

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

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.*

3. The Secretariat presented progress on the implementation of Decisions 19.32 and 19.33 to the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting (SC77; Geneva, November 2023) in document [SC77 Doc. 21](#). The Standing Committee noted progress in the implementation of the Decisions; agreed to delay implementation of Decision 19.34, paragraphs c) and d) until the outcomes of the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests were available; and invited the Secretariat to incorporate in its report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee the challenges and opportunities associated with any future initiative relating to CITES-listed forest species (see summary record [SC77 SR](#)).
4. At the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC27; July, Geneva 2024), in document PC27 Doc. 12, the Secretariat provided an update on the implementation of Decisions 19.32 to 19.34 on *CITES and forests* and informed the Committee that the interdisciplinary study to assist decision-making processes on the future of any initiative relating to CITES and forests had been initiated. The Secretariat has been collaborating with the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO; Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad) on the study, and they provided a brief overview on the approach and methodology.
5. At PC27, the Plants Committee:
  - a) noted the feedback provided on the progress reported on the implementation of Decision 19.32; and
  - b) agreed the proposed approach reflected in paragraphs 9 and 10 of document PC27 Doc. 12 to provide the opportunity to Members of the Plants Committee to provide scientific or technical advice on the preliminary results of the interdisciplinary study to assist decision-making processes on the future of any initiative relating to CITES and forests, ahead of the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.
6. Accordingly, the Secretariat shared with the Plants Committee an advance draft of the *Report on the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests*. As the study is still ongoing, the draft indicated as placeholders the chapters that were under development. The draft was thus structured as follows:
  - Chapter 1 consists of an interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests, using as a baseline the relevant CITES documentation and outcomes from the intersessional periods between CoP18 to CoP20. This chapter included an analysis of 1) the interactions between the *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030* and

the Global Forest Commitments (GFCs)<sup>1</sup> (including multilateral environmental agreements, relevant UN resolutions and others), and 2) the description of the methodology used for the assessment of contributions of CITES processes and projects (CITES Forest Compendium) to conservation and sustainable use of tree species and forests.

- Chapter 2 would include an assessment of the potential scope of an initiative on CITES and forests that will enhance the implementation of the Convention as it relates to forests (with a focus on tree species) while contributing to the achievement of other international commitments. At the time of review by the Plants Committee, this section was still under development.
- Chapter 3 would include preliminary recommendations to enhance the timely and effective implementation of the Convention with respect to CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species, and CITES' contribution to GFCs, in support of the Standing Committee's implementation of Decision 19.34. At the time of review by the Plants Committee, this section was still under development.

#### Outcomes of consultations with the Plants Committee following PC27

7. The Plants Committee welcomed the progress of the study and emphasized the importance of ensuring alignment with the Terms of Reference (ToR) outlined in Annex 2 of [SC77 Doc. 21](#), which reflect key advancements in implementing Decision 19.33. While acknowledging the study's value, it was suggested that the report be revised to better address the analytical framework, including the inclusion of livelihoods as a key element, and clearer explanations of how all considerations in the ToR will be addressed. In addition, it was recommended to include detailed datasets for the *Matrix on CITES-forest interactions* to strengthen the study's findings.
8. Feedback from the North American Region's representative highlighted the importance of focusing the study on forest and tree species, rather than broadening its scope to other global forest commitments. While recognizing the potential for collaboration, it was noted that recommendations should remain specific to forests and tree species, respecting the mandates of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). There was also encouragement to engage more deeply with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to strengthen synergies and address gaps. A focus on practical, specific resource mobilization was suggested to ensure that recommendations are actionable and aligned with CITES' species-specific objectives.
9. Overall, the study was seen as promising, with valuable input for refining the report's conclusions. There was general agreement that a revised version should be presented to the Plants Committee for further review before the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) to ensure that it offers clear, practical guidance on strengthening conservation and sustainable trade of CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species.
10. In the Annex to the present document, the Secretariat has included the draft of the *Report on the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests* as of 5 December 2024. It reflects substantial progress in the implementation of Decision 19.32, considering the compendium as agreed at PC26; and Decision 19.33. CONABIO is in the process of incorporating all comments from the Plants Committee.
11. Feedback on the report from the Standing Committee at SC78 as per Decision 19.34 will allow the Secretariat to prepare a second draft for additional intersessional consultations with the Plants and Standing Committees following SC78, and to prepare a final report for CoP20. The Secretariat will also include an assessment of the implementation of Decisions 19.32 to 19.34 for CoP20, including a proposed way forward whether it be a revision to the current mandates or new decisions on CITES and forests that will build upon the progress achieved during the CoP19-CoP20 intersessional period.

#### Recommendations

12. The Standing Committee is invited to:

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of the report, global forest commitments (GFC) encompass a range of instruments, frameworks, and initiatives that articulate explicit commitments to sustainable forest management, conservation and restoration. These commitments can range from the legally binding, such as requirements under CITES, or non-binding as per strategic frameworks, resolutions and decisions of relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

- a) in accordance with Decision 19.34 paragraph a), consider progress made in the implementation of Decisions 19.32 and 19.33 as reported in the present document;
- b) in accordance with Decision 19.34 paragraphs b) to d), provide preliminary feedback on the draft of the *Report on the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests* as of 5 December 2024 contained in the Annex to the present document, particularly where it relates to the development of recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Convention with respect to CITES-listed forest species;
- c) request the Secretariat to share a revised *Report of the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests* with all completed Chapters for comment by the Plants and Standing Committees, through their Chairs, in advance of CoP20; and
- d) request the Secretariat to submit a final *Report of the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests*, incorporating the outcomes of the post-SC78 intersessional consultations [see recommendation c) above], an assessment of the implementation of Decisions 19.32 to 19.34, and recommendations relating to revised or new decisions on CITES and forests, for consideration at CoP20.

# Report on the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests

Prepared under Decision 19.32, paragraph b) \*

*\*The present report is a draft of progress as of 5 December 2024 for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting (SC78)*

Draft version 1

Prepared under contract for the CITES Secretariat by the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO).

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#### **Acknowledgments**

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The Secretariat appreciates the crucial role and dedication of CONABIO's team in the preparation of this study.

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## Executive summary

[Section to be developed]

DRAFT



## List of key terms, acronyms and abbreviations

*[section under development]*

- C&I: criteria and indicators.
- CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity.
- CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- CONABIO: Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity).
- CSV: CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030.
- FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization.
- GFC: Global Forest Commitments.
- IPLC: Indigenous People and Local Communities.
- ITTA: International Tropical Timber Agreement.
- ITTO: International Tropical Timber Organization.
- KM-GBF: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- NDC: nationally determined contribution.
- SDG: Sustainable Development Goals.
- SFT-LMR: Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region.
- SSFA: Small-Scale Funding Agreement.
- UNDER: United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030.
- UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- UNFF: United Nations Forum on Forests.
- UNSPF: United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030.

## Introduction and overview of the report

### 1. Introduction

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, and that international co-operation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade.

In recent years, the listings of flora species in the Appendices have steadily increased, and particularly those of tree species, supported *inter alia* by the urgent need to address threats posed by potentially unsustainable levels of international trade. Currently, CITES regulates international trade of over 800 tree species.

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:

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  - 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.*

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](#), which includes the 'CITES Forest Compendium: CoP19-CoP20' as agreed by the Plants Committee at PC26, and in accordance with Decision 19.32 paragraph a). The CITES Forest Compendium: CoP19-CoP20 (Annex I) is the guiding route of the study called for in paragraph b) of Decision 19.32, as it identifies and compiles: a) Resolutions that may provide a strategic or policy framework for any new initiative on CITES and forests; b) Decisions relevant to tree-species with potential for implementation via a programmatic approach for any new initiative on CITES and forests; and c) examples of cross-cutting processes of the Convention that contribute to global forest-relevant mandates and forest policies and initiatives under a potential CITES and forests programmatic approach.

Since the adoption of Decisions 19.32 to 19.34, the Secretariat has reported progress in their implementation to the Plants Committee at its 26th (PC26, Geneva 2023) meeting, to the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting (SC77; Geneva, November 2023) and more recently to the Plants Committee at its 27th meeting (PC27; Geneva, July 2024) through document PC27 Doc. 12. Document PC27 Doc. 12 summarizes the background that led to the adoption of the decisions on CITES and forests at CoP19 and included progress on the study called for in Decision 19.32 paragraph b).

With regards to paragraph b) of Decision 19.32, through an open call for proposals the Secretariat identified Mexico's National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO; *Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad*) as the implementing partner to support the development of the study, which was financed through the contribution of the European Union. The Secretariat is grateful for the support provided.

In April 2024, the CITES Secretariat and CONABIO formalized their partnership in the implementation of the study via a small-scale funding agreement (SSFA).

On 10 July 2024 the Secretariat organized, in partnership with CONABIO, a [side event](#) at PC27 to showcase progress in the implementation of the interdisciplinary study and gather preliminary feedback. Later at PC27, following consideration of document PC27 Doc. 12, the Plants Committee noted the feedback from members and observing Parties, including aspects relating to livelihoods and examining not only the conservation of tree species but also the broader implications of sustainable harvesting on the ecosystems they inhabit, highlighting the interdependencies between species and their habitats (see [PC27 SR](#)), and agreed on a process to allow for the Plants Committee to provide scientific or technical advice on preliminary results ahead of the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78).

In support to the implementation of Decision 19.32, the present report seeks to map the interlinkages between the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 (henceforward the CSV) and key Global Forest Commitments (GFC), and how actions implemented as part of CITES have contributed over time to the conservation of tree species and thus forests by promoting their sustainable use, through a species-specific approach. It will also explore the benefits and challenges of an expanded range of approaches in implementing CITES for tree species and the forests they are part of, ranging from a species-specific approach to an ecosystem-based approach, and the range of options in between that spectrum. On this basis, recommendations will be made on key points regarding new or how to improve existing partnerships, opportunities to enhance implementation of the CITES Forest Compendium, and pros, cons and approaches to provide the Parties with elements to consider on the scope of a possible initiative on CITES and Forests.

