

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3-8 February 2025

Strategic matters

COOPERATION WITH MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat to provide an update on its collaboration on sustainable and legal management of CITES-listed tree species and forests and to add a recommendation for consideration by the Standing Committee.
2. In preparation for the 20th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF20; 5 to 9 May 2025, New York, USA), the Chair of UNFF20 invited the Chair of the Standing Committee (United States of America, Ms. Rosemarie Gnam) through the letter in the Annex to this addendum to provide information on CITES contributions to the omnibus resolution contained in E/2024/42, particularly its paragraphs 5 a) and 5 b) by specifying how CITES strengthens collaboration and support to the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF – of which the CITES Secretariat is a member); and integrates the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF), the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and associated targets into the plans and operational programmes of work of the CPF members in accordance with their respective mandates and to take mutually beneficial decisions on strengthening the CPF.
3. The Secretariat notes that the feedback requested by UNFF can largely be addressed by the preliminary findings of the (ongoing) interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests (Decision 19.32) available in document SC78 Doc. 19. The Secretariat therefore proposes that the response to the Chair of UNFF, pending any feedback from the Standing Committee on the CITES and forests study, should include reference to the study and emphasize the contribution made by CITES Parties to sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation through the implementation of the provisions of the Convention relating to non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings.

Additional recommendation:

4. The Standing Committee is invited to:

[...] (existing recommendations in paragraph 32 of document SC78 Doc. 16 remain the same)

- f) request the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, to finalize a response to the letter received from the Chair of UNFF20 using as a basis the present addendum, as well as any relevant feedback received at the present meeting.

United Nations Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS | SIEGE | NEW YORK, NY 10017

Reference: UNFF-24-RN-L-211

18 July 2024

Dear Ms. Gnam,

I am pleased to bring to your attention the report of the nineteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF19) as contained in document [E/2024/42](#) available at the [Forum website](#). This official report of the session contains the outcomes of UNFF19, including its “Omnibus Resolution” and the “Quadrennial Programme of Work of the Forum for the period 2025-2028”, as well as a “High-level Segment Declaration”. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is scheduled to adopt these outcomes on 23 July 2024.

UNFF19, convened from 6 to 10 May 2024 at UN headquarters in New York, was a historic session as the Forum undertook its midterm review of effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and charted the future direction of the Arrangement towards 2030.

The UNFF19 Omnibus Resolution and the HLS Declaration contain numerous provisions regarding the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and its member organizations. These signify the critical importance of the work of the CPF and its members in making progress towards achievement of the objectives of the IAF. To further strengthen the Partnership, several invitations in the UNFF19 omnibus resolution are addressed to the governing bodies of the CPF member organizations.

According to paragraph 5a, and 5b of this resolution, ECOSOC invites the governing bodies of the CPF to:

- a. Strengthen collaboration and support to the work of the CPF; and
- b. Integrate the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF), the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and associated targets into the plans and operational programmes of work of the CPF members in accordance with their respective mandates and to take mutually beneficial decisions on strengthening the CPF.

Ms. Rosemarie Gnam
Chair of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

In my capacity as the Chair of UNFF20, it is my distinct pleasure to share these outcomes with you as the Chair of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It would be appreciated if the above-mentioned invitations could be brought to the attention of your respective body for any appropriate follow up.

I look forward to further advancing collaboration between CITES and the UNFF on mutual areas of interest, in particular, implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 and its Global Forest Goals.

Sincerely,



Ismail Belen
Chair of the Twentieth Session of the
United Nations Forum on Forests

cc: Ms. Ivonne Higuero
Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of
Wild Fauna and Flora

Ms. Juliette Biao
Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests