

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



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

Compliance

NATIONAL LAWS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

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 19.58 to 19.62 on *National laws for implementation of the Convention* as follows:

Directed to Parties

- 19.58** *Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3 under the National Legislation Project (NLP) are urged to submit to the Secretariat as soon as possible and in one of the three working languages of the Convention, details of appropriate measures that have been adopted for the effective implementation of the Convention. Such Parties are also urged to keep the Secretariat informed of legislative progress at any time.*
- 19.59** *Parties with legislation in Category 1 under the National Legislation Project are encouraged to inform the Secretariat of any relevant legislative developments and to provide technical or financial assistance to Parties affected by Decision 19.58, either directly or through the Secretariat.*

Directed to the Standing Committee, with the assistance of the Secretariat

- 19.60** *At its 77th and 78th meetings, the Standing Committee shall review the progress of Parties in adopting appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention. With the assistance of the Secretariat, the Standing Committee may identify additional Parties that require its attention as a priority and shall pay particular attention to these Parties. The Standing Committee shall take appropriate compliance measures with regard to Parties affected by Decision 19.58 that have failed to adopt appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the Convention or taken significant and substantive steps to do so. For Parties that have acceded to the Convention less than eight years ago, the Standing Committee may decide to allow more time to adopt appropriate measures.*
- 19.61** *Such compliance measures may include a recommendation to suspend trade with Parties affected by Decision 19.58 that have failed to adopt appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the Convention, in particular Parties identified as requiring attention as a priority. Any recommendation to suspend trade with the Party concerned shall take effect 60 days after it is agreed, unless the Party adopts appropriate measures before the expiry of the 60 days or takes significant and substantive steps to do so.*

Directed to the Secretariat

19.62 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *compile and analyse the information submitted by Parties on measures adopted before the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) to fulfil the requirements laid down in the text of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on National laws for implementation of the Convention;*
- b) *assist the Standing Committee in reviewing progress of Parties in adopting appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention and in identifying additional Parties requiring attention as a priority;*
- c) *subject to external funding, provide legal advice and assistance to Parties on the development of appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention, including legislative guidance for and training of CITES authorities, legislative drafters, policymakers, the judiciary, parliamentarians and other relevant government officials responsible for the formulation and adoption of CITES-related legislation;*
- d) *subject to external funding, develop legislative guidance on transit and transshipment and recommend as appropriate possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.7 (Rev. CoP15) on Transit and transshipment;*
- e) *subject to available resources, develop guidance on the implementation of the Convention (e.g., issuance of permits and certificates) in the event of exceptional circumstances that impede the proper functioning of CITES at the national level and submit its recommendations to the Standing Committee for consideration including, as appropriate, possible amendments to relevant Resolutions, including to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Permits and certificates;*
- f) *in the provision of legislative assistance, cooperate with the legal programmes of United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as regional organizations, such as the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Association of South East Asian Nations, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme;*
- g) *report at the regular meetings of the Standing Committee on Parties' progress in adopting appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention and, if necessary, recommend the adoption of appropriate compliance measures including, as a last resort, recommendations to suspend trade in specimens of CITES-listed species; and*
- h) *report at regular meetings of the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress made with regard to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on National laws for implementation of the Convention and Decisions 19.58 to 19.62.*

Background

3. In paragraph 1 of Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) on *National laws for implementation of the Convention*, the Secretariat is directed:
 - a) *to identify those Parties whose domestic measures do not provide them with the authority to:*
 - i) *designate at least one Management Authority and one Scientific Authority;*
 - ii) *prohibit trade in specimens in violation of the Convention;*
 - iii) *penalize such trade; or*

iv) confiscate specimens illegally traded or possessed.

4. It is recalled that each of these four minimum requirements must be met by the legislation of CITES Parties to enable the effective implementation and enforcement of the Convention. In consultation with the concerned Party, the Secretariat analyses national legislations in relation to the minimum requirements and place them in one of three categories, as follows:
 - Category 1: legislation that is believed generally to meet the requirements for implementation of CITES;
 - Category 2: legislation that is believed generally not to meet all of the requirements for the implementation of CITES;
 - Category 3: legislation that is believed generally not to meet the requirements for the implementation of CITES.
5. In paragraph 1 c) of Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15), the Secretariat is directed *to report its findings, recommendations or progress to the Standing Committee and at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties*. In paragraph 3 of the same Resolution, the Conference of the Parties instructs *the Standing Committee to determine which Parties have not adopted appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention and to consider appropriate compliance measures, which may include recommendations to suspend trade, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP19) on CITES compliance procedures*.
6. In accordance with the Resolution Conf. 8.4 (Rev. CoP15) and Decision 19.62, this document provides an update on the progress reported by the Parties in adopting appropriate measures for effective implementation of the Convention since the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74; Lyon, March 2022), other activities undertaken by the Secretariat to support the efforts undertaken by Parties, as well as proposed recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee.¹

Summary of progress

7. The legislative status table presenting details of legislative progress reported by each Party is available in the Annex to this document. The main updates are as follows:
 - a) Since CoP19, the legislation of three additional Parties has been placed in Category 1, along with the legislation of two dependent territories.
 - b) Twenty-five Parties and two dependent territories have provided a written update on legislative progress to the Secretariat since CoP19, and most of them have reported substantial progress in adopting appropriate legislative measures for the implementation of the Convention.
 - c) At the time of writing, of 184 Parties to the Convention, 111 (60,3%) have legislation placed in Category 1. Although progress and commitments have been significant for some Parties, there are still a total of 72 Parties whose legislation is placed in Category 2 or 3, many of whom have been Parties to the Convention for decades.
 - d) Tajikistan (March 2016), Tonga (October 2016) and Andorra (January 2022) are placed in Table 2 'recently acceded Parties' of the document 'Status of legislative progress for the implementation of the Convention'. The legislation of recently acceded Parties will be reviewed and placed in Category 1, 2 or 3 eight years after accession to the Convention. Andorra has provided a written update to the Secretariat and confirmed the adoption of appropriate legislative measures for the implementation of the Convention, which is currently being translated for submission to the Secretariat for legislative analysis.

¹ *Legislation enacted by non-Parties or territories that are under dispute or that are not recognized by the United Nations is not included in the National Legislation Project. Nothing in the National Legislation Project prejudices the claims and legal views of any Party concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The assessment of national legislation to implement CITES does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) concerning those matters.*

8. The legislative status is as follows as of 7 September 2023:

National Legislation Project Sep-23		
Category	Parties	Percent
Cat. 1	111	60.3%
Cat. 2	45	24,5%
Cat. 3	25	13.6%
Recent Parties	3	1.6%
Total	184	100.0%

New Parties placed in Category 1

9. Since CoP19, the legislation of India, the Maldives and Pakistan has been placed in Category 1, along with the legislation of two United Kingdom (UK) dependent territories: Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands. This has been made possible through the continued engagement of Parties with the Secretariat, which has been providing technical advice to strengthen CITES implementation.

Progress of Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3

Parties requiring the attention of the Standing Committee as a priority

10. In accordance with Decisions 17.61 and 17.64, paragraph c), at its 69th meeting, the Standing Committee identified a total of 20 Parties requiring its attention as a priority on the basis of an overall assessment of the following elements:

- a) Parties that have acceded to the Convention over twenty years ago;
- b) Parties that have not indicated any commitment to adopt adequate legislation for implementation of the Convention;
- c) Parties that have relatively high volumes of trade as source, transit or destination countries;
- d) Parties that have already received legislative assistance; and
- e) Parties that are facing compliance procedures under Article XIII.