## **2. Objective and structure of the report in support of the implementation of Decision 19.32**

The overall objective of this report is to support the implementation of the interdisciplinary study called for in paragraph b) of Decision 19.32. Therefore, in accordance with the terms of reference and scope agreed

by the Plants Committee at PC26 (PC26 SR), the present report is structured in three chapters in alignment with the expected outputs of the partnership agreement between the CITES Secretariat and CONABIO:

- Chapter 1 (Output 1): A (draft) interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests, using as a baseline the relevant CITES documentation and outcomes from the intersessional periods between CoP18 to CoP20.

*N.B.: This chapter will include analysis on 1) the interactions between CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 (CSV) and Global Forest Commitments or GFC (Matrix 1), and 2) the contributions of CITES processes and projects (CITES Forest Compendium) to conservation and sustainable use of tree species and forests (Matrix 2) [Note: CONABIO is in the mid-stages of this Chapter at the time of preparing this report].*

- Chapter 2 (Output 2): An assessment of the potential scope of an initiative on CITES and forests that will enhance the implementation of the Convention as it relates to forests (with a focus on tree species) while contributing to the achievement of other international commitments.

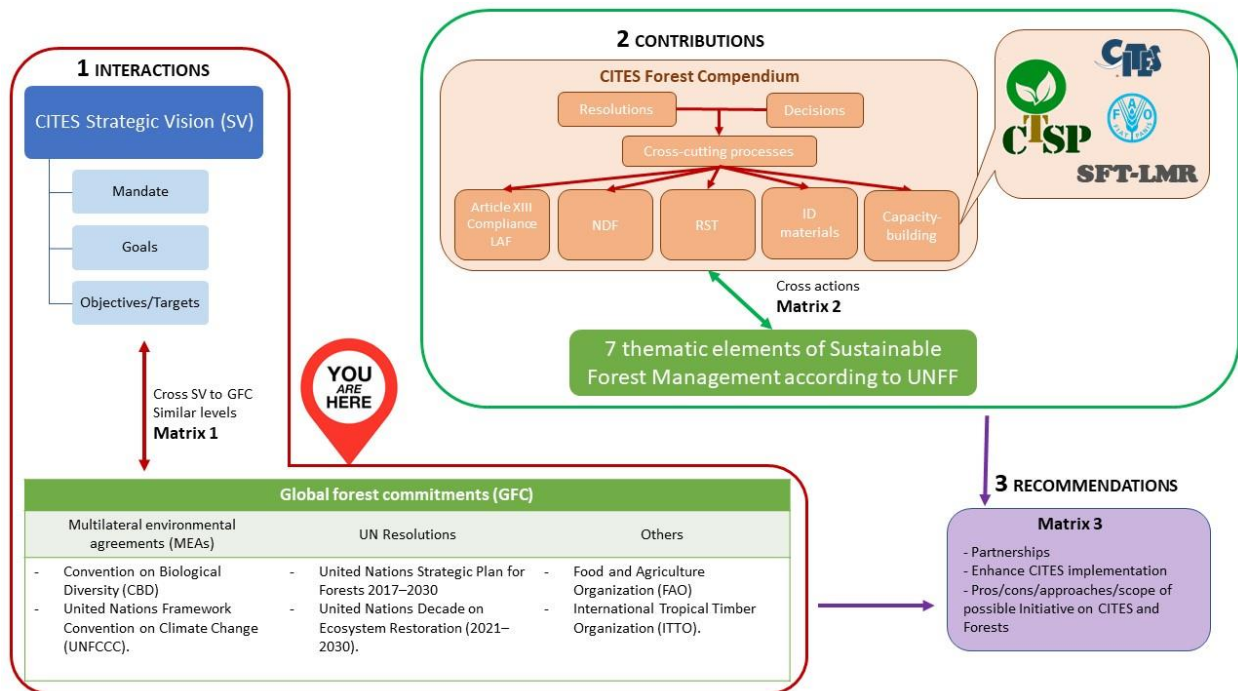
*N.B.: This chapter will include an analysis to identify which CITES actions providing for conservation and sustainable use of forests/trees also contribute to global forest commitments (Matrix 3) and what are the challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the CITES Forest Compendium [Note: CONABIO is in the early stages of this Chapter at the time of preparing this report].*

- Chapter 3 (Output 3): Preliminary recommendations to enhance the timely and effective implementation of the Convention with respect to CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species, and CITES' contribution to global forest commitments (GFC), in support of the Standing Committee's implementation of Decision 19.34.

*N.B.: Based on the convergence of previous analysis, issue recommendations to enhance the implementation of the CITES Forest Compendium, key points for new (or how to improve existing) partnerships, and the potential scope of an initiative on CITES and Forests that will enhance the implementation of CITES as it relates to tree species and forests while contributing to the achievement of other GFC. See also notes ahead under the placeholder for this chapter.*

Figure 1 illustrates the structure of the report, and how each of the three chapters (outputs) outlined above are linked.

*[Note: At the time of writing the report, CONABIO has completed the first analysis of the GFCs (Matrix 1 of Chapter 1) and incorporated initial comments received from the Plants Committees, as well as a preview of the analysis of CITES contributions to conservation and sustainable use of tree species/forests (Matrix 2 of Chapter 1). Progress or updates on the approach for Chapters 2 and 3 are detailed in relevant sections ahead.]*



Note: SFT-LMR stands for "Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region"

**Figure 1.-** Overview of the three core analyses within the interdisciplinary study on CITES and Forests.

## Chapter 1: [Draft] Interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests

### 3. Methodology for output 1

#### Sub-activity 1.1:

The analysis of the interlinkages and complementarities between CITES' Strategic Vision and the selected global forest commitments (GFC) followed these steps:

#### a) Prioritization of Global Forest Commitments (GFC)

For the purpose of this study, Global Forest Commitments (GFC) encompass a range of instruments, frameworks, and initiatives that articulate explicit commitments to sustainable forest management, conservation, and restoration. These commitments may be legally binding, such as obligations under international conventions like the UNFCCC and CITES, or non-binding, as reflected in resolutions, decisions and strategic frameworks adopted by multilateral organizations, including CBD. For example, legally binding commitments could include nationally determined contributions (NDCs) related to land use and forestry, while non-binding commitments might include resolutions and decisions that encourage Parties to adopt best practices in forest governance and biodiversity conservation. This dual perspective allows for an inclusive understanding of how GFCs contribute to the sustainable use of forests and tree species. These commitments may include goals, objectives, targets, principles or strategic actions. A list of GFCs initially considered for analysis is contained in Annex II.

A preliminary list of GFC was reviewed and considered in consultation with CITES Secretariat to prioritize those that were more: 1) relevant in relation to forests and tree species conservation and sustainable use, 2) updated/current and 3) comparable in their components (mandates, goals, objectives, targets, principles or strategic actions) with the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 (CSV).

After careful consideration, the following 6 GFC were prioritized for the study:

Multilateral environmental agreements (MEA):

- i. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)
- ii. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) considering its implementation framework under the Paris Agreement.

United Nations Resolutions:

- iii. United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF): UN General Assembly Resolution [71/285](#) (on the recommendation of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) as the subsidiary body that promotes the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and strengthens long-term political commitment).
- iv. United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 (UNDER): UN General Assembly Resolution [73/284](#).

Other:

- v. Forestry Programme/Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024-2031 of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- vi. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) as the implementing mechanism/body of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), through the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2022-2025.

[Note: feedback from the Plants Committee included a proposal to include the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 about Life on Land (and its targets) as a 7th GFC into Matrix 1 – *in progress*].

#### b) Scope for the analysis

The interactions between components (mandates, goals, objectives, targets, principles or strategic actions) of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030 and the GFC were analyzed qualitatively. Although indicator level was originally considered, since not all the GFC have indicators to measure achievement of their objectives/mandates, the analysis was made at a broader/strategic level.

When reviewing the mandates, goals, objectives, targets, principles or strategic actions of each GFC, some alignment of the content was needed since the levels of information varied within each of these components. For example, when analyzing the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2022–2026 against the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030, the four strategic priorities and four crosscutting strategies of ITTO were compared with the CITES objectives as they have the same level of detail. Meanwhile, ITTO's 38 associated targets were not taken into consideration since they describe much more specific actions.

Both the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement and UNDER are not structured in a clear objective-goal-target format like the CSV. Instead, they are framed as:

- i) in the case of UNFCCC and its implementation under the Paris Agreement: articles that outline principles, commitments, and mechanisms to achieve its overarching goal of limiting global temperature rise, enhancing adaptation, and ensuring financial and technological support.
- ii) In the case of UNDER: key principles, commitments, and overarching aims focusing on fostering global cooperation, enhancing policies and capacity-building, and scaling up restoration efforts, providing a broad, flexible framework rather than specific, measurable targets.

