

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

CITES AND FORESTS

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat in relation to agenda item 19 on CITES and forests.



# Interdisciplinary study on CITES and Forests

CITES Secretariat in partnership with CONABIO

# Context

CITES regulates international trade of about 800 tree species.

- Over 600 tree species were included in CITES Appendices between CoP16 (2013) and CoP19 (2022).
- Since 2017, 20 projects have been supported by the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP).
- 20 tree species are under the Review of Significant Trade (RST).

The CITES Forest Compendium: CP19-CoP20 includes:

- 13 Resolutions.
- 50 Decisions.
- 5 cross-cutting processes (compliance, Art. XIII, SigTrade, identification materials, capacity-building, NDFs).

Overexploitation

Sustainable Use and Conservation



No CITES  
regulation  
needed



# Terms of Reference: Activities and outputs

## Interdisciplinary Study on CITES and Forests (further detailed in Annex 2 of PC26 Summary Record)

| Activity 1  | Activity 2  | Activity 3  |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1.1. <u>Map the linkages</u> between the CITES Strategic Vision (Res. Conf. 18.3) and that of the Global Forest Commitments (GFC) and develop recommendations to enhance implementation of the CITES Forest Compendium;</p> <p>1.2. <u>Assess the contributions of the Convention in the conservation and sustainable use of forests, with particular focus on tree species;</u></p> <p>1.3. <u>Assess the contributions made by CITES Secretariat-managed projects to the conservation of sustainable use of forests.</u></p> | <p>Define the <u>potential scope</u> of an initiative on CITES and forests that will enhance the implementation of the Convention as it relates to forests (tree species) while contributing to the achievement of other international commitments.</p> | <p>Develop an executive summary and extended report on the findings of activities 1 and 2; which will serve as a basis for the Secretariat's reporting to the Plants and Standing Committees, in accordance with Decisions 19.33 and 19.34.</p> |
| <p><u>Output 1:</u> A report on an interdisciplinary study.</p>   | <p><u>Output 2:</u> a report on the scope of a new initiative on CITES and forests.</p>   | <p><u>Output 3:</u> consolidated report for consideration of CITES Committees in preparation for CoP20.</p>   |

# Overview of Core Analysis

## 1 MAP LINKAGES

CITES Strategic Vision (CSV)

Mandate

Goals

Objectives/Targets

Stakeholder outreach

Cross CSV to GFC  
Equivalent levels  
Matrix 1

## 2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF CITES TO TREE SPECIES/FORESTS

CITES Forest Compendium

Resolutions

Decisions

Cross-cutting processes

Article XIII  
Compliance  
LAF

RST

NDF

ID  
materials

Capacity-  
building

Cross actions  
Matrix 2

7 thematic elements of Sustainable Forest Management according to UNFF



## Global forest commitments (GFC)

Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

UN Resolutions

Organizations

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030
- United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030).

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

## 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Matrix 3

- Enhance CITES Compendium implementation
- Pros/cons/approaches/scope of a potential Initiative on CITES and Forests
- Partnerships
- Financial mechanisms

# Methodology Activity 1.1: Map Linkages

## Global Forest Commitments (GFC). As approved by Plants Committee:

- A range of instruments, frameworks, and initiatives with explicit commitments to sustainable forest management, conservation, and restoration.
- Some may be legally binding, such as obligations under international conventions (UNFCCC and CITES), or non-binding, like resolutions, decisions and strategic frameworks adopted by multilateral organizations (CBD).

The list of GFCs was reviewed with the Secretariat and prioritized based on:

- 1) relevance to the conservation and sustainable use of forests and tree species;
- 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).



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



United Nations Framework  
Convention on Climate Change



United Nations  
FORUM ON  
FORESTS



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION  
2021-2030



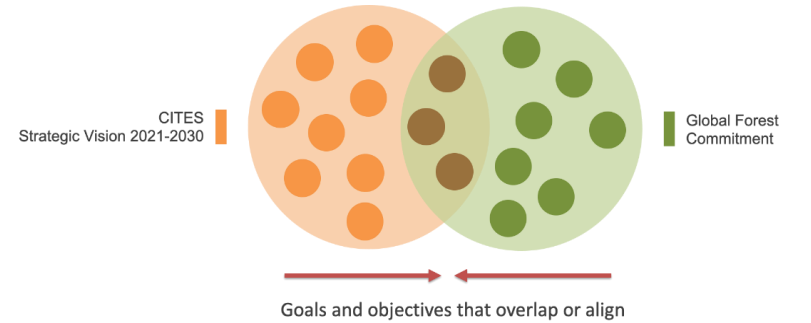
# Methodology Activity 1.1: Map Linkages (cont..)