11. Knowing that the legislations of India and Pakistan have been placed in Category 1, at present, a total of 17 Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3 are designated by the Standing Committee as requiring its attention as a priority: Algeria, Belize, Botswana, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guinea, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan.

12. On 10 July 2023, the Secretariat issued [Notification to the Parties No. 2023/076](#) and, in accordance with Decisions 19.60 and 19.61, urged Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3 under the National Legislation Project to provide a written update of the legislative progress for effective implementation of the Convention to the Secretariat no later than 15 August 2023. In addition, emails were sent to all Parties designated by the Standing Committee as requiring its attention as a priority. In response, substantial progress has been reported by the following Parties and is noted in the Annex to the present document:

- a) Algeria indicated that the draft legislation was approved at a meeting of Government on 27 April 2022, and then presented at a meeting of the Council of Ministers on 3 July 2022. The draft was submitted to the Secretariat for analysis and comments were sent to Algeria in August 2023. The revised draft legislation now needs to be presented to Parliament.
- b) Belize submitted its legislation to the Secretariat for analysis. Comments were sent to Belize in August 2023. The legislation is ready to move to Category 1 as soon as Belize officially designates its CITES Scientific Authority and informs the Secretariat accordingly.

- c) Botswana indicated that amendments to its legislation are still in preparation. The Secretariat provided a new legislative analysis in August 2023. The revised draft legislation will then need to be presented to Parliament. Progress has been slow.
 - d) Djibouti is subject to a recommendation to suspend trade since 30 April 2004 for failure to develop national legislation. Djibouti sent a written update to the Secretariat in July 2023 and requested assistance from the Secretariat to develop its national legislation. The Secretariat sent comments and requests for clarifications to Djibouti in August 2023. The Secretariat is currently considering the type of assistance that could be provided.
 - e) Guinea reported on the progress under the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) Agreement signed with the Secretariat. This included engagement with the Ministry of Fisheries to designate an additional Scientific Authority for marine species, and recruitment of a legal consultant to develop revised national legislation to bring it into compliance with the CITES requirements.
 - f) Kazakhstan sent a written update, presenting progress made on the comments previously made by the Secretariat on the national legislation of Kazakhstan. The Secretariat conducted a new legislative analysis and provided comments to Kazakhstan in August 2023.
 - g) The Lao People's Democratic Republic presented progress made on the development of various legislative instruments, especially on comments previously made by the Secretariat on its CITES decree. The Secretariat noted that many of the comments provided earlier had not been incorporated in the draft decree. The Secretariat suggested that these comments be reviewed and the draft decree revised accordingly. See further elements in document SC77 Doc. 33.10 on *Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic*.
 - h) Liberia is subject to a recommendation to suspend trade since 15 March 2016 for failure to develop national legislation. Liberia submitted a revised draft legislation to the Secretariat for legislative analysis. The Secretariat reviewed the draft in August 2023 and noted that it contains the minimum requirements for inclusion in Category 1. Further additional guidance was provided. The draft legislation is currently pending with Parliament.
 - i) Mozambique provided the Secretariat with a translation of its revised implementing regulation for legislative analysis. The Secretariat conducted an analysis and provided comments and guidance to Mozambique in August 2023.
 - j) Rwanda provided the Secretariat with the Rwandan Law governing Biological Diversity published in November 2021. The Secretariat conducted a full legislative analysis in August 2023 and provided comments and guidance to Rwanda.
 - k) Uzbekistan explained that the draft legislation that the Secretariat had reviewed previously was further modified after political reforms implemented in the country. The revised draft was submitted, and the Secretariat conducted a full legislative analysis in August 2023. Comments and guidance were provided to Uzbekistan.
13. Despite the progress outlined above, none of the Parties mentioned in paragraph 12 have seen their legislation placed in Category 1. Considering the progress made in the development of their legislations, the legislation of Belize, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, and Rwanda are moved from Category 3 to Category 2. The Secretariat however notes that significant concerns remain concerning the Lao People's Democratic Republic (see further elements in document SC77 Doc. 33.10 on *Application of Article XIII in the Lao People's Democratic Republic*). The Secretariat conducted a technical mission to Ecuador and discussed among other things the legislative progress made. The Secretariat has also maintained close contact with the United Republic of Tanzania that has enacted legislation and would be ready to move to Category 1 as soon as the Appendices of the Convention are published at the national level. At the time of writing, no progress has been reported since CoP19 by the following Parties requiring the attention of the Standing Committee as a priority: Comoros, Congo, Kenya and Somalia. It is noted that the following priority Parties are already subject to a recommendation to suspend trade for failure to adopt appropriate legislative measures to implement the Convention or under an Article XIII procedure: Djibouti, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia and Somalia.

Other Parties subject to a warning

14. At SC69 (Geneva, November 2017), the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a formal warning to Mongolia and Tunisia requesting them to report to SC70 on the progress in the development of their legislation for implementation of the Convention, and agreed that if no substantive progress was reported, they would be subject to a recommendation to suspend trade. After SC69, Mongolia and Tunisia received a formal warning letter from the Secretariat.
 - a) Mongolia submitted three drafts of legal instruments in early 2019 and the Secretariat provided its comments. However, Mongolia has not reported any progress regarding the legislative process since CoP18 (Geneva, August 2019).
 - b) Tunisia developed a revised draft legislation, on which the Secretariat provided comments. A further revised draft was submitted to the Secretariat in August 2023. The Secretariat conducted a full legislative analysis and provided additional comments to Tunisia.
15. At SC70 (Sochi, October 2018), the Standing Committee agreed to issue a formal warning to the Parties that had not reported any legislative progress since CoP17 requesting them to immediately take steps to ensure progress be made before CoP18 and to report such progress to the Secretariat by 1 February 2019. Accordingly, after SC70, North Macedonia and the Sudan received a formal warning letter from the Secretariat.
 - a) North Macedonia reported that a specific project had been signed at the national level to prepare a new CITES law; however, implementation has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project was expected to start by the end of 2021. North Macedonia has not reported any progress regarding the legislative process since July 2021.
 - b) The Sudan submitted draft legislation, but some concerns highlighted by the Secretariat still need to be addressed. The Sudan has not reported any progress regarding the legislative process since January 2020.
16. At SC71 (Geneva, August 2019), the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to send a second warning letter to those Parties that had still not reported any legislative progress to the Secretariat and agreed to recommend a suspension of trade at its 73rd meeting if no substantive legislative progress had been made at that time. After SC71, Dominica, Grenada, Libya, Oman and Sao Tome and Principe received a second formal warning letter.
 - a) Dominica: no update was provided on legislative progress since CoP17 (Johannesburg, 2016).
 - b) Grenada submitted its draft legislation for analysis in June 2023. The Secretariat conducted a full legislative analysis and provided additional comments to Grenada in July 2023.
 - c) Libya: no update was provided on legislative progress since CoP17 (Johannesburg, 2016).
 - d) Oman developed a revised draft legislation, on which the Secretariat provided comments. Oman provided a written update to the Secretariat in July 2023, indicating that a final draft of the legislation had been reviewed and approved by the national legal authority and was in the process of getting the necessary approvals, to be adopted and implemented as the national law. Oman further indicated that an updated timeline for adoption would be provided to the Secretariat. However, this written update is identical to the previous update provided to the Secretariat in 2020. No progress seems to have been accomplished, and the Secretariat has not received the updated timeline.
 - e) Sao Tome and Principe: no update was provided on legislative progress since CoP17 (Johannesburg, 2016). Sao Tome and Principe has been subject to a recommendation to suspend trade since 7 May 2022 for failure to develop national legislation.
17. At SC74 (Lyon, March 2022), the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a formal warning to the Parties that have not reported any legislative progress for more than three years, requesting them to immediately take steps to ensure progress be made before CoP19 and to report such progress to the Secretariat by 1 September 2022. These included: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Montenegro, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

- a) Azerbaijan: no update was provided on legislative progress since May 2018.
- b) Belarus: no update was provided on legislative progress since November 2018.
- c) Bosnia and Herzegovina: no update was provided on legislative progress since November 2018.
- d) Kyrgyzstan: no update was provided on legislative progress since July 2018.
- e) Lebanon: no update was provided on legislative progress since CoP17 (Johannesburg, 2016).
- f) Maldives indicated that its CITES national legislation had been ratified on 20 July 2022 and came into effect on 20 October 2022, after publication in the Government Gazette. The Maldives submitted this law for analysis. The Secretariat conducted a full legislative analysis and concluded that the legislation meets the minimum requirements for Category 1. Additional regulations are to be adopted in 2023 to complement the national legislation. The Maldives confirmed the Secretariat would be kept informed.
- g) Montenegro submitted its Law on Nature Protection and extracts of the Rulebook on Trade in Protected Wild Species of Plants, Animals and Fungi, which focuses specifically on CITES implementation. The Secretariat analysed the elements transmitted and provided comments and guidance to Montenegro in August 2023.
- h) Sierra Leone: no update was provided on legislative progress since February 2017.
- i) Zambia provided a written update and informed the Secretariat that its Wildlife Bill was being revised, which would in turn trigger a revision of the CITES Statutory Instrument. The Secretariat analysed the elements transmitted and provided comments and guidance to Zambia in August 2023.

Progress of other Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3

18. In addition to the three countries and two UK dependent territories that have been placed in Category 1 (India, Maldives, Pakistan, Bermuda, and the British Virgin Islands – see paragraph 9 above), the 17 Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3 designated by the Standing Committee as requiring its attention as a priority (see paragraphs 11-13 above), and the Parties for which the Standing Committee issued formal warnings at its precedent meetings (see paragraphs 14-17 above), the Secretariat has received written updates from six additional Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3.
- a) Armenia submitted various Government decrees and decisions on implementing the Convention, along with translations of relevant articles of various Armenian codes (code of administrative offenses, civil code, criminal code...) for analysis. The Secretariat conducted a full legislative analysis and noted that certain progress had been made in the development of the legal framework for the implementation of the Convention. Comments and guidance were provided to Armenia in August 2023.
 - b) Bahrain adopted and published its CITES legislation in March 2021. The Secretariat conducted a full legislative analysis in July 2023 and noted that many minimum requirements for Category 1 have been addressed in the legislation. The Secretariat however requested clarifications on certain provisions of the law.
 - c) Burundi submitted a written update informing the Secretariat that a new draft legislation had been prepared based on the comments provided by the Secretariat in November 2021. It was indicated that this new draft legislation had been submitted to the Council of Ministers for further analysis and that the enactment was expected by the end of the year 2023. The Secretariat indicated its availability to conduct a new legislative analysis.
 - d) Palau presented a revised draft legislation based on the comments provided by the Secretariat since December 2014. The Secretariat conducted a full legislative analysis and provided comments and guidance to Palau in July 2023. It is expected that the revised draft legislation be endorsed by the Minister in September 2023. The Secretariat indicated its availability to conduct a new legislative analysis.
 - e) The Philippines had enacted CITES enabling and implementing legislation. Observations had been provided by the Secretariat in February 2020. A timetable of activities had been provided for the finalisation of the Fisheries Administrative Order on Introduction from the Sea. In their written update,

the Philippines submitted a revised timetable for the adoption of the Fisheries Administrative Order on Introduction from the Sea. The new estimated date of publication is May 2024.

- f) Sri Lanka confirmed the adoption of the Fauna and Flora Protection (Amendment) Act, No. 07 of 2022, to give effect to CITES. Section 71 subsection 2 of the Fauna and Flora Protection Act has been amended to give the Minister the authority to adopt regulations on “*all matters necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), subject to the prior written approval of the Cabinet of Ministers;*”. The Secretariat took note and invited Sri Lanka to keep the Secretariat informed of the adoption of such regulations. The Secretariat indicated its availability to conduct a new legislative analysis.
19. Considering the progress made in the development of their legislations, the legislations of Armenia and Bahrain are moved from Category 3 to Category 2.
20. As indicated above, since CoP19, 25 Parties and two dependent territories have provided a written update on their legislative progress to the Secretariat, and most of them have reported substantial progress in adopting appropriate legislative measures for the implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat commends the efforts of those Parties and encourages the Parties still working on their legislation to finalize the legislative process as soon as possible.
21. On the other hand, the Secretariat notes that 47 Parties have not reported any progress in adopting appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the Convention since CoP19. This includes Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Dominica, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Mali, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, North Macedonia, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda. Tajikistan and Tonga did not provide any update; however, these two countries are still on the list of recently acceded Parties.

Targeted technical and legislative assistance

22. The Secretariat continued to provide technical and legislative assistance to Parties with legislation in Category 2 or 3 through bilateral assistance and regional workshops and seminars. The assistance has mainly consisted in providing comments and observations on draft legislation to ensure that it will meet the CITES minimum requirements once adopted. Advice on institutional arrangements, such as the organization of the Management and Scientific Authorities, and on mechanisms for issuing CITES permits and certificates has also been provided to a number of Parties and dependent territories. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, Parties have been advised to accelerate the transition to a digital permit system and to amend or adjust their legislation and protocols as appropriate.
23. The Secretariat conducted full legislative analysis and/or provided comments and guidance on the development of national legislation to 25 Parties and two dependent territories with legislation placed in Category 2 or 3. The Secretariat further engaged with two Parties with legislation placed in Category 1 that are currently updating their CITES national legislation.

Latin America and the Caribbean

24. A regional workshop on CITES implementation was organized by the U.S. Department of the Interior’s International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) from 2 to 4 August 2023 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The following Parties were represented in the meeting: Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama. The workshop was held back-to-back with the 12th ROAVIS² meeting and its key objective was to build capacity on legal acquisition findings, permit issuance and implementation of the Convention for new CITES Management and Scientific Authorities (see document SC77 Doc. 46 on *Legal acquisition findings*).

Model Law

25. To assist Parties in the development of effective and enforceable legislation, the CITES Secretariat – in collaboration with Parties to the Convention – has prepared a revised draft of the Model Law in October

² Red de Observancia y Aplicación de la Normativa de Vida Silvestre de Centroamérica y la República Dominicana.

2021. The Model Law provides examples of provisions that Parties may use as inspiration for developing their own legislation. Various Resolutions had been amended since the previous draft of the Model Law was produced in 2015. The increasing number of commercially exploited and managed aquatic species included in Appendix II of CITES has also led to the development of a Study and a Guide in partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)³. This was published in 2020, providing several legislative options for implementing CITES through national fisheries legislation. Recent years have also seen an increasing focus on strengthening legislation to combat illegal trade in wildlife *inter alia* through the adoption of several Resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly⁴. Through a partnership with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a *Guide on drafting legislation to combat wildlife crime*⁵ was developed in 2018 as a complement to the Model Law. The Secretariat and UNODC are currently updating this Guide. The Model Law aims to provide examples of provisions reflecting all these developments and is publicly available on the [CITES website](#) in English, French and Spanish.