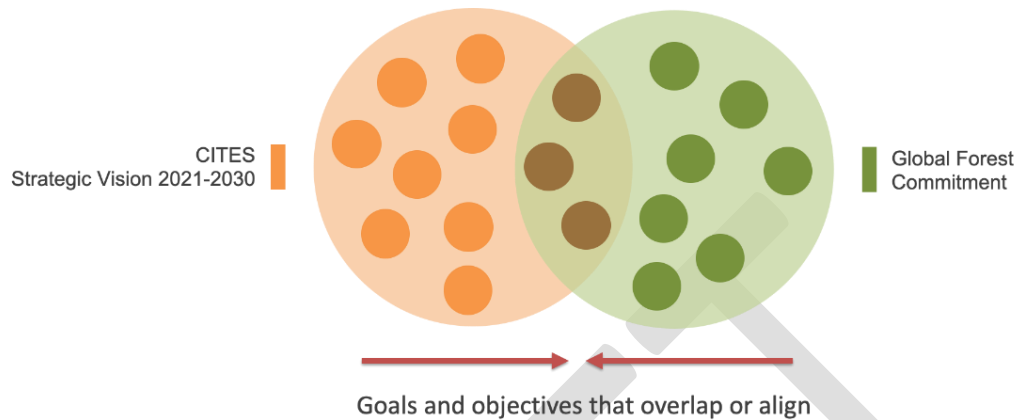
This difference in structure means that the comparative analysis required extracting the relevant themes, priorities, and actions from both texts and mapping them against the more specific goals and objectives of CITES. This approach helped to align the analysis of both documents based on their thematic content and strategic focus areas. The structural difference of both GFCs led to a more general level for the analysis of intersections, complementarities and gaps.

#### c) Types and extent of interactions

Three types and three levels of interactions between CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030 (CSV) and GFC were defined and qualitatively analyzed as follows:

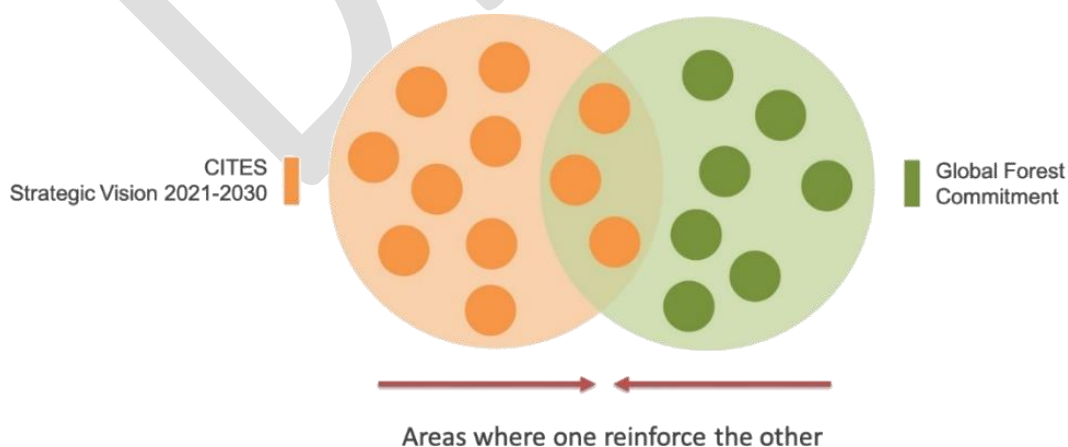
- i. **Intersections:** the degree of similarity or alignment between the goals and objectives of the CSV and those of the selected GFC. Intersections indicate how aligned both frameworks are in terms of shared priorities, such as species conservation, sustainable trade, and ecosystem management. The

analysis is bidirectional but primarily focused on evaluating how CITES' goals and objectives align with the selected GFC. Specifically, the examination was developed on whether CITES species-specific trade regulations intersect with the GFC's broader efforts and components, particularly for tree species or forests. Therefore, the direction of the intersection examines whether both frameworks are pursuing similar outcomes through related or similar actions.



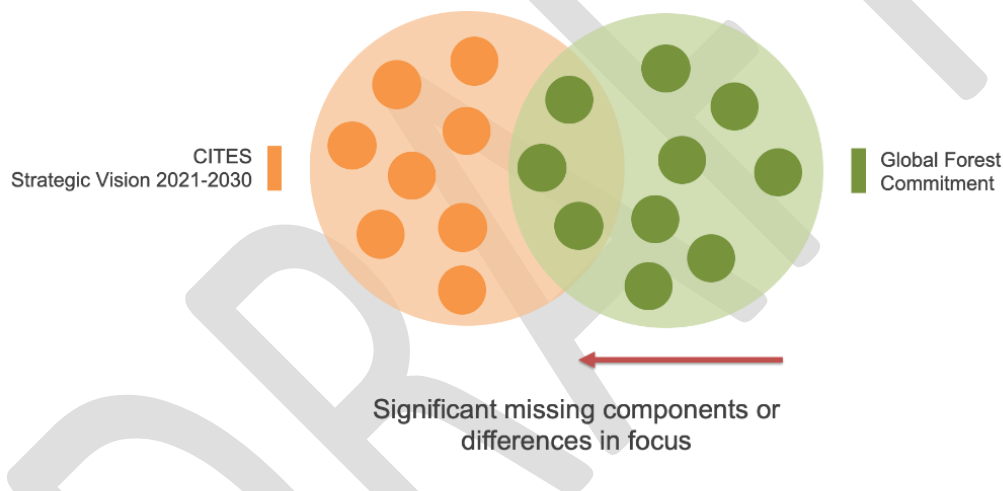
- Ranking (level):
  - High: There is significant alignment in goals, objectives, or actions between CSV and the GFC, leading to a clear overlap in outcomes, especially regarding the protection of species in trade and forest ecosystems.
  - Medium: There is a partial overlap where both frameworks target similar objectives but with different approaches or priorities (e.g., CITES focuses on species trade, CBD Forests Program on ecosystems).
  - Low: There is minimal or indirect overlap, where the frameworks focus on largely unrelated goals, sectors, or species.

ii. **Complementarities:** areas where CSV and the GFC do not directly overlap but instead reinforce each other by addressing different but related aspects associated with tree species or forests. Complementarities emerge when one framework provides data, approaches, or strategies that enhance or support the other framework's effectiveness, by focusing on different but interconnected elements. The analysis of complementarities considered the bidirectional relationship between CSV and the selected GFC, focusing on how the GFC's goals, objectives and/or strategies benefit from CITES' species-specific trade regulations, while also examining how CITES can benefit from the broader environmental data and ecosystem recovery strategies provided by the GFC.



- Ranking (level):

- High: There is strong complementarity, meaning both frameworks strongly reinforce each other in achieving conservation and sustainable use outcomes (e.g. GFC addressing ecosystem threats, CITES addressing species-specific trade threats).
  - Medium: The frameworks complement each other to a moderate degree, meaning one fills certain gaps or provides context, but they are not strongly dependent on each other to achieve their objectives.
  - Low: There is limited or no complementarity, meaning the frameworks are largely independent of one another or their efforts do not reinforce each other in a significant way.
- iii. **Gaps:** degree to which there are significant missing components or differences in focus between CSV and the selected GFC. Gaps highlight areas where CSV is unable to address an issue that is important for the other, such as environmental threats not covered by CITES but addressed by the selected GFC. The analysis examines areas where CSV and the selected GFC do not overlap or complement each other, highlighting additional components that are critical for achieving comprehensive sustainable forest management. The direction of gap analysis looks at what CSV does not address but the selected GFC covers (e.g., CSV focuses on species-specific trade regulation, while the GFC covers sustainable use, restoration, deforestation, inter alia). This approach is used to identify areas where CITES could benefit from the selected GFC's broader environmental approach or where the selected GFC compensates CITES' narrower trade-specific scope.



- Ranking (level, colors inverted):
  - High: There is a significant gap, meaning CSV does not address key components that are essential for species or forest ecosystem conservation and sustainable use (e.g. habitat restoration, resource mobilization, biodiversity mainstreaming, inter alia) which are covered by the selected GFC.
  - Medium: Some gaps exist but are not critical for achieving CSV' primary goals. For example, while CITES focuses on trade, other broader threats (e.g., deforestation) are covered by the selected GFC, but the absence in CSV does not directly undermine its objectives.
  - Low: There is minimal gap, meaning the frameworks cover areas needed for effective species conservation, even if they approach it from different angles (e.g., CITES regulates trade, the selected GFC manages ecosystems).

d) Matrix 1 (M1)

Matrix 1 (M1) structures the analysis of Intersections, Complementarities and Gaps between the CSV and the selected GFC components. Below is a description of the key components of the Matrix for each GFC analyzed:

- i) **CSV Goal - Objective:** The first column contains the Goals of the CITES Strategic Vision (CSV). Each objective under each goal is also listed, specifying how Parties comply with their obligations.



- ii) **Selected Global Forest Commitments:** The second column lists corresponding components from the selected Global Forest Commitment. These are presented in relation to the specific CITES objective.
- iii) **Intersection Level:** This column describes how closely aligned the CITES objectives are with the corresponding components of the selected GFC. It uses qualitative rankings (“High”, “Medium”, “Low” as previously described) and provides a brief explanation of the intersection.
- iv) **Complementary Level:** areas where the CITES objectives complement the GFC components, indicating how one framework might enhance the other. Complementarity is also qualitatively ranked.
- v) **Gap Level:** areas where there is a gap between CITES and the selected GFC in addressing biodiversity-related goals. Gaps are also ranked qualitatively.
- vi) **Intersections, Complementarities, Gaps Levels (alternative columns):** These columns offer an alternative format for representing intersection, complementarity and gap levels, repeating the qualitative ranking of how well the CITES objectives align or complement the selected GFC. These columns provide an immediate visual understanding of how closely aligned or divergent the two frameworks are.
- vii) **Results and findings:** The final column contains main results and key findings drawn from the comparative analysis of the CITES Strategic Vision and the selected GFC, summarizing how well the CITES goals and objectives are aligned with the GFC’s components. This column also highlights any significant findings indicating areas for potential or greater integration between frameworks and some recommendations.

Annex III shows a summarized version of Matrix 1 based on the alternative columns above described, to facilitate review. It consists of an Excel file with six sheets, one for each GFC analysed. The key findings and a set of preliminary recommendations can be found in sections 4 and 5 of this report. Annex IV contains the full version of Matrix 1.