Type of linkages between CSV and GFC: Qualitatively analysis (Matrix 1 – M1).

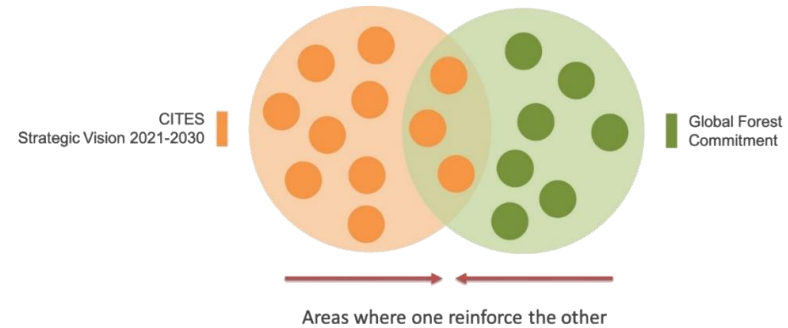
**Intersections:** degree of similarity or alignment. How aligned both frameworks are in terms of shared priorities, if both are pursuing similar outcomes through related actions.

**Complementarities:** no direct overlap but reinforce each other by addressing different but related aspects. These emerge when one framework supports the other framework's effectiveness, by focusing on different but interconnected elements.

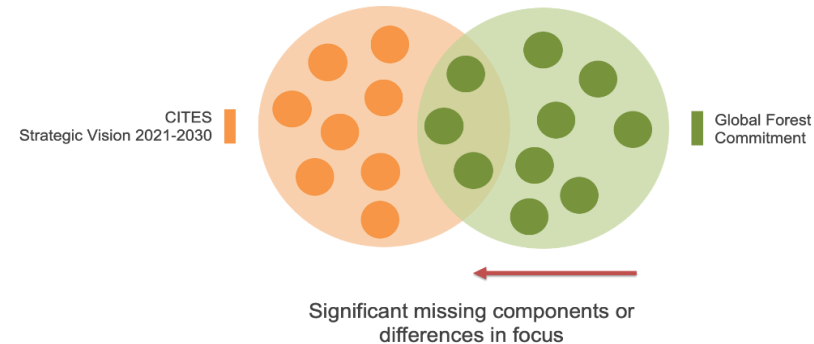
**Gaps:** lack overlap or complementarity, highlighting missing components critical for sustainable forest management. This identifies where CITES could benefit from the GFC's broader approach or where the GFC compensates for CITES' trade-specific focus.



Ranking (level):  
High  
Medium  
Low



Ranking (level):  
High  
Medium  
Low



Ranking (level):  
High  
Medium  
Low

# Methodology Activity 1.1: Map Linkages (cont..)

Feedback received after PC27 (4 regional members - North America, Europe, Asia and Oceania and 2 Parties - USA and Canada)

Stakeholder outreach:

- Representatives of each GFC were contacted to obtain feedback on the analyses and to collect additional information.
- They reviewed the Report on the interdisciplinary study, and a summary of M1 analysis (for their respective GFC).
- They were asked 8 questions regarding: familiarity with CITES and the Compendium, collaboration and contributions to CITES implementation, possible fund-raising avenues, role of CPF in fostering CITES/GFCs collaboration, additional partnerships, and role of CITES in promoting sustainable forest management at ecosystem level.

Feedback was integrated into Matrix 1 (M1).

| GFC          | Initial contact(s)               | Respondee(s)                                      | Summary response                                      |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| CBD          | Jamal Annagylyjova, David Cooper | Jamal Annagylyjova<br>Forest Biodiversity Officer | Written response, including comments/input on M1      |
| FAO Forestry | Tina Vahaanen                    | Jarkko Koskela<br>Forestry Officer, NFO           | Virtual interview, satisfied with M1 coverage         |
| ITTO         | Sheam Satkuru, Mohammed Nurudeen | Mohammed Nurudeen, Director, Trade & Industry     | In-person interview, satisfied with M1 coverage       |
| UNFCCC       | Jenny Wong                       | Jenny Wong<br>Head, AFOLU Unit                    | Written response, including comments/ input on M1     |
| UNFF         | Juliette Biao                    | Tomasz Juszczak                                   | Written response, satisfied with M1 coverage          |
| UNDER        | Tina Vahaanen                    | NA (Christophe Besacier, NFO nominated)           | Pending response, efforts to contact FAO/UNEP ongoing |