Cooperation with FAO

26. To support national authorities with CITES implementation, the CITES Secretariat and the FAO through the Development Law Service (LEGN) of the FAO Legal Office, launched a series of legal workshops on CITES and fisheries, which included capacity-building on legislation and legal acquisition findings. The first and second workshops were held at the subregional level, respectively for Pacific Island countries (November 2021) and English-speaking Caribbean countries (May-June 2022). The third workshop was organized for Latin American and Spanish-speaking Caribbean countries and was hosted by the CITES Management Authority of Ecuador, in Manta, Ecuador, from 8 to 11 May 2023. It brought together a total of 50 participants, from 13 countries of the region.⁶ Representatives from the Central American and Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, UNODC, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Defenders of Wildlife, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and fishing enterprises also participated. The workshop aimed at raising awareness and strengthening the understanding of CITES requirements and their implementation in the fisheries sector; introducing and training participants on the use of the [FAO-CITES Legal Study and Guide](#); training participants on the use of the “Rapid Guide for the Making of Legal Acquisition Findings”, available in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19); and identifying countries’ needs and interests for a better implementation of CITES in the fisheries sector. In addition to discussing the implementation of CITES in the region⁷ and other international and regional initiatives, participants engaged on the design and content of legal acquisition findings for aquatic species and exchanged on other related topics such as the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures; introduction from the sea; fisheries management and conservation; traceability and legality; and inspection. Such exchanges may be of relevance to the discussions of the Standing Committee’s intersessional working group on sharks and rays and the discussions on introduction from the sea (see SC77 Doc. 46 on *Legal acquisition findings*).
27. The Secretariat is also in discussions with the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme of FAO, which provides tailored support to strengthen national legislation on sustainable wildlife management. The SWM combines international and national statutory obligations, and local customary uses and practices. Five legal diagnostic tools and related methodologies have been produced and the SWM Programme legal hub was launched to provide a single and easy access point for legal texts and analysis that will increase public awareness and encourage informed and participative law reform processes to strengthen sustainable wildlife management. Thirteen countries are currently covered on the legal hub, while law/policy reform processes have been triggered in at least seven countries.
28. Finally, pursuant to Decision 19.130, the Secretariat has engaged with FAO on the development of a legal database entitled “CITES-LEX” designed as a new online platform providing (i) a catalogue of instruments and resources aimed at facilitating Parties’ access to legislations and related information relevant to CITES implementation, and (ii) materials and resources to support legal risk assessments on legal acquisition findings. This database will be available online and updated regularly to provide Parties with information and resources that are relevant for the implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat and FAO are currently

³ [Study and Guide on implementing CITES through national fisheries legislation](#)

⁴ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/69/314>, <https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/RES/71/326>,
<https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/RES/73/343>; <https://www.undocs.org/en/A/75/L.116>

⁵ [Guide on drafting legislation to combat wildlife crime](#)

⁶ *Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).*

⁷ *Presentations were delivered by the representatives of the 13 countries represented in the meeting.*

engaged on designing the webpage and reviewing relevant content for the population of the database (see. Doc. 46 on *Legal Acquisition Findings*).

Exceptional circumstances impeding the proper functioning of CITES at the national level

29. Pursuant to Decision 19.62, paragraph e), the Secretariat shall “*subject to available resources, develop guidance on the implementation of the Convention (e.g., issuance of permits and certificates) in the event of exceptional circumstances that impede the proper functioning of CITES at the national level and submit its recommendations to the Standing Committee for consideration including, as appropriate, possible amendments to relevant Resolutions, including to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Permits and certificates.*”
30. The Secretariat notes that “exceptional circumstances” are not limited to a specific type of situation but, on the contrary, would cover any circumstances “that impede the proper functioning of CITES at the national level”. Such “exceptional circumstances” could therefore be understood in a similar way as *force majeure*, covering any situation rendering the proper implementation of CITES at the national level impossible for the Party(ies) concerned.
31. At the time of drafting, various Parties have already solicited the Secretariat for guidance on how to implement the Convention in such circumstances, and specifically how to allow trade and issue the necessary permits and certificates when the Management Authority representatives no longer have access to their offices and/or to official CITES permits and stamps.
32. While the Secretariat recognizes that such exceptional circumstances could impede the proper functioning of CITES at the national level and therefore require specific guidance, it is essential to ensure that they do not obstruct legitimate trade to continue, for instance trade concerning the development of science or the rescue of live animals under imminent risk. It is also essential to ensure that they do not create a loophole allowing for trade to be conducted in breach of the provisions of the Convention.
33. In order to initiate the work on developing guidance on such exceptional situations, the Secretariat plans to send a Notification to the Parties in 2024 to gather views, ideas and best practices, with a view to develop recommendations to be submitted to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee, including on potential amendments to relevant Resolutions, including Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Permits and certificates*. However, the full implementation of Decision 19.62, paragraph e), will depend on the availability of extrabudgetary financial resources. In this context, Parties and other potential donors are invited to provide additional financial contributions for the development of recommendations on exceptional circumstances impeding the proper functioning of CITES at the national level.

Review of progress by the Standing Committee

34. Pursuant to Decisions 19.60 and 19.61, the Standing Committee is expected to review progress of Parties in adopting legislation for the effective implementation of the Convention and to take appropriate compliance measures with regard to Parties that have failed to adopt appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the Convention or to take significant and substantive steps to do so. Decision 19.61 provides that such compliance measures may include a recommendation to suspend trade in particular with regard to Parties requiring attention as a priority.
35. At the time of writing, the progress of four countries that have been identified as requiring the attention of the Standing Committee as a priority has been assessed as insufficient since they have failed to report progress or to adopt appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the Convention despite the repeated extension of the deadlines, significant support and advice provided by the Secretariat and, for some, the significant volumes of trade that they authorize:
 - Comoros: no update since January 2021
 - Congo: no update since January 2019
 - Ecuador: no update since November 2019
 - Kenya: no update since January 2020.

In accordance with Decisions 19.60 and 19.61, the Secretariat recommends that compliance measures be taken with regard to Comoros, Congo, Ecuador and Kenya.

36. In addition, given the decisions taken at SC69 with regard to Tunisia and Mongolia (see paragraph 14 above), the decisions taken at SC70 with regard to North Macedonia and the Sudan (see paragraph 15 above), the decisions taken at SC71 with regard to Dominica, Grenada, Libya, Oman and Sao Tome and Principe (see paragraph 16 above), and the decisions taken at SC74 with regard to Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Montenegro, Sierra Leone and Zambia (see paragraph 17 above) and the lack of subsequent progress from various of these Parties, the Secretariat recommends that compliance measures be taken with regard to Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dominica, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Mongolia, North Macedonia and Sierra Leone.
37. Furthermore, the Secretariat recommends that Uganda, which has not provided any update on its national legislation since December 2021, be designated by the Standing Committee as requiring its attention as a priority.

Recommendations

38. The Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee:
- a) commend India, Maldives, Pakistan, Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands for the efforts leading to their legislation being placed in Category 1 and other Parties or territories that have made substantial progress in adopting measures for the effective implementation of the Convention;
 - b) agree on a recommendation to all Parties to suspend trade in all CITES-listed species for commercial purposes with Comoros, Congo, Dominica, Ecuador, Libya, Mongolia and Sierra Leone. The Secretariat shall inform the Parties concerned of this measure immediately after the present meeting. The recommendation shall take effect 60 days after it is agreed unless the Party concerned adopts appropriate measures before the expiry of the 60 days or takes significant and substantive steps to do so. Upon the expiry of the 60 days after the recommendation is agreed, the Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties informing them of the recommendations to suspend commercial trade taking effect from that date;
 - c) request the Secretariat to issue a formal warning or a second formal warning to the Parties that have not reported any legislative progress for more than three years, requesting them to immediately take steps to ensure progress be made before SC78 and to report such progress to the Secretariat 90 days before the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee, hence by 31 October 2024. At the time of writing, this includes:
 - Azerbaijan: second formal warning (first formal warning issued at SC74);
 - Belarus: second formal warning (first formal warning issued at SC74);
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina: second formal warning (first formal warning issued at SC74);
 - Kenya: first formal warning;
 - Kyrgyzstan: second formal warning (first formal warning issued at SC74);
 - Lebanon: second formal warning (first formal warning issued at SC74); and
 - North Macedonia: second formal warning (first formal warning issued at SC70).
 - d) agree to add Uganda to the list of Parties designated by the Standing Committee as requiring its attention as a priority; and
 - e) agree with the Secretariat's proposed way forward concerning the handling of exceptional circumstances impeding the proper functioning of CITES at the national level.
39. The Standing Committee may further wish to recognize and welcome the support provided by Parties, development partners as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of the development and adoption of national measures to effectively implement and enforce the Convention.

**STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS FOR IMPLEMENTING CITES
(UPDATED AUGUST 2023)**

**PARTIES WITH LEGISLATION IN CATEGORY 1
*Parties in bold have been added since CoP19***

Albania	Jordan	United States of America
Angola	Kuwait	Uruguay
Argentina	Latvia	Vanuatu
Australia	Liechtenstein	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Austria	Lithuania	Viet Nam
Bahamas	Luxembourg	Yemen
Barbados	Madagascar	Zimbabwe
Belgium	Malaysia	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Malawi	
Brazil	Maldives	
Brunei Darussalam	Malta	
Bulgaria	Mauritania	
Cambodia	Mauritius	
Cameroon	Mexico	
Canada	Monaco	
Chile	Morocco	
China	Namibia	
Colombia	Netherlands	
Costa Rica	New Zealand	
Croatia	Nicaragua	
Cuba	Nigeria	
Cyprus	Norway	
Czech Republic	Pakistan	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Panama	
Denmark	Papua New Guinea	
Dominican Republic	Paraguay	
Egypt	Peru	
El Salvador	Poland	
Equatorial Guinea	Portugal	
Estonia	Qatar	
Ethiopia	Republic of Korea	
European Union	Republic of Moldova	
Fiji	Romania	
Finland	Russian Federation	
France	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Georgia	San Marino	
Germany	Saudi Arabia	
Greece	Senegal	
Guatemala	Serbia	
Guinea-Bissau	Singapore	
Guyana	Slovakia	
Honduras	Slovenia	
Hungary	Solomon Islands	
Iceland	South Africa	
Indonesia	Spain	
India	Sweden	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Switzerland	
Ireland	Thailand	
Israel	Türkiye	
Italy	Ukraine	
Jamaica	United Arab Emirates	
Japan	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	

Table 1: Parties, except recently acceded Parties, with legislation in Category 2 or 3⁸

	Party	Entry into force of the Convention	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
1	Afghanistan	28.01.1986	3	Enabling legislation (environmental) enacted; implementing regulations have been prepared and submitted to the Secretariat for analysis (in national language only)	Finalization and submission of draft revised legislation and implementing regulations	CoP18
2	Algeria	21.02.1984	2	Comments provided by the Secretariat on comprehensive revised draft legislation. Two consultation meetings with the different sectors involved in the drafting of the law were held in March and May 2020. Draft submitted to General Secretariat of the Government for consideration in September 2018. Draft approved at a Meeting of Government on 27 April 2022, and then presented at a meeting of the Council of Ministers on 3 July 2022.	Transmission of the draft to Parliament (both Chambers). Adoption and promulgation. Agreement between Algeria and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Aug. 2023
3	Antigua and Barbuda	06.10.1997	2	Comprehensive enabling legislation adopted in 2019 and submitted to the Secretariat. Legislation placed in Category 2, pending the finalization of the implementing regulations	Finalization and submission of implementing regulations. Agreement between AG and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	June 2020
4	Armenia	21.01.2009	2	Some CITES legislation in place and some provisions translated and submitted to the Secretariat. Additional legislation / regulations being developed. Discussions with the Secretariat are ongoing. Legislative analysis done by the Secretariat in August 2023 and comments provided to Armenia.	Finalisation of revised legislation / regulations by Armenia. Agreement between Armenia and the Secretariat on the legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Aug. 2023
5	Azerbaijan	21.02.1999	2	CITES legislation enacted; English translation provided to the Secretariat. Discussions are ongoing.	Agreement between AZ and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	May 2018
6	Bahrain	17.11.2012	2	Legislation adopted and published in March 2021. Legislative analysis done in July 2023. A request for clarifications was sent to Bahrain.	Bahrain to clarify elements raised by the Secretariat. Agreement between BH and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Aug. 2023
7	Bangladesh	18.02.1982	2	Enabling legislation enacted and submitted to the Secretariat in national language. Implementing	Finalization and submission of implementing regulations. Agreement between BD and	April 2019

⁸ **Keys:**

Category:

1: legislation that is believed generally to meet all four requirements for effective implementation of CITES

2: legislation that is believed generally to meet one to three of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES

3: legislation that is believed generally not to meet any of the four requirements for effective implementation of CITES

Bold: Parties requiring attention of the Standing Committee as a priority

Entry into force of the Convention: date on which Party's adherence to the Convention took effect

	Party	Entry into force of the Convention	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
				regulations are being developed but have not yet been submitted to the Secretariat.	the Secretariat on revised legislative analysis	
8	Belarus	08.11.1995	2	Enabling and implementing legislation enacted and submitted in national language. Draft of the legislative analysis provided by the Secretariat is under consideration by Belarus.	Agreement between BY and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis	Nov. 2018
9	Belize	21.09.1981	2	Bill introduced to House of Representatives in September 2020. Due to a change of government, the bill was put on hold. In November 2021, the bill was reintroduced to the Cabinet and is expected to be reintroduced to Parliament in its next session in 2022. Legislative analysis conducted and request for clarifications sent in July 2023. Clarifications were received and analysed by the Secretariat in August 2023.	Agreement between BZ and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis. Legislation ready to move to Category 1 as soon as Belize appoints its CITES Scientific Authority.	Aug. 2023
10	Benin	28.05.1984	2	SSFA with the Secretariat completed. Legislation enacted. Implementing regulations are being developed.	Finalization and submission of implementing regulations.	Dec. 2020
11	Bhutan	13.11.2002	3	Comments by the Secretariat provided on draft legislation	Finalization and submission of draft legislation.	Nov. 2019
12	Bosnia and Herzegovina	21.04.2009	2	Legislation enacted and published. Submitted in English for analysis by the Secretariat. Placed in Cat. 2 as the adopted legislation does not fulfil all four requirements	Identified gaps in national legislation to be addressed by BA.	Nov. 2018
13	Botswana	12.02.1978	2	CITES legislation for terrestrial wildlife including plants enacted; draft amendments to wildlife act, covering fish species under way. Secretariat commented in January 2019. Forestry and Range Resources Bill submitted to the Secretariat for review in October 2021. The Secretariat organized a meeting with the authorities to address some concerns in December 2021. Amendments still in preparation and to be adopted by Parliament. Legislative analysis done in August 2023 and sent to Botswana.	Submission and adoption by Parliament. Agreement by BW and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Aug. 2023
14	Burkina Faso	11.01.1990	2	Commitment at ministerial level to prepare draft legislation in the form of a decree; formal request for assistance	Preparation of draft legislation	August 2020
15	Burundi	06.11.1988	2	CITES enabling legislation enacted in 2011 and submitted to the Secretariat in 2016. Certain gaps identified by the Secretariat need to be addressed. A consultant was hired in Burundi to work on the	Endorsement draft legislation from the Council of Ministers. Adoption by National Assembly and Senate. Estimated date for enactment is	Aug. 2023