#### e) Stakeholder outreach

Representatives of each of the selected GFCs were contacted via email to obtain comments/feedback on the analyses carried out so far and to collect additional information. They were asked to review the Report on the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests (previous version shared with Plants Committee), and a summary of the preliminary analysis on the intersections, complementarities, and gaps between the CITES Strategic Vision (CSV) and relevant policies/mandates of the GFC (Matrix 1 – full and summarized). The following questions were included in the communications:

1. Are you familiar with the CITES Forest Compendium (available at <https://cites.org/eng/topics/flora/cites-and-forests>) or with any of the CITES Decisions/Resolutions listed in it?
2. What is the extent of your organization’s collaboration with CITES on issues related to forests/tree species to date?
3. How does current work carried out by your organization contribute to implementation of CITES listings for tree species and/or the CITES Forest Compendium?
4. What opportunities and/or challenges exist within your organization to collaborate with CITES?
5. Can you suggest possible fund-raising avenues that could contribute to greater (or more effective) collaboration between your organization and CITES on forest issues (eg UNFF Global Forest Finance Facilitation Network, development banks, foundations, etc)?
6. What is the role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in fostering greater cooperation between CITES and relevant GFCs?
7. Can you propose any additional partnerships (beyond your organization and other CPF members) that CITES should consider partnering with on forest issues?
8. What role(s), if any, do you/your organization see CITES playing at the forest ecosystem level in promoting sustainable forest management and the conservation of forest-dependent species (particularly tree species)?

Representatives were also asked to provide any other comments or inputs deemed relevant to this study and, if available, to participate in a short (maximum 30 minute) virtual follow-up interview. The relevant feedback received will be integrated into Matrix 1 and the next version of this report.

### **Sub-activities 1.2 and 1.3**

A two-dimensional matrix (Matrix 2, M2) was prepared, it links and ranks contributions of the processes of the CITES Forest Compendium to the internationally agreed seven thematic elements of Sustainable Forest Management according to FAO as a proxy to assess their contribution to conservation and sustainable use of forests/tree species.

For this, the “[Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator Set for Sustainable Forest Management](#)” produced by FAO/UNECE was selected as a basis, since it already combined an extensive set of criteria and indicators (C&I) compiled from a wide range of Regional C&I for Sustainable Forest Management processes. The list of indicators was further complemented with additional information from other sources and regions<sup>1</sup>. The resulting list of over 300 indicators was later refined and narrowed to decrease the chance of considering redundant indicators or indicators not easily linked to CITES work (e.g. indicators related to carbon). The finalized list of indicators (132) are organized within subgroups (50) to allow specific information from each element of the Compendium to be analyzed (Table 1), and they were only used as a guidance to assess the contributions to the wider seven thematic elements (findings).

Matrix 2 (M2) consists of individual sheets analyzing selected elements of the CITES Forest Compendium from CoP16 to CoP20 (i.e. cases of cross cutting processes such as NDF, Review of Significant Trade; CTSP projects, Resolutions, Decisions, etc.) with:

- an x-axis populated by columns of selected sub-groups of indicators within the seven thematic elements
- a y-axis populated by rows with information of the selected element of the CITES Forest Compendium and findings.

Also, Matrix 2 is populated in a way where each cell will provide 2 types of information:

- Using a traffic-light color classification (green-yellow-red) to qualitatively reflect the degree of CITES' contributions to the seven thematic elements.
- Short description of how said contributions are made/provided (concrete actions within CITES processes and projects from the Compendium).

Priority was given to those elements from the Compendium that have enough information regarding their implementation to assess their “direct” contribution (in practice) to the seven thematic elements (i.e. reports on concrete actions implemented by the Parties to fulfill provisions of a Resolution or Decision, reports on implemented actions from Significant Trade Review or Article XIII cases, published NDF, outcome reports from projects, etc.), while Resolutions and Decisions will be assessed only to highlight their “potential” contribution.

Finding will focus on recognizing “direct” CITES contributions to conservation and sustainable use of tree species/forests (green) and opportunities on medium (yellow) and low (red) degree of contributions, to fill gaps and strengthen implementation of the CITES Forest Compendium for CITES tree species and forests and challenges to doing so (i.e. recommendations as to further efforts to implement a Resolution/Decision, to refine the issuing or implementation of recommendations and actions of certain CITES processes/projects or to expand CITES approach or partnerships). This in turn, will facilitate identification of potential elements for developing a CITES forests initiative.

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<sup>1</sup>ATO/ITTO, 2003. [Principles, criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of African natural tropical forests](#).  
Brand, D.G. 1997. [Criteria and indicators for the conservation and sustainable management of forests: Progress to date and future directions](#).  
FAO, 1999 [Regional Initiative for the Development and Implementation of National Level Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Dry Forests in Asia](#)  
FAO, 2015 [Global Forest Resources Assessments](#)  
FAO, 2020. [Global Forest Resources Assessments](#)  
Forest Europe, 2015 [Updated Pan-European indicators for Sustainable forest Management](#)  
Forest Europe, 2015 [Background information for the updated pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management](#)  
ITTO, 2016 [Criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of tropical forests](#)  
Larocque, G.R. 2016. [Ecological Forest Management Handbook](#).  
LFCC, 2011 [The International Seminar on Challenges of Sustainable Forest Management, Integrating environmental, social and economic values of forests](#)  
MP, 2015 [Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators](#)  
OTCA, 2021 [Propuesta de Tarapoto sobre Criterios e Indicadores de Sostenibilidad del Bosque Amazónico](#)

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Table 1. The seven thematic elements and their subgroups of indicators of Matrix 2.

Thematic Elements and sub-groups of indicators of Sustainable Forest Management						
1. Extent of Forest Resources	2. Forest Bio-diversity	3. Forest Health and Vitality	4. Productive Functions of Forest Resources	5. Protective Functions of Forest Resources	6. Socio-economic Functions	7. Legal, Policy and Institutional Framework
The indicators seek to understand whether the information analysed provides adequate forest cover and population density, including trees outside forests, to support the social, economic and environmental dimensions of forestry.	The indicators seek to understand, through the information analysed, if the conservation and management measures of biological diversity at the level of ecosystems (landscape), species and genetics, will help maintain diversity.	The indicators seek to know, through the information analysed, whether forest management helps to minimize the risks and impacts of unwanted disturbances, which can have an impact on social, economic, as well as environmental dimensions.	The indicators seek to understand whether maintaining an abundant and valuable supply of primary forest products ensures that production and harvesting are sustainable and does not compromise management for future generations.	The indicators seek to understand the role of forests and trees outside them in maintaining soil, hydrological and aquatic systems, clean water (including healthy fish stocks) and reducing risks and impacts.	The indicators seek to understand the contributions of forest resources to the economy, the values generated through the processing and marketing of forest products or trade and investment in the forest sector, as well as to understand aspects of land tenure, indigenous and community management systems and traditional knowledge.	The indicators seek to determine whether the necessary legal, regulatory and institutional mechanisms are included to support the other six thematic elements, through governance and law enforcement, and monitoring and evaluation of progress, as well as the contribution of forest systems in social aspects.
1. Forest Area	1. Species	1. Damaged Forests	1. Increment	1. Soil & Water Protection	1. Productivity	1. National Forest Program
2. Production	2. Regeneration	2. Degradation	2. Removals	2. Water Protection	2. Gross Domestic Product	2. Management Plan
3. Change	3. Naturalness	3. Restoration	3. Biomass		3. Trade	3. Institutional Framework
4. Characteristics	4. Species Distribution	4. Resilience	4. Value of Wood		4. Revenue	4. Legal Framework
5. Growing Stock	5. Conservation		5. Non-wood products		5. Investments	5. Economic Instruments
	6. Fragmentation				6. Employment	6. Information
	7. Threatened spp.				7. Dependency	7. Assessment
	8. Protected Areas				8. Recreation	8. Stakeholder Involvement
	9. Biodiversity Conservation				9. Traditional Knowledge	9. Policies
					10. Local Communities	10. Ownership
					11. Certification	11. Tenure Rights
						12. Control
						13. Projects
						14. New Technology

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## 4. Results and findings [preliminary]

### 4.1. Matrix 1: Interactions between CITES Strategic Vision and Global Forest Commitments (GFC)

The selected set, type and level of interactions between CSV and the selected GFC are as follows:

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF): 110 total interactions ranked.
  - Intersections: 70% high (77), and 30% medium (33), none in low ranking.
  - Complementarities: 80% high (88), 19% medium (21), and 1% low (1).
  - Gaps: 25.4% low (28), 52.7% medium (58), and 21.8% high (24).
2. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) considering its implementation under the Paris Agreement: 133 total interactions ranked.
  - Intersections: 42% high (56), 48% medium (64), and 10% low (13).
  - Complementarities: 64.6% high (86), 33% medium (44), and 2.2% low (3).
  - Gaps: none in low ranking, 76% medium (101), and 24% high (32).
3. United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF): 103 total interactions ranked.
  - Intersections: 33% high (34), 56.3% medium (58), and 10.7% low (11).
  - Complementarities: 88.4% high (91), 10.6% medium (11), and 1% low (1).
  - Gaps: 18.4% low (19), 72.8% medium (75), and 8.7% high (9).
4. United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 (UNDER): 101 total interactions ranked.
  - Intersections: 61.4 % high (62), 38.6 % medium (39), and none in low ranking.
  - Complementarities: 92% high (93), 8% medium (8), and none in low ranking.
  - Gaps: 52.5% low (53), 47.5% medium (48), and none in high ranking.
5. Forestry Programme/Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024-2031 of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): 210 total interactions ranked.
  - Intersections: 36.6% high (77), 37.6% medium (79) and 25.7% low (54).
  - Complementarities: 81.4% high (171), and 18.5% medium (39), none in low ranking.
  - Gaps: 16.2% low (34), 38% medium (80), and 45.7% high (96).
6. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) as the implementing mechanism/body of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), through ITTO Strategic Plan 2022-2025: 51 total interactions ranked.
  - Intersections: 74.5% high (38), 19.6% medium (10) and 5.8% low (3).
  - Complementarities: 59.6% high (31), 33.3% medium (17) and 5.8% low (3).
  - Gaps: 72.5% low (37), and 27.5% medium (14), and none in high ranking.