# Methodology Activities 1.2 and 1.3: Contributions of CITES to tree species/forests

- Matrix 2 (M2) links the CITES Forest Compendium to the internationally agreed 7 thematic elements of Sustainable Forest Management according to UNFF, assessing CITES' contribution to forest/tree species conservation and sustainable use.
- The "Guidelines for the Development of a Criteria and Indicator (C&I) Set for Sustainable Forest Management" produced by FAO/UNECE served as the basis, providing an extensive set of C&I compiled from a wide range of regional processes.
- The list of indicators was further complemented with additional information from other sources and regions.
- The list of over 300 C&I was refined and narrowed down to eliminate redundancies or indicators not directly related to CITES work.
- The final list of 132 C&I is organized into 50 subgroups and used as “guidance” to assess contributions to the 7 thematic elements.

| 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 |
| 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                            |



# Methodology Activities 1.2 and 1.3: Contributions of CITES to tree species/forests

- For Matrix 2 (M2), 11 cases of the Compendium with sufficient information on implementation were analyzed:
    - NDF
    - Review of Significant Trade
    - CTSP projects
    - Art XIII
- Examples from Central and South America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia
- Several cases derived from a mixture of processes (i.e. an NDF developed within RST with support of a CTSP project).
  - Findings focused on recognizing "direct" CITES (in practice) contributions to conservation and sustainable use of tree species/forests through the 7 thematic elements in: high (green), medium (yellow) and low (red) degree of contributions.



# Methodology Activities 1.2 and 1.3: Contributions of CITES to tree species/forests

11 selected cases:

## Africa:

1<sup>3</sup> *Pterocarpus sarinacetos*, Ghana (RST, Art. XIII)

1<sup>3</sup> *Prunus africana*, Burundi (NDF, LAF)

2<sup>3</sup> *Afzelia quinquangulata*, Mozambique (NDF)

## Asia:

3<sup>3</sup> *Azadirachta indica*, Indonesia (NDF, RST)

4<sup>3</sup> *Dalbergia oliveri*, Indonesia (NDF, RST, LAF)

5<sup>3</sup> *Dalbergia cochiniensis* & *Dalbergia oliveri*, Vietnam (NDF, CTSP)

6<sup>3</sup> *Pterocarpus sanfalinus*, India (NDF)

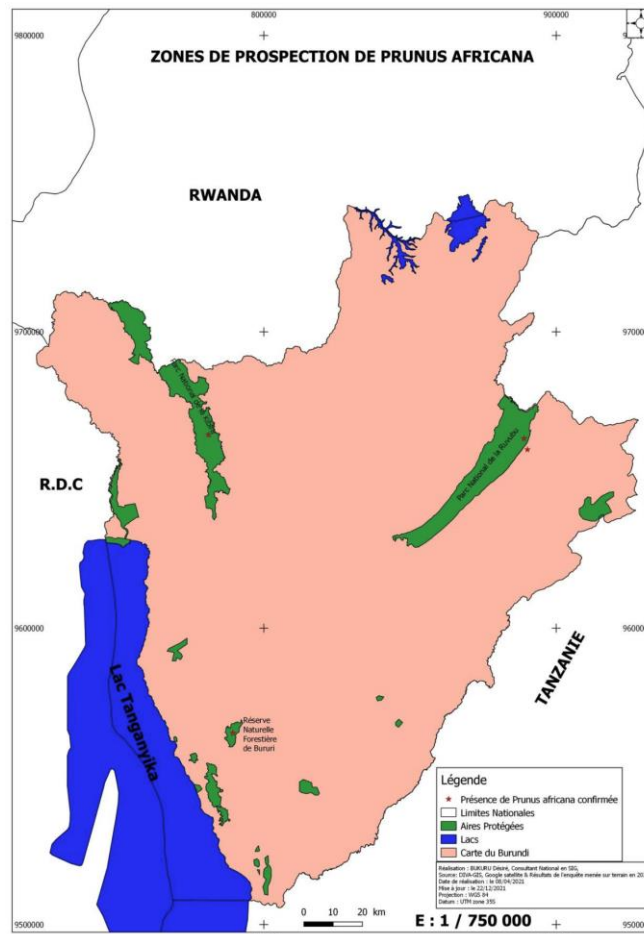
## Central and South America and the Caribbean:

7<sup>3</sup> *Brosimum sarmientoi*, Paraguay (NDF)

8<sup>3</sup> *Dalbergia retusa*, Nicaragua (NDF/RST/CTSP)

0<sup>n</sup> *Brosimum sarmientoi*, Argentina (NDF, CTSP)