	Party	Entry into force of the Convention	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
				legislation. New draft legislation prepared and comments provided by the Secretariat in Nov. 2021. Finalized draft legislation submitted to the Council of Ministers for further analysis.	by EOY 2023.	
16	Cabo Verde	08.11.2005	3	Strong commitment to prepared legislation. Legislative plan in place but progress is slow	Preparation of draft legislation; drafting assistance needed	CoP18
17	Central African Republic	25.11.1980	3	Draft legislation prepared and comments provided by the Secretariat.	Finalization and submission of draft legislation	Dec. 2019
18	Chad	03.05.1989	2	Draft amendment law and specific CITES regulation to be prepared.	Finalization and submission of draft legislation; drafting assistance possibly needed	CoP18
19	Comoros	21.02.1995	3	SSFA with the Secretariat completed. Observations on draft legislation provided by the Secretariat. Delays in the validation of the draft due to Covid-19.	Finalization and submission of the legislation	Jan 2021
20	Congo	01.05.1983	2	Identified as priority Party at SC69. Observations on draft legislation provided by the Secretariat in early 2019.	Finalization and submission of draft legislation	Jan. 2019
21	Côte d'Ivoire	19.02.1995	3	SSFA with the CITES Secretariat completed. Comments by the Secretariat provided on revised draft law and implementing regulations. Draft legislation submitted to the Secretary general of the government.	Finalization and submission of draft legislation	Dec. 2021
22	Djibouti	07.05.1992	3	Subject to a recommendation to suspend trade since 30 April 2004. Letter sent by the Secretariat to the Minister in March 2019. No response and no progress. Update on national legislation received in July 2023. Analysis conducted by the Secretariat; comments and request for clarifications sent to Djibouti in August 2023.	Preparation of draft legislation. Request for assistance from the Secretariat.	July 2023
23	Dominica	02.11.1995	3	Draft legislation prepared; existing and draft legislation reviewed by DM and Secretariat; formal request for assistance. Second formal warning issued at SC71.	Finalization and submission of draft legislation; drafting assistance needed	CoP17
24	Ecuador	01.07.1975	2	Identified as priority Party by SC67. Legislation enacted but gaps have been identified by the Secretariat and need to be addressed.	Finalization of implementing legislation. Agreement between Ecuador and the Secretariat on revised legislative analysis.	Nov. 2019
25	Eritrea	22.01.1995	2	SSFA with UNEP completed. Draft legislation prepared with comments by the Secretariat and translated into local languages and submitted to Ministry for approval.	Finalization and submission of draft legislation; agreement between Eritrea and the Secretariat on revised legislative analysis	Dec. 2021

	Party	Entry into force of the Convention	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
26	Eswatini	27.05.1997	3	Comprehensive draft and revised draft legislation finalized and submitted.	Adoption and enactment of legislation.	May 2019
27	Gabon	14.05.1989	2	Commitment to draft legislation; comments provided by the Secretariat on draft legislation in January 2017. Revised draft submitted to the Secretariat in July 2018. Observations on revised draft prepared by the Secretariat in 2019.	Finalization and submission of revised legislation.	Sep. 2019
28	Gambia	24.11.1977	2	SSFA with the UNEP completed. Draft Bill finalized and validated by all CITES Stakeholders	Cabinet approval and submission of legislation	January 2020
29	Ghana	12.02.1976	3	Bill has been through second reading in Parliament.	Enactment, and submission to the Secretariat for analysis. Agreement between GH and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including the need for implementing legislation	CoP18
30	Grenada	28.11.1999	3	Draft legislation prepared; existing and draft legislation reviewed by GD and Secretariat; formal request for assistance. Second formal warning at SC71 but no response. Legislative analysis conducted by the Secretariat and request for clarifications sent in July 2023.	Finalization and submission of draft legislation; drafting assistance needed.	July 2023
31	Guinea	20.12.1981	2	Subject to a recommendation to suspend trade since 2013. Several decrees adopted in 2019 and 2020. Observations by the Secretariat provided in July 2020. Agreement between Guinea and the Secretariat on capacity-building, elaboration of legislation compliant with CITES, and reinforcing application of anti-fraud legislation. Implementation of this project is ongoing.	Finalization and submission of further implementing legislation; agreement between Guinea and the Secretariat on revised analysis. Implementation of the Agreement between Guinea and the Secretariat. Elaboration of legislation compliant with CITES estimated for Q3 2023.	Aug. 2023
32	India	18.10.1976	1	Identified as priority Party by SC69. Revised draft legislation in preparation but delayed due to Covid 19. Finalization and submission of draft legislation. Legislative analysis conducted by the Secretariat. Legislation ready to move to Category 1.	Placement in Category 1.	Aug. 2023
33	Iraq	06.05.2014	3	National committee for the preparation of national CITES legislation has been established. Observations on draft legislation provided by the Secretariat. Participated in online meeting in July 2020	Finalization and submission of draft legislation	March 2021
34	Kazakhstan	19.04.2000	2	Enabling and implementing legislation enacted and submitted in English to the	Revisions of existing legislation. Agreement between KZ and Secretariat	Aug. 2023

	Party	Entry into force of the Convention	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
				Secretariat in July 2016. KZ is preparing revised legislation to address gaps identified by the Secretariat. Further comments provided by the Secretariat in 2022. Kazakhstan submitted clarifications and information on amendments being prepared to the Secretariat in July 2023. Legislative analysis conducted by the Secretariat in August 2023.	on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	
35	Kenya	13.03.1979	2	Wildlife legislation enacted, but amendments underway to address concerns raised by the Secretariat.	Gazetting and submission revised implementing regulations. Agreement between KE and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Jan. 2020
36	Kyrgyzstan	02.09.2007	2	CITES legislation enacted and submitted to the Secretariat for analysis. KG revising legislation to address identified gaps.	Finalization and submission of revised legislation. Agreement between KG and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis	July 2018
37	Lao People's Democratic Republic	30.05.2004	2	Some legislation in place but significant gaps. Comprehensive legislative analysis completed. Identified as priority Party by SC69. Assistance available. Comments on draft CITES Decree provided by the Secretariat. Wildlife Law and Aquatic Animals and Fisheries Law expected to be promulgated in September 2023. Revised draft CITES decree finalized and submitted to the Secretariat for comments. Lao PDR needs to incorporate comments made by the Secretariat in a revised CITES Decree.	Finalization of CITES implementing legislation and amend provisions of existing national laws.	Aug. 2023
38	Lebanon	26.05.2013	3	Consultations between LB and the Secretariat are in their early stages; technical mission of the Secretariat under consideration	Review by LB and Secretariat of existing CITES-related legislation and agreement on legislative analysis	CoP17
39	Lesotho	30.12.2003	3	Enabling legislation (environmental) enacted. Comments provided by the Secretariat on revised draft implementing legislation. SSFA with UNEP completed.	Finalization and submission of draft legislation.	Sep. 2019
40	Liberia	09.06.1981	2	Subject to a recommendation to suspend commercial trade since SC66. New wildlife legislation enacted by Parliament and submitted to the Secretariat. A revised draft amendment to the National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law has been prepared and submitted to the Secretariat.	Submission and adoption of the Amendments by the Liberian Parliament. Agreement between LR and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis including possible Category 1 status. The draft contains the minimum requirements for	Aug. 2023