### 4.2. Key findings on the relation between each CITES 2021-2023 Strategic Vision's (CSV) Goals and the selected GFC

- 1) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF):
  - i. **CSV goal 1:** CITES and the KM-GBF work in tandem to ensure the conservation of species affected by trade, with CITES providing a critical role in regulating trade and preventing overexploitation. The GBF complements this by providing a broader ecosystem and policy context, ensuring that species conservation efforts are aligned with global biodiversity goals. CITES relies heavily on species-specific data for listing and regulation, while the GBF provides broader data-sharing and monitoring frameworks. CITES primarily focuses on species-specific trade regulations, leaving gaps in broader biodiversity policy integration and ecosystem management. The KM-GBF fills these gaps by addressing ecosystem resilience, biodiversity integration into national policies, and corporate accountability, which are crucial for comprehensive biodiversity conservation. While

CITES regulates species trade, it does not engage directly with corporate biodiversity impacts or transparency, which is a significant focus of the GBF.

- ii. **CSV goal 2:** CITES and the KM-GBF align closely in their reliance on scientific data to guide decision-making, particularly regarding species-specific non-detriment findings (NDFs). The GBF supports CITES with broader research and data frameworks. Both frameworks prioritize closing knowledge gaps for species conservation. CITES focuses on species impacted by trade, while the GBF targets provides broader research and monitoring capacities, creating strong synergies in their efforts to improve global biodiversity data. GBF's broader biodiversity data complements CITES' trade-specific focus, offering insights into ecosystem-level health and biodiversity integration. This enhances CITES' capacity to make more informed listing and trade regulation decisions. CITES contributes by ensuring that trade-specific data is shared with GBF support mechanisms.
  - iii. **CSV goal 3:** Both CITES and the KM-GBF emphasize the need for capacity-building to enhance enforcement and implementation. Both CITES and the GBF emphasize the importance of mobilizing financial resources for biodiversity conservation. CITES' focus on regulating international trade to ensure the sustainability of wild species is complemented by KM-GBF Target 5, which implicitly calls for addressing illegal trade in wild species. Synergies between CITES and the KM-GBF can enhance efforts to combat illegal trade, particularly for forest products such as timber. While the KM-GBF promotes broader capacity-building and resource mobilization initiatives, CITES' species-specific regulatory framework provides a targeted mechanism to address the challenges associated with the illegal timber trade. The GBF supports CITES by providing additional financial and technical resources to combat wildlife crime, particularly through strengthening law enforcement and governance structures. The GBF's focus on data-sharing and access to the best available knowledge complements CITES' efforts to use emerging technologies for trade enforcement and monitoring. This synergy ensures that CITES benefits from broader data-sharing mechanisms to enhance its species-specific enforcement efforts. CITES' focus on utilizing emerging technologies for enforcement aligns with the GBF's goal of promoting innovation and technology transfer. This synergy enhances CITES' ability to enforce trade regulations by integrating new tools and technologies into its monitoring and enforcement strategies.
  - iv. **CSV goal 4:** Strong Alignment in Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Both CITES and GBF emphasize their contributions to the SDGs. The GBF's emphasis on communication, awareness-raising, and education complements CITES' efforts to raise global awareness about the importance of sustainable trade in endangered species. The GBF's focus on gender equality and inclusive participation highlights areas where CITES could engage more comprehensively. CITES' efforts to contribute to international biodiversity frameworks are strengthened by the GBF's work to build global partnerships and enhance cooperation. This alignment supports CITES in ensuring that its species-specific regulations are integrated into broader biodiversity governance, reinforcing its contribution to global biodiversity goals.
  - v. **CSV goal 5:** Both CITES and GBF share a strong focus on building and enhancing international partnerships. The GBF's emphasis on mobilizing financial resources complements CITES' efforts to encourage new alliances with international financial institutions. These complementary efforts ensure that CITES has access to the financial and technical resources needed to enforce its regulations and protect endangered species. Integrating CITES' species-specific expertise with broader biodiversity governance efforts would strengthen international cooperation and support more comprehensive biodiversity protection measures.
- 2) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) considering its implementation under the Paris Agreement:
- i. **CSV goal 1:** Both conventions promote compliance and accountability measures. CITES emphasizes compliance with trade regulations, while the UNFCCC reinforces compliance through its transparency framework. Both frameworks prioritize effective national-level implementation. CITES focuses on aligning national measures with its Resolutions and Decisions, while the UNFCCC supports this through its emphasis on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). UNFCCC's emphasis on international cooperation supports CITES' efforts to build effective institutional frameworks for species management and enforcement. The UNFCCC promotes the

use of scientific evidence in climate actions, which complements CITES' efforts to accurately list and regulate species based on conservation status. CITES' goal of improving conservation status and promoting cooperation in managing shared wildlife resources intersects with the UNFCCC's focus on adaptation and resilience. The UNFCCC's focus on ecosystem resilience and adaptation underscores opportunities for CITES to incorporate climate and broader environmental considerations into its conservation strategies. Gaps exist in CITES' engagement with broader climate and ecosystem considerations, indicating potential areas for further integration of shared resource management and resilience-building. CITES' trade-focused approach leaves gaps in addressing broader ecosystem and climate resilience issues emphasized by UNFCCC.

- ii. **CSV goal 2:** both frameworks rely on scientific data to guide their respective conservation and climate actions. Both frameworks emphasize the importance of information-sharing and cooperation. Both frameworks recognize the importance of addressing information gaps for key species and ecosystems. Both frameworks emphasize building capacity to enhance decision-making and enforcement. CITES' objective to ensure that listing decisions reflect species' conservation needs intersects with the UNFCCC's emphasis on reflecting climate risks and resilience needs in policy decisions UNFCCC's reporting and monitoring mechanisms complement CITES' efforts to gather and utilize information for effective enforcement of trade regulations. UNFCCC emphasis on ecosystem resilience and multi-species monitoring highlights areas where CITES could expand its data integration efforts.
  - iii. **CSV goal 3:** CITES' emphasis on transparent and user-friendly administrative procedures aligns closely with the UNFCCC's focus on transparency through its reporting framework. CITES and the UNFCCC both stress the need for sufficient resources to support enforcement. CITES' objective of recognizing illegal trade of wild species, including tree species, as a serious crime intersects with the UNFCCC's focus on preventing corruption and ensuring accountability in climate actions. CITES emphasizes measures to prohibit and detect corruption in trade regulations, gaps remain in developing comprehensive anti-corruption frameworks that align with the broader transparency and accountability measures emphasized by UNFCCC. While CITES emphasizes the use of emerging technologies for implementation and enforcement, gaps exist in adopting advanced technological tools and broader data-sharing frameworks emphasized by UNFCCC.
  - iv. **CSV goal 4:** Both frameworks aim to raise awareness of sustainability practices and engage local communities in conservation efforts, creating synergies in promoting sustainable development goals. CITES' objective of increasing global awareness of its role intersects with the UNFCCC's emphasis on public engagement and education. Both frameworks promote information dissemination to enhance policy coherence and stakeholder engagement. CITES' species-specific focus leaves gaps in addressing broader ecosystem-level and resilience-building efforts emphasized by UNFCCC.
  - v. **CSV goal 5:** Both frameworks prioritize strengthening international collaborations to achieve shared conservation and sustainability goals, creating synergies in policy development and stakeholder engagement. Both frameworks emphasize transparency and data-sharing in their partnerships. Both frameworks emphasize transparency and data-sharing in their partnerships. CITES' limited engagement with market-based approaches and comprehensive financial mechanisms leaves gaps in aligning with the broader financial and market-based strategies emphasized by UNFCCC.
- 3) United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF):
- i. **CSV goal 1:** CITES's objectives are to regulate trade of listed species, which may also align closely with the UN Plan's sustainable forest management goals. CITES complements the UNSPF by providing species-specific protection that supports broader strategies for sustainable management and protected areas, enhancing overall conservation efforts through targeted species and ecosystem management. CITES aligns with the UN Plan's focus on governance, particularly in curbing illegal trade and promoting international cooperation, creating a foundation for enhanced national and cross-border enforcement. However, CITES's trade-specific focus does not address socio-economic issues and broader policy coherence, which are covered by the UNSPF through poverty reduction and cross-sectoral biodiversity conservation. This gap offers an opportunity for

CITES to broaden partnerships and engage in socio-economic and policy coherence initiatives. Additionally, CITES's precise species listings support the UNSPF goals of increasing protected forest areas and boosting ecosystem resilience. By promoting the legal and sustainable trade of tree species that strengthen forest resilience, CITES aids the UNSPF's aims for adaptive capacity in forest ecosystems. Strengthening CITES's coordination with broader forest policies could further align its efforts with the UNSPF's policy coherence goals, improving the effectiveness of sustainable development initiatives.

