's reporting to the Plants and Standing Committees, in accordance with Decisions 19.33 and 19.34.

Conf. 19.X

CITES and forests

NOTING Resolution Conf. 18.3 on *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* and its purpose to, *inter alia*, ensure that CITES policy developments are mutually supportive of international environmental priorities and take into account new international initiatives, consistent with the terms of the Convention;

NOTING FURTHER Resolution [71/285](#) of the United Nations General Assembly on *United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030* and the importance of promoting coherence between CITES and the international governance framework on forests;

COMMENDING the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at [COP15] and EMPHASIZING its targets [5 and 10] as they pertain to forests;

COMMENDING FURTHER the Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forests and Land Use endorsed by over 140 countries in the framework of the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (CoP26) and their commitment to, *inter alia*, conserve forests and other terrestrial ecosystems and accelerate their restoration;

WELCOMING Resolution [73/284](#) of the United Nations General Assembly on the *United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)*;

CONSIDERING that the ecosystem-level contribution of CITES is reflected in the preamble of the Convention, where Parties have recognized that wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected for this and the generations to come;

MINDFUL that forests are largely defined by lands of a given area that are predominantly covered by trees;

AWARE OF the steady increase of the number of valuable flora species included in the Appendices, and in particular of timber-producing tree species, in order to address potential threats posed by unsustainable levels of international trade;

EMPHASIZING the need to catalyse the timely implementation of activities called for in Resolutions and Decisions that are relevant to the implementation of the Convention for species listed in the Appendices that are occurring in, and dependent upon forests, hereinafter referred to as "the CITES forest-cluster of activities";

RECALLING that in 2018, the Secretariat joined the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), an informal, voluntary arrangement among international organizations, institutions and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests, and a mission to help enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals, to promote the sustainable management for all types of forests, and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end;

CONSIDERING that the CPF counts amongst its fifteen members long-held CITES partners in matters relevant to forests, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat;

RECOGNIZING that the collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is broadened and streamlined through the Secretariat's engagement with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and through the implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP);

NOTING Resolution [2015/333](#) of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) on the *International arrangement on forests beyond 2015*, which specifies the core functions of the CPF;

RECALLING also that in 2013 the Secretariat joined as an inaugural member the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), a voluntary partnership of international organizations with substantive

mandates for the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources, and a mission to increase cooperation and coordination on sustainable wildlife management issues among its members, where such adds value, in order to promote the sustainable management of terrestrial vertebrate wildlife in all biomes and geographic areas, contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to human food security, livelihoods and well-being;

CONSIDERING that CPW counts amongst its membership partners that also have substantial programmes on or relevant to forests such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Secretariat, TRAFFIC – The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE);

RECALLING further the Secretariat's partnership with the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC), and the contributions of INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO) in the promotion of improved forest law enforcement;

MINDFUL that Resolution Conf. 19.1 on *Financing the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2023-2025* requests the Secretary-General to prepare budget proposals for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting and REMINDING the opportunity this presents for the implementation of the CITES forest-cluster of activities;

WELCOMING the successful outcomes of the CITES Secretariat's strategic partnerships with ITTO and FAO, respectively, in the implementation of forest-related projects such as the "*CITES Tree Species Programme*" and the "*Support to the implementation of the UN-REDD Initiative for Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong project, with a focus on trade in CITES-listed timber species*";

BELIEVING that, as more forest-dependent species are included in the Appendices and that the Convention continues to gain visibility as a key instrument in contributing to the global governance framework and international efforts to achieve sustainable development, CITES Parties will be called upon to engage in a growing number of forest-related projects and programmes;

AWARE OF the importance of raising visibility to the Convention's significant contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of species dependent on forests, and ensuring relevant outreach activities;

NOTING Resolution Conf. 17.1 (Rev. CoP18) on *World Wildlife Day* and the Secretariat's role as facilitator of the United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) and its linkages with Resolution [67/200](#) of the United Nations General Assembly on *International Day of Forests*; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the opportunity that the above events provide in increasing outreach and visibility on CITES' contribution and role in the long-term conservation of forests, and on the implementation of the CITES forest-cluster;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. DIRECTS the Secretariat to, after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP), publish a compendium of activities in Resolutions and Decisions that are relevant to forests and CITES-listed species dependent of forests;
2. NOTES this compendium will represent the CITES forest-cluster of activities for the intersessional period;

Regarding collaboration with organizations with substantial programmes on forests

3. RECOMMENDS that, in implementing Resolutions and Decisions relevant to the CITES forest-cluster of activities, Parties take account of the coherence between CITES and the international governance framework on forests, including but not limited to the *United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030* and the work plans of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests' (CPF)¹ and the *Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management* (CPW);
4. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to maintain and ensure mutually supportive collaboration with the CPF and CPW and other organizations and networks with substantial programmes on forests, and to report on a regular basis to the Standing, Plants, and Animals Committee on this collaboration, as appropriate;

¹ <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Short-version-CPF-Work-Plan-2021-2024.pdf>

Regarding resource mobilization for the implementation of the CITES forest-cluster of activities and the undertaking of associated projects and programmes

5. INVITES the Secretariat to consider the CITES forest-cluster of activities as a whole in its fundraising activities or in preparing budget proposals for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;
6. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to actively engage with relevant partners, including but not limited to CPF and CPW members, in seeking funds for the implementation of externally funded activities of the CITES forest-cluster;
7. CALLS UPON Parties to actively support the Secretariat in this endeavour;
8. WELCOMES the Secretariat's engagement in strategic partnerships, such as with FAO and ITTO, for the development of projects that contribute to the implementation of the CITES forest-cluster;
9. INVITES Parties to prioritize the implementation of the CITES forest-cluster of activities in designing and undertaking programmes and projects relevant to CITES and forests;
10. FURTHER INVITES Parties to share with the Secretariat for publication on the website outputs, outcomes and progress derived from the implementation of such initiatives;

Regarding outreach and visibility relating to the CITES forest-cluster

11. ENCOURAGES Parties to share with the Secretariat information relevant to the implementation of this Resolution for publication on the CITES website;
12. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to identify opportunities to raise visibility on progress in the implementation of this Resolution, *inter alia* in the context of World Wildlife Day, the International Day of Forests and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; and
13. REPEALS Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber*.