	Party	Entry into force of the Convention	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
				Comments on the revised draft provided by the Secretariat in Oct. 2021. A revised draft (Nov. 2021) was submitted to the Secretariat in August 2023. The Secretariat reviewed the draft and provided additional guidance. Draft currently pending with the Liberian Legislature.	inclusion in Category 1.	
41	Libya	28.04.2003	3	Draft legislation prepared but no translation into a working language provided to Secretariat. Second formal warning at SC71.	Upon receipt of English translation, LY and Secretariat should review draft and agree on any revisions needed to finalize it for submission	CoP17
42	Maldives	12.03.2013	1	SSFA with the Secretariat completed. Draft legislation prepared and submitted to the Parliament. Legislative analysis conducted by the Secretariat in July 2023. Legislation ready to move to Category 1.	Placement in Category 1.	Aug. 2023
43	Mali	16.10.1994	2	Legislation provided to the Secretariat for analysis. Draft analysis indicates some gaps in legislation to be addressed.	Agreement between Mali and the Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	CoP18
44	Mongolia	04.04.1996	2	Formal warning sent after SC69. Comments provided by the Secretariat on draft revision of legislation in August 2019	Finalization of draft and submission for enactment. Adoption and submission to the Secretariat.	CoP18
45	Montenegro	03.06.2006	2	CITES enabling legislation enacted in 2016. Rulebook on Trade in protected wild species of plants, animals, and fungi enacted in 2017. Legislative analysis sent to Montenegro in August 2023.	Agreement between ME and the Secretariat on revised legislative analysis.	Aug 2023
46	Mozambique	23.06.1981	2	CITES-specific legislation enacted. A comprehensive implementing regulation (Decree 34/2016) has been adopted and submitted to the Secretariat. Regulations translated in English in August 2023 and transmitted to the Secretariat for legislative analysis. Comments and clarifications sent to Mozambique on 29 August 2023.	Comments and clarifications from the Secretariat to be reviewed by Mozambique. Full translation of Decree 34/2016 and related Regulations to be provided to the Secretariat. Agreement between Mozambique and the Secretariat on revised legislative analysis.	Aug. 2023
47	Myanmar	11.09.1997	2	Revised CITES legislation enacted in May 2018. Implementing rules and regulations have been submitted for adoption by the Government.	Finalization, adoption and submission of implementing rules; agreement between MM and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis	July 2020
48	Nepal	16.09.1975	2	Legislation enacted in April 2017 and in force; recently submitted to the Secretariat for analysis. Implementing rules are being developed.	Development of implementing rules; agreement between Nepal and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Cat. 1 status	March 2019
49	Niger	07.12.1975	3	Comprehensive legislation adopted by Parliament.	Promulgation and submission to the Secretariat for revised legislative analysis, including	Apr. 2021

	Party	Entry into force of the Convention	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
					possible Category 1 status.	
50	North Macedonia	02.10.2000	2	CITES legislation enacted and submitted in English to the Secretariat who provided its observations in August 2016. Support available. Formal warning after SC70	Agreement between MK and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	July 2021
51	Oman	17.06.2008	3	Second formal warning at SC71. Draft legislation received in Feb. 2020. Observations provided by the Secretariat in March 2020. Participated in online meeting in July 2020. Draft legislation submitted to the Secretariat. Update on legislation provided in August 2023: final draft of national legislation was reviewed and approved by the national legal authority and is in the process of being approved to be adopted. Oman will provide the timeline for the remaining process when available. However, this update is the same as the update sent on 16.2.2020.	Comments to be provided by the Secretariat. Finalization and submission of draft legislation. Adoption of the law at the national level and transmission to the Secretariat for legislative analysis. Oman to provide calendar. However, this update is the same as the update sent on 16.2.2020.	Aug. 2023
52	Pakistan	19.07.1976	1	CITES law enacted at federal level. Secretariat's preliminary analysis of the legislation shared with Pakistan. Updates on the designation of the Management and Scientific Authorities sent to the Secretariat in July 2020, and further updates in 2023. Full legislative analysis conducted in August 2023 and further clarifications were received in September 2023. Legislation ready to move to Category 1.	Placement in Category 1.	Sept. 2023
53	Palau	15.07.2004	3	Secretariat provided comments on comprehensive draft legislation in December 2014. Legislative analysis conducted by the Secretariat on updated draft legislation and comments provided in July 2023.	Endorsement of the updated draft legislation by the Minister and issuance of the final draft legislation (Est. date: September 2023). Enactment and adoption of the legislation.	Aug. 2023
54	Philippines	16.11.1981	2	CITES enabling and implementing legislation enacted. Observations on the draft legislation provided in Feb. 2020. New timetable of activities to finalize the Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) on Introduction from the Sea submitted. Submission of a revised timetable to finalize the Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) on Introduction from the Sea to the Secretariat in August 2023: New estimated date of publication of the FAO: May 2024.	Agreement between PH and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Aug. 2023
55	Rwanda	18.01.1981	2	Final draft law and implementing regulations have been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and	Comments to be provided by the Secretariat. Agreement between RW and	August 2023

	Party	Entry into force of the Convention	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
				have been reviewed by the parliamentary Commission. The Law governing biological diversity has been approved and published in November 2021. Legislative analysis conducted by the Secretariat in August 2023. Comments and request for clarifications sent to Rwanda.	Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	
56	Saint Lucia	15.03.1983	2	Comments by the Secretariat provided on draft legislation	Finalization and submission of draft implementing legislation.	Oct. 2019
57	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	28.02.1989	2	CITES legislation enacted and submitted to the Secretariat for analysis. Observations provided by the Secretariat	Agreement between VC and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	Feb. 2020
58	Samoa	07.02.2005	3	Draft legislation prepared but needed revision; assistance provided by NZ. Revised draft legislation prepared and submitted for enactment	Submission of legislation	Oct. 2021
59	Sao Tome and Principe	07.11.2001	3	Commitment to prepare draft legislation; no recent information on status. Second formal warning at SC71	Preparation of draft legislation; drafting assistance needed	CoP17
60	Seychelles	09.05.1977	2	Draft enabling legislation adopted. Implementing legislation under preparation.	Finalization of implementing regulations.	Nov. 2021
61	Sierra Leone	26.01.1995	3	Wildlife Policy and Forest Policy adopted; amendments to related laws and regulations underway.	Finalization and submission of draft legislation	Feb. 2017
62	Somalia	02.03.1986	3	Subject to a recommendation to suspend trade since 30 April 2004. Observations provided on revised draft in Nov. 2019	Finalization and submission of draft legislation	CoP18
63	Sri Lanka	02.08.1979	3	Draft and comprehensive revised draft legislation prepared and submitted for enactment. Implementing regulation underway Legislative analysis conducted in August 2023. Request update on adoption of CITES Regulations sent on 1 August 2023.	Finalization of implementing regulations and agreement between LK and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Aug. 2023
64	Sudan	24.01.1983	2	Draft revised legislation submitted to parliament several years ago. Sudan has submitted draft legislation, but some concerns highlighted by the Secretariat still need to be addressed. Formal warning at SC70.	Review by SD and Secretariat and possible revision/updating of revised legislation to facilitate its enactment	Jan. 2020
65	Suriname	15.02.1981	2	CITES legislation enacted and submitted to the Secretariat for analysis – discussions on how to address remaining gaps are ongoing	Revised legislation to be developed to address identified gaps.	CoP18
66	Syrian Arab Republic	29.07.2003	3	Draft legislation prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Justice. Formal request for assistance. Participated in online meeting in July 2020	Review/revision of draft legislation by SY and Secretariat; finalization and submission of draft legislation	Dec. 2021