- ii. **CSV goal 2.** CITES and the UNSPF align closely in their use of scientific assessments to guide decision-making. While CITES focuses on species-specific NDFs, the UNSPF relies on broader ecosystem-based indicators like resilience and sustainability, creating synergies for consistent application of scientific data in conservation and sustainable management. The UNSPF's emphasis on scientific cooperation and data-sharing complements CITES's enforcement efforts by providing additional resources for monitoring trade in key species, enhancing enforcement and conservation outcomes. However, CITES's focus on trade-specific data leaves some gaps in comprehensive ecosystem-level data collection and funding for scientific research and enforcement. The UNSPF's focus on financial support and ecosystem resilience offers CITES an opportunity to engage in deeper cross-sectoral collaboration and secure additional resources. CITES's goal of filling information gaps for key species aligns with the UNSPF's aims to enhance resilience, biodiversity conservation, and long-term planning. The combination of species-specific data from CITES and ecosystem-focused frameworks from the UNSPF strengthens efforts to close information gaps and improve conservation. By complementing the UNSPF's forest-related policies, CITES can enhance coordinated efforts in conservation and forest management through its regulatory framework on international trade, ensuring that harvest of listed species is biologically sustainable and contributing to broader forest sustainability goals.
- iii. **CSV goal 3.** CITES and the UNSPF both prioritize capacity-building to improve conservation and enforcement, with the UNSPF's Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) mobilizing access to existing and emerging financial resources from all sources at all levels, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund, offering technical support to UNFF Member States that enhances CITES's efforts. Both frameworks emphasize integrating new technologies for monitoring, strengthening the ability to combat illegal trade. The UNSPF's comprehensive policy frameworks and area-based initiatives complement CITES's trade-specific focus, providing opportunities to close cross-sectoral and long-term management gaps. Both also stress governance improvements and anti-corruption to curb illegal trade, with the UNSPF's focus on transparency and accountability aligning closely with CITES's goals. By leveraging the UNSPF's financial resources, eligible CITES Parties can coordinate with the UNFF GFFFN to further strengthen its capacity-building, governance, and technology integration efforts.
- iv. **CSV goal 4.** CITES and the UNSPF align in their focus on policy development and communication to support sustainable development, with the UNSPF's broader governance and policy coherence enhancing CITES's trade-specific initiatives. The UNSPF's emphasis on stakeholder involvement and cross-sectoral cooperation complements CITES's engagement efforts, enabling more inclusive policies and outreach. While CITES's policies lack a comprehensive ecosystem and cross-sectoral focus, alignment with the UNSPF's ecosystem-based strategies could bridge this gap. Both frameworks prioritize sharing information on sustainable development, with the UNSPF's broader communication strategies, such as through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) efforts for March 21 International Day on Forests and other relevant communication efforts, bolstering CITES's awareness efforts. Coordinating financial and technical resources with the UNSPF could further strengthen CITES's policy support and implementation capacity.
- v. **CSV goal 5.** CITES and the UNSPF are aligned in their focus on cooperation to support policy implementation and enforcement. The UNSPF's broader approach to mobilizing resources from diverse sources complements CITES's trade-specific financial strategies, strengthening the capacity to secure conservation funding. Both prioritize cooperative partnerships that enhance policy coherence and cross-sectoral collaboration, improving policy implementation. While CITES focuses on trade-related financial cooperation, it does not fully address broader resource mobilization needs, which could be improved by aligning with the UNSPF's financing frameworks. The UNSPF's emphasis on cross-sector cooperation reinforces CITES's efforts to establish

alliances, enhancing conservation management coordination. Both also prioritize cooperation with international financial institutions to support conservation and enforcement efforts.

4) United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 (UNDER):

- i. **CSV goal 1:** CITES and UNDER exhibit strong synergies in promoting compliance through effective legislation, policies, and procedures. While CITES establishes Scientific and Management Authorities to regulate species trade, UNDER reinforces this with broader ecosystem monitoring, promoting comprehensive approaches to conservation and restoration that include multiple stakeholders. UNDER's emphasis on ecosystem restoration aligns partially with CITES' objectives to reflect conservation needs in trade listings and manage shared resources. CITES' species-specific focus does not fully encompass the community-based approaches emphasized by UNDER, particularly regarding equitable benefit-sharing and integration of traditional knowledge. Both frameworks prioritize capacity-building to support compliance and enforcement.
- ii. **CSV goal 2:** Both frameworks emphasize the use of scientific findings to inform species-specific measures, ensuring that trade decisions are grounded in the best available evidence. UNDER's broad ecosystem data and monitoring initiatives complement CITES' trade-focused objectives by offering insights into ecosystem health and the broader conservation context. UNDER's broad data collection and monitoring efforts enhance CITES' capacity to identify and address critical gaps in the conservation status and management of key species. CITES' species-specific focus does not fully integrate socio-economic and ecosystem-wide indicators, which are central to UNDER's approach. Both frameworks prioritize cooperative approaches to information sharing and capacity-building.
- iii. **CSV goal 3:** Both frameworks prioritize collaborative enforcement measures and stakeholder engagement to address illegal trade and conservation challenges. CITES targets trade-specific corruption, while UNDER promotes broader anti-corruption initiatives in forest governance. CITES' species-focused capacity-building does not fully incorporate the adaptive management practices emphasized by UNDER. UNDER's multi-stakeholder platforms and community-based approaches complement CITES by fostering more inclusive and coordinated enforcement efforts. UNDER's focus on using digital platforms and AI-based monitoring systems complements CITES by expanding the range of technological tools available for species-specific trade enforcement and broader ecosystem monitoring.
- iv. **CSV goal 4:** Both frameworks prioritize outreach, stakeholder engagement, and communication strategies to promote the significance of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration on a global scale. UNDER's emphasis on community-based conservation and equitable benefit-sharing complements CITES' objective to support sustainable trade policies that consider Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Both frameworks prioritize aligning their actions with international goals, such as the SDGs and the KM-GBF. UNDER's focus on mainstreaming biodiversity and developing cross-sectoral policies complements CITES' efforts to inform Parties of relevant international actions.
- v. **CSV goal 5:** Both frameworks recognize the value of reinforcing established relationships to achieve mutual goals in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration. UNDER's broader approach to establishing cross-sectoral and international partnerships supports CITES in expanding its network of collaborators, enhancing the effectiveness of species-specific conservation initiatives. Both frameworks emphasize sustaining partnerships and ensuring ongoing financial and technical support to achieve lasting conservation outcomes. UNDER's emphasis on establishing collaborative funding mechanisms and leveraging public-private partnerships complements CITES by broadening the pool of financial resources available for conservation, capacity-building, and enforcement measures.

5) Forestry Programme/Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024-2031 of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



- i. **CSV goal 1:** there are strong intersections between CITES and FAO in areas like policy, legislative frameworks, and species conservation. Significant complementarities are found in areas such as climate-change mitigation, biodiversity mainstreaming, and data sharing, where FAO's broader environmental efforts support CITES' species-specific trade regulations. CITES contributes to FAO's goals by ensuring that species in trade are protected, supporting ecosystem health and sustainable use. CITES contributes species-specific data to FAO's broader forest management and conservation goals, ensuring a holistic approach to forests conservation. Significant gaps are identified in broader ecosystem management areas, such as climate resilience, community-based forestry, and sustainable livelihoods, where FAO provides comprehensive solutions beyond CITES' narrower trade focus.
  - ii. **CSV Goal 2:** High intersections between CITES and FAO exist in the use of science and data to support conservation decision-making, particularly in information sharing, enforcement, and addressing information gaps for species. Strong complementarities are found in closing data gaps, where FAO's comprehensive ecosystem-level data supports CITES' species-specific needs. FAO's work on advancing forest-related data systems, enforcement capacity, and climate resilience strengthens CITES' ability to protect species effectively. Significant gaps are identified due to the different scopes of CITES and FAO, with CITES focusing on species-specific trade data, while FAO addresses broader ecosystem health and climate-related data for sustainable forest management.
  - iii. **CSV Goal 3:** There is strong alignment between CITES and FAO in resource mobilization, governance, and technological innovations that support species-specific enforcement and capacity-building. Both frameworks prioritize building institutional capacity and ensuring that national authorities have the tools and resources needed to enforce conservation regulations. FAO's governance frameworks, policy support, and technological innovations complement CITES' species-specific enforcement efforts. FAO provides the broader governance structures and resources that CITES needs to implement and enforce trade regulations effectively. CITES does not fully address climate-change resilience, innovative finance solutions, or broader ecosystem-wide conservation challenges. FAO's comprehensive focus on climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, and finance mechanisms fill these gaps.
  - iv. **CSV Goal 4:** Both CITES and FAO show strong intersections in their efforts to promote biodiversity conservation, and both frameworks benefit from utilizing the latest scientific knowledge to inform Parties about global actions that contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. FAO's focus on creating an enabling environment for local communities, small-scale producers, and Indigenous Peoples complements CITES' objectives to inform Parties about international actions that support sustainable trade and livelihoods. FAO's work on equitable access and benefit-sharing provides the governance frameworks necessary to ensure that communities engaged in wild species trade are supported in their efforts to conserve and use biodiversity sustainably. FAO's advancements in technological innovation and data systems complement CITES by enhancing the tools available for sharing scientific information and supporting international actions on species conservation.
  - v. **CSV Goal 5:** Both CITES and FAO share strong intersections in their efforts to form and enhance partnerships focused on biodiversity conservation and both are members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). FAO's financial mechanisms for ecosystem restoration, innovative finance solutions, and biodiversity mainstreaming complement CITES by ensuring that financial resources are available to support species-specific conservation efforts. Financial cooperation between FAO and CITES strengthens global efforts to align species conservation with broader ecosystem and biodiversity goals (e.g. CITES-FAO project on improved forest governance in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR)). FAO's efforts to support small-scale producers, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples complement CITES by aligning financial and partnership strategies with social equity and sustainable livelihoods. Both frameworks contribute to achieving global social equity and biodiversity conservation goals through equitable financial cooperation and resource mobilization. There are significant gaps in CITES' engagement with climate-related financial mechanisms.
- 6) [International Tropical Timber Organization \(ITTO\) as the implementing mechanism/body of the International Tropical Timber Agreement \(ITTA\), through ITTO Strategic Plan 2022-2025:](#)

- i. **CSV goal 1.** Both frameworks highlight the importance of transparent and effective governance to support the conservation and sustainable use of resources. There are significant intersections in areas related to governance, legislation, and compliance, where ITTO's governance priorities align with CITES' efforts to ensure transparent and effective implementation of trade regulations. Strong complementarities are evident in capacity building and conservation, as ITTO's ecosystem-level approach supports CITES' species-specific conservation and trade enforcement objectives. There may be gaps in the species-specific implementation and legislation under CITES, as forest management practices are often developed with a focus on the broader vegetation types rather than individual tree species, which ITTO's broader approach to forests does consider, contributing to the conservation of species and their habitat.
- ii. **CSV goal 2.** CITES and ITTO exhibit a high level of intersection in the use of science and information to support decision-making. Finding strong synergies between CITES and ITTO in the use of science and data to support decision-making, particularly in information exchange and capacity building for scientific knowledge. Significant complementarities are found in addressing gaps in scientific information, where ITTO's focus on closing ecosystem-level data gaps supports CITES' species-specific requirements. There are Gaps due to the difference in scope between the two frameworks: CITES focuses on species-specific scientific data, often overlooking critical ecosystem information, while ITTO emphasizes broader ecosystem-level data on tropical forests and timber trade.
- iii. **CSV goal 3.** Both CITES and ITTO show strong alignment in their emphasis on governance and capacity building. Significant intersections exist between CITES and ITTO in governance, capacity building, and the use of technology for law enforcement. There are strong complementarities in their collaboration to combat illegal trade of wild species, including tree species, with ITTO's focus on illegal timber trade complementing CITES' broader mandate to address illegal trade of wild species, including tree species. CITES' species-specific conservation and enforcement efforts align with ITTO's wider emphasis on forest governance. Gaps emerge in how each addresses illegal trade of wild species, including tree species. While ITTO implements direct measures to combat illegal timber trade in tropical forests, CITES promotes sustainable species management as a means to tackle the issue.
- iv. **CSV goal 4.** Both frameworks contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals through the sustainable use of natural resources, with a particular emphasis on benefit-sharing for local populations. There are significant intersections in areas related to sustainable trade, global sustainable development initiatives, and information sharing. Both CITES and ITTO are aligned in promoting sustainability and inclusivity, particularly in their support for Indigenous peoples and local communities through sustainable resource management. They also complement each other in contributing to the SDGs and other global sustainability frameworks. ITTO's focus on sustainable forest management and tropical forest trade enhances CITES' species-specific efforts to ensure biodiversity conservation and trade and supports global sustainability goals. Gaps exist in the species-specific data and focus that CITES requires to keep its Parties well-informed about international sustainability actions.
- v. **CSV goal 5.** Both CITES and ITTO demonstrate a high level of alignment in their emphasis on partnerships and collaboration and both are members of the CPF. Strong intersections in partnership development, governance, and financial cooperation, where both CITES and ITTO highlight the importance of collaborative governance and mobilizing financial resources for sustainable conservation and trade (ITTO funded over 50 projects to implement CITES provisions for listed tree species from 2007-2016, prior to start of CTSP). Significant complementarities exist in establishing new partnerships and financial mechanisms, with ITTO's emphasis on sustainable trade and economic opportunities complementing CITES' efforts to build partnerships and secure financial support. Gaps are observed in specific areas of collaboration, as ITTO's broader focus on timber trade and forestry partnerships allows for wider synergies and more flexible financial mechanisms, whereas CITES requires a more species-specific approach.

### 4.3. Preliminary recommendations per selected GFC

- a) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF):
- Opportunities exist for greater integration of data and research efforts to address both species-specific and broader ecosystem conservation needs.
  - Opportunities for Parties to align CITES implementation with broader global efforts, ensuring businesses take responsibility and are accountable for their impact on forest biodiversity, with CITES supporting these efforts through its regulatory framework for international trade in tree listed species.
  - While the social and economic dimensions of forest biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, such as engaging indigenous people and local communities (IPLC) and promoting gender equality, are primarily the responsibility of Parties, CITES can indirectly support these efforts. By enhancing the implementation of its trade-related mandate in a way that considers ecosystem-level impacts, sustainable forest management and the needs of all stakeholders, CITES can contribute to broader inclusive biodiversity governance goals as outlined in the KM-GBF.
  - The GBF's focus on integrating biodiversity into national and global governance frameworks creates opportunities for CITES to align its trade-specific work with broader biodiversity policy frameworks, ensuring that trade of wild species, including tree species, is part of comprehensive national biodiversity strategies.
  - Opportunities for Parties to engage private sector partnerships to complement existing financial mechanisms, supporting CITES' efforts to enhance the implementation and enforcement of trade of wild species regulations, including tree species. These partnerships could focus on areas directly linked to sustainable trade in listed species, with a perspective on forest sustainable management, ensuring alignment with CITES' mandate while avoiding overlap with other conservation initiatives.
- b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) considering its implementation under the Paris Agreement:
- Opportunities for Parties to explore financial cooperation strategies where climate change intersects with trade and conservation of listed tree species, ensuring alignment with CITES' objectives while respecting the broader coordination role of the UNFCCC.
  - Collaborative capacity-building initiatives by Parties under both frameworks could enhance their implementation capacities, focusing on complementary goals such as combating illegal activities that impact both forest biodiversity and climate.
  - Parties to both frameworks could explore joint initiatives aimed at combating illegal trade of tree species and environmental crimes, enhancing coordination and policy coherence at the national level.
  - The Secretariats of CITES and the UNFCCC could strengthen their coordination efforts to support Parties in achieving their commitments under both frameworks, including information sharing on areas of overlap such as forest biodiversity loss linked to climate change.
  - Opportunities for the CITES Secretariat to provide technical guidance on sustainable tree species trade practices to Parties, complementing climate-related efforts under the UNFCCC.
- c) United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF):
- CITES' species-specific measures can indirectly support the implementation of the UNSPF by addressing the management needs of listed tree species within ecosystems, contributing to the broader objectives of sustainable forest management. While the UNSPF operates as a high-level framework, synergies can emerge through national implementation efforts that align species-specific trade regulations under CITES with broader forest conservation and sustainability goals.
  - Both frameworks provide a strong basis for collaboration in enhancing national and cross-border enforcement through coordinated governance efforts.
  - UNSPF focuses, inter alia, on improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent IPLCs and conserving biodiversity, which presents opportunities for CITES to complement these efforts through partnerships and by aligning its species-specific trade measures with broader forest sustainability objectives. While CITES does not address poverty eradication directly, its regulatory framework

can indirectly support these goals by promoting sustainable trade in tree listed species, contributing to ecosystem integrity and the well-being of forest-dependent communities.

- There is potential for synergies to improve adaptive capacity and resilience in forest ecosystems and achieve sustainable outcomes in forest management and conservation.
- The comparison reveals opportunities for CITES to enhance its cross-sectoral coordination efforts by aligning its species listing and trade regulation strategies with the UNSPF's policy coherence goals.
- The UNSPF's emphasis on comprehensive policy frameworks, area-based conservation initiatives, mobilizing financial resources from all sources, and ecosystem resilience offers CITES a valuable opportunity to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation and for both CITES and Parties access additional resources for its conservation programs.

d) United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 (UNDER):

- Integrating broader ecosystem indicators into the scientific assessments that underpin species listing decisions offers an opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of CITES in meeting its mandate. These indicators can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the ecological context of species at risk, helping to ensure that trade regulations contribute to both species-specific conservation and broader ecosystem resilience.
- Increase collaboration to align CITES' conservation goals with community-led restoration and sustainable use practice.
- Foster partnerships that include Indigenous knowledge systems to strengthen CITES' conservation strategies.
- CITES could benefit from incorporating broader data on ecosystem services, community impacts, and restoration outcomes to strengthen its conservation policies.
- CITES could explore more inclusive anti-corruption strategies that align with UNDER's governance-focused approach.
- CITES could benefit from more comprehensive policy frameworks that link trade regulation with ecosystem resilience and climate adaptation strategies.
- Opportunity for CITES to expand its capacity-building programs to include ecosystem-wide collaboration and stakeholder engagement.

e) Forestry Programme/Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024-2031 of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

- Strengthening collaboration between CITES and FAO in areas such as climate resilience, restoration, and finance will help bridge gaps in conservation efforts. By aligning species-specific actions with ecosystem-wide governance, both frameworks can achieve more effective conservation outcomes and broader environmental sustainability goals.
- CITES can enhance its cooperation strategies by integrating climate and finance dimensions to support Parties in implementing trade regulations effectively in the context of climate change. The incorporation of climate and financial considerations into collaboration frameworks can strengthen the capacity of Parties to address conservation challenges posed by a changing climate, ensuring sustainable trade and species conservation.
- Opportunities for CITES to enhance its contribution to global climate action and finance solutions for biodiversity conservation.

f) International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) as the implementing mechanism/body of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), through ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2022-2025:

- It is important to continue to strengthen and enhance collaboration between ITTO and CITES, especially through financial cooperation, the development of forestry partnerships, efforts on combating illegal trade, and capacity building on sustainable management practices with broader scope. This partnership has been essential in addressing issues of illegal trade and promoting the sustainability and conservation of tropical timber and its habitats.
- ITTO and CITES can expand their networks and foster collaborative efforts that support both sustainable timber trade and wild species conservation.

#### 4.4. Matrix 2: CITES contributions to conservation and sustainable use of tree species/forests

So far the following selected cases have been analysed into Matrix 2 (Annex V):

1. Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) of *Aquilaria malaccensis* from Indonesia. Ministry of Environment and Forestry & National Research and Innovation Agency 2024.
2. Review of significant trade (RST) report of Ghana after the publication of a zero export quota for commercial trade for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* until detailed NDF and LAF by Resource Management Support Centre and Faculty of Renewable Natural resources KWAME Nkrumah University of science Technology, August 2023.
3. CITES Tree Species Programme. Assessment of the Current Management Practices, the Current Harvest Control and Monitoring, and the Conservation Status of *Dalbergia latifolia* in Java and West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, September 2022.