	Party	Entry into force of the Convention	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
67	Togo	21.01.1979	2	SSFA in place with the CITES Secretariat. Observations on draft bill provided by the Secretariat. Draft legislation submitted to the Secretariat.	Comments to be provided by the Secretariat. Finalization and submission of draft legislation	Sep. 2021
68	Trinidad and Tobago	18.04.1984	2	Comprehensive draft legislation prepared and reviewed by Secretariat; commitment at Ministerial level to complete the legislative process; formal request for assistance	Finalization and submission of draft legislation	Aug. 2021
69	Tunisia	01.07.1975	2	Comprehensive revised draft and revised draft legislation prepared; text reviewed by TN and Secretariat. Analysis done 24 August 2023. Draft legislation contains most mandatory requirements for Category 1. Draft legislation to submitted to the Assembly of people's representatives for adoption. Formal warning after SC69.	Adoption of the law by the Assembly. Agreement between TN and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Aug. 2023
70	Uganda	16.10.1991	3	Enabling legislation adopted by the Parliament in late 2019. Implementing regulations drafted and observations provided by the Secretariat. Revised draft of regulations submitted to the Secretariat.	Comments to be provided by the Secretariat. Finalization of implementing regulations, followed by agreement between UG and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis	Dec. 2021
71	United Republic of Tanzania	27.02.1980	2	Implementing regulation for United Republic of Tanzania in place. Regulations for Zanzibar have also been adopted.	Official designation of the Scientific Authority and Official publication of the appendices to be sent to the Secretariat. Agreement between TZ and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Apr. 2021
72	Uzbekistan	08.10.1997	2	Identified as priority Party by SC69. Draft revised legislation prepared and additional observations by the Secretariat provided in July 2018. Meeting organized with the new CITES Focal Point in August 2021 to address some gaps in the draft legislation. Draft legislation further modified in 2021/2022 after political reforms conducted in Uzbekistan. Legislative analysis conducted in August 2023 by the Secretariat and comments sent.	Finalization and submission of revised legislation to CITES Secretariat for further legislative analysis.	Aug. 2023
73	Zambia	22.02.1981	2	CITES Statutory Instrument enacted. Observations on draft implementing rules provided by Secretariat in January 2018. New Wildlife Bill being drafted. CITES Statutory Instrument will be revised after adoption of the redrafted Wildlife Bill. Legislative analysis of both instruments conducted by the	Enactment of the new Wildlife Bill by first quarter of 2024. Then, revision of the CITES Statutory Instrument. Finalization and submission of finals draft legislations for legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Aug. 2023

	Party	Entry into force of the Convention	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps	Last update
				Secretariat in August 2023.		

Table 2: Recently acceded Parties⁹

	Party	Entry into force	Cat.	Progress summary	Next steps/needs	Last update
1	Andorra	4 January 2022	P	National legislation and other texts received 19 July 2023 but in Catalan. Andorra will prepare translations of all instruments for legislative review (24 July 2023).	Agreement between TZ and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status.	Aug. 2023
2	Tajikistan	30.03.2016	P	Consultations between TJ and Secretariat are in early stages. Formal request for assistance.	Review of existing CITES-related legislation and preparation of draft to fill possible gaps.	May 2018
3	Tonga	20.10.2016	P	Draft CITES-related legislation (regulations) prepared with input from the CITES Secretariat. Assistance provided by NZ.	Finalization of regulations. Adoption, gazetting and submission to the CITES Secretariat for analysis.	July 2021

⁹ P: Parties acceding less than eight years ago - pending submission of legislation to the Secretariat

Table 3: Dependent territories¹⁰

Dependent territory	Cat.	Dep.	Progress summary	Next steps/needs	Last update
American Samoa	1	US			CoP17
Anguilla	1	GB			CoP17
Aruba	2	NL	CITES legislation enacted. Documents in English submitted to the Secretariat for review.	Comments to be provided by the Secretariat. Agreement between NL and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	Dec. 2021
Bailiwick of Guernsey	1	GB			April 2019
Bailiwick of Jersey	1	GB			CoP17
Bermuda	2	GB	On 2 May 2023, submitted Bermuda's revised Endangered Animals and Plants Act 2006 and amending legislation, the Endangered Animals and Plants Amendment Act 2022. Legislative analysis conducted by the Secretariat in August 2023. Legislation ready to move to Category 1.	Finalization, submission and enactment of amended legislation. Agreement on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	Aug. 2023
British Virgin Islands	2	GB	Final draft legislation has been prepared and passed through the legislature. Legislation met the requirements for Category 1 but an amendment of the Schedule of the Law was required. The required amendment was passed. Legislative analysis conducted by the Secretariat in August 2023. Legislation ready to move to Category 1.	Adoption and entry into force of legislation. Agreement between GB and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including likely Category 1 status.	Aug. 2023
Caribbean Netherlands	2	NL	CITES legislation enacted. Documents in English submitted to the Secretariat for review.	Comments to be provided by the Secretariat. Agreement between NL and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	Dec. 2021
Cayman Islands (CIG)	1	GB			March 2017
Curacao	2	NL	CITES legislation enacted. Documents in English submitted to the Secretariat for review.	Comments to be provided by the Secretariat. Agreement between NL and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	Dec. 2021
French Guiana	1	FR			CoP17
French Polynesia	1	FR			July 2019
Gibraltar	1	GB			CoP17
Greenland	2	DK	Comprehensive CITES legislation enacted; review by Greenland and Secretariat identified important gaps; comments by the Secretariat provided on draft revised legislation	Agreement by Greenland and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including Category 1 status	March 2020
Guadeloupe	1	FR			CoP17
Guam	1	US			CoP17
Hong Kong SAR	1	CN			CoP17

¹⁰ **Dep.:** two-letter ISO code of the State of which the territory is a dependency.

Dependent territory	Cat.	Dep.	Progress summary	Next steps/needs	Last update
Isle of Man	1	GB			CoP17
Macao SAR	2	CN	Comprehensive legislation and implementing regulation adopted and entered into force. Submitted to the Secretariat in Oct. 2017.	Agreement between Macao SAR and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	Oct. 2017
Martinique	1	FR			CoP17
Montserrat	2	GB	Amended Trade in Endangered Species Act passed but not yet commenced. The Act entered into force on 31 January 2022. Work is now underway to amend the Act's Schedule of CITES-listed species so that it reflects the updated Appendices. The Act provides for amendment of its Schedule by Order of the Governor.	Formal approval of the designation of MA and SA and update of the schedule of species. Commencement of legislation and agreement on revised legislative analysis, including Category 1 status	Aug. 2023
New Caledonia	1	FR			July 2019
Northern Mariana Islands	1	US			CoP17
Pitcairn Islands	1	GB			CoP17
Puerto Rico	1	US			CoP17
Réunion	1	FR			CoP17
Saint Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha	2	GB	St Helena's Ordinance entered into force in February 2016 and achieved Category 1 status, subject to MA and SA designation. MA appointed in 2017. SA designation is in progress. Legislation of Tristan da Cunha and Legislation of Ascension Island have been placed in Category 1.	For St Helena, establishment of the Scientific Authority under the provisions of the Ordinance. Agreement that the legislation can be placed in Category 1 as soon as the SA is operational.	Aug. 2023
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	1	FR			CoP17
Sint Maarten	2	NL	CITES legislation enacted. Division of tasks/separation of duties between the CITES MA and CITES SA arranged in 2020. Documents in English submitted to the Secretariat for review.	Comments to be provided by the Secretariat. Agreement between NL and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	Dec. 2021
Virgin Islands of the United States	1	US			CoP17
Wallis and Futuna Islands	2	FR	CITES legislation enacted	Agreement between FR and Secretariat on revised legislative analysis, including possible Category 1 status	July 2019