Each of them includes preliminary findings on CITES contributions to conservation and sustainable use of tree species/forests regarding the sub-groups of indicators of the seven thematic elements, which will allow for identification of challenges and opportunities to enhance the implementation of the CITES Forest Compendium at a later stage.

*[N.B. Matrix under development. Additional cases will be added to Matrix 2 to cover the different elements of CITES Forest Compendium (Resolutions, Decisions, main processes, projects, etc.), including findings and recommendations]*

## **Chapter 2. Assessment of the potential scope of an initiative on CITES and forests, with a focus on tree species**

To define the scope of any initiative/program/resolution on CITES and forests that promotes CITES implementation and contributes to global forest commitments, we will take into account:

- Results from comparative matrix M3: which CITES actions providing for conservation and sustainable use of forests/tree species also contribute to global forest commitments.
- Previous discussions from PC25, CoP19, PC26 and PC27 on CITES' role on the conservation of tree species.
- Identification of challenges, opportunities and recommendations to complement and provide inputs for addressing identified gaps/challenges.

*[N.B. Chapter under development. This will focus on the convergence of the matrices and analysis produced under chapter one. It will take into consideration the process described for the partnership strategy as last reported by the Secretariat under agenda item PC27 Doc. 8 and soon to be updated at SC78. See also [item 8 of PC27 SR](#)]*

### **Chapter 3: Preliminary recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Convention with respect to CITES-listed forest species, with a particular focus on tree species and CITES contribution to global forest commitments (GFC)**

- Following the process described for the development of the CITES partnership strategy (SC77. Doc 18) and through stakeholder mapping, possible partnerships that could benefit CITES will be identified (e.g. national and international NGOs, producer associations, certifications, private sector, among others) to support and strengthen the implementation of the compendium.
- Recommendations for collaboration/synergies with other GFC will be developed in full awareness of the unique mandates and responsibilities of each GFC.
- The role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (which brings together CITES with all of the GFCs considered here plus 10 other international agencies working on forest issues) will be fully explored in considering recommendations for collaboration, including on fund raising.

*[Note: This Chapter will be the last to be developed.]*

*At SC77, the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to incorporate in its report to SC78 the challenges and opportunities associated with any future initiative relating to CITES-listed forest species, with a particular focus on tree species, and to take into account the discussions at PC225, SC74, CoP19 and PC26 (as compiled in [Annex 3 to document SC77 Doc. 21](#)).*

*In parallel to gathering feedback from the PC on the report as of October 2024, the Secretariat will update the new version that will be formally submitted to SC78 with any progress achieved on this chapter, including a way forward ahead of the Conference of the Parties at CoP20.*

*We nevertheless welcome any views on the approach for this section, noting that that the main purpose of this chapter is to support the Standing Committee's decision making in the implementation of Decision 19.34]*

**List of Annexes**

Annex I: The 'CITES Forest Compendium: COP19-COP20'.

Annex II: List of Global Forest Commitments (GFC) initially considered for analysis.

Annex III: Summarized version of Matrix 1.

Annex IV: Full version of Matrix 1.

Annex V: Preview of Matrix 2.

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Annex I: The 'CITES Forest Compendium: CoP19-CoP20'\*

\*Note: This is the compendium as agreed by the Plants Committee at its 26th meeting, and taken from the PC26 SR. This is therefore only included as reference.

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 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 technical (operational and scientific) or strategic 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: Examples of cross-cutting processes of the Convention that contribute to global forest relevant mandates and forest policies and initiatives under a *CITES and forests* programmatic approach and a list of projects for the period between CoP19 (2022) and CoP20 (2025)

Section 1: Resolutions that may provide a technical (operational and scientific) or strategic 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	Technical (operational and scientific) and/or strategic
Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15)	Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes	Technical  Guidance on the process and requirements to register nurseries including the role of the commercial nursery, the Management Authority and the Secretariat.
Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18)	Implementation of the Convention for tree species	Technical  Guidance on consultation with international organizations on amendment proposals; definitions to be applied with respect to annotations relating to tree species and 'artificially propagated'; the establishment of export quotas; identification and forensics for tree species; and improving public understanding of the

		role of the Convention in the conservation of tree species.
Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18)	Regulation of trade in plants	<p>Technical</p> <p>Guidance on the definition of 'artificially propagated'; grafted plants; hybrids; cultivars; flanked seedlings of Appendix-I orchids; the definition of 'plant obtained through assisted production'; plant specimens in international trade under exemptions; enforcement for plants; trade in salvaged plant specimens; and education about plant conservation through CITES.</p>
Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19)	Standard nomenclature	<p>Technical</p> <p>Guidance on nomenclature matters including a list of standard references adopted by the Conference of the Parties. A common understanding of the scientific names of species is important to ensure a common body of knowledge is shared across CITES authorities to inform non-detriment findings, permitting processes and enforcement for CITES-listed tree species. Note that CITES standard references or checklists do not aim to keep pace with every new study or taxonomic treatment, except where it may impact CITES implementation.</p>
Resolution Conf. 14.4	Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber	<p>Strategic</p> <p>Guidance on consultation with ITTO on amendment proposals; and other matters relating to cooperation with ITTO related to tropical timber species threatened by international trade and sustainable management of tropical timber producing forests.</p>
Resolution Conf. 16.10	Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa	<p>Technical</p> <p>Guidance on artificially propagated specimens for agar-wood producing</p>

		taxa, non-detriment findings and management and trade controls.
Resolution Conf. 16.4	Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions	Strategic  Guidance on strengthening the cooperation, coordination and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels.
Resolution Conf. 16.5	Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Strategic  Guidance on the potential contribution of CITES to the objectives and targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 through activities and products listed in an Annex to the Resolution.
Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18)	CITES and livelihoods	Technical and/or strategic  Guidance on livelihood issues, including empowerment of rural communities; enabling policies; engagement of rural communities in combatting illegal trade in wildlife; and potential shift from <i>in situ</i> to <i>ex situ</i> production due to the inclusion of species in the CITES Appendices.
Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)	Non-detriment findings	Technical  The Resolution includes guidance relating to the concepts and non-binding principles to be taken into account by Scientific Authorities in considering whether trade would be detrimental to the survival of a species.
Resolution Conf. 18.3	CITES Strategic Vision : 2021-2030	Strategic  The Resolution sets out the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030, including the vision statement, purpose, the five strategic goals and objectives agreed under each goal.

Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19)	Legal acquisition findings	<p>Technical</p> <p>The Resolution includes Guiding principles to be used by Parties for verifying the legal acquisition of specimens to be exported.</p>
Resolution Conf. 19.4	Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species	<p>Technical</p> <p>The Resolution provides for the development of identification materials and the regular review and analysis of materials to ensure the needs of Parties in this regard are addressed. The ability of CITES Inspection officers and Customs officials to identify CITES-listed species and commodities in trade is critical to the implementation and enforcement of the protections afforded to CITES-listed species.</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.

Below are decisions directed to the Plants Committee that will inform work to improve implementation of CITES for regulated tree species. This breadth of activities demonstrates the wide-ranging role of the CITES Plants Committee in coordination with the Secretariat to provide technical expertise to improve sustainable use and conservation of CITES-listed tree species. The Plants Committee prioritizes efforts to address decisions as part of their workplan (PC26 Doc. 8.2 / PC26 SR) which is agreed following each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

<b>Decision No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Baseline for implementation via a programmatic framework on <i>CITES and forests</i> ( relevant documents including studies and projects)</b>
<b>Strategic matters</b>		

19.32 to 19.34	CITES and forests	PC26 Doc. 13 PC26 SR
<i>Capacity-building</i>		
19.49 and 19.50	CITES Tree Species Programme	PC26 Doc. 15 (see also section 3 of the Annex) PC26 SR
<b>Compliance</b>		
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).
<b>Regulation of trade</b>		
19.145 to 19.148	Identification of timber and other wood products	PC26 Doc. 20 (see also section 3 of the Annex) PC26 SR
<i>Exemptions and special trade provisions</i>		
19.182 to 19.183	Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated'	PC26 Doc. 24 PC26 SR
<b>Species conservation and trade</b>		
<i>Flora</i>		
19.239 to 19.240	Agarwood-producing taxa ( <i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp.)	PC26 Doc. 27 PC26 SR
19.241 and 19.242	Boswellia trees ( <i>Boswellia</i> spp.)	PC26 Doc. 28.1 PC26 Doc. 28.2 PC26 SR
19.243 to 19.245	Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]	PC26 Doc. 29 (see also section 3 of the Annex) PC26 SR
19.246 to 19.248	Products containing specimens of Appendix II orchids (Orchidaceae spp.)	PC26 Doc. 30 PC26 SR
19.249 to 19.253	Brazil wood ( <i>Paubrasilia echinata</i> )	PC26 Doc. 31

		PC26 SR
19.254 to 19.256	African tree species	PC26 Doc. 32 PC26 SR
19.257 to 19.260	Neotropical tree species	PC26 Doc. 33 PC26 SR
19.261 to 19.264	Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species	PC26 Doc. 34 PC26 SR
<b>Appendices of the Convention</b>		
<i>Annotations</i>		
18.321 (Rev. CoP19) to 18.322 (Rev. CoP19)	Annotation #15	PC26 Doc. 37 PC26 SR
18.317 (Rev. CoP19) and 19.265	Information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species	PC26 Doc. 38 PC26 SR
<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 PC26 SR
19.281 and 19.282	Nomenclature for ebonies ( <i>Diospyros</i> spp.) (populations of Madagascar)	PC26 Doc. Doc. 43.4 PC26 SR
19.290 and 19.291	Nomenclature for yews ( <i>Taxus</i> spp.)	PC26 Doc. 43.9 PC26 SR

Section 3: Examples of cross-cutting processes of the Convention that contribute to global forest-relevant mandates and forest policies and initiatives under a potential *CITES and forests* programmatic approach and a list of projects for the period between CoP19 and CoP20

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

- 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 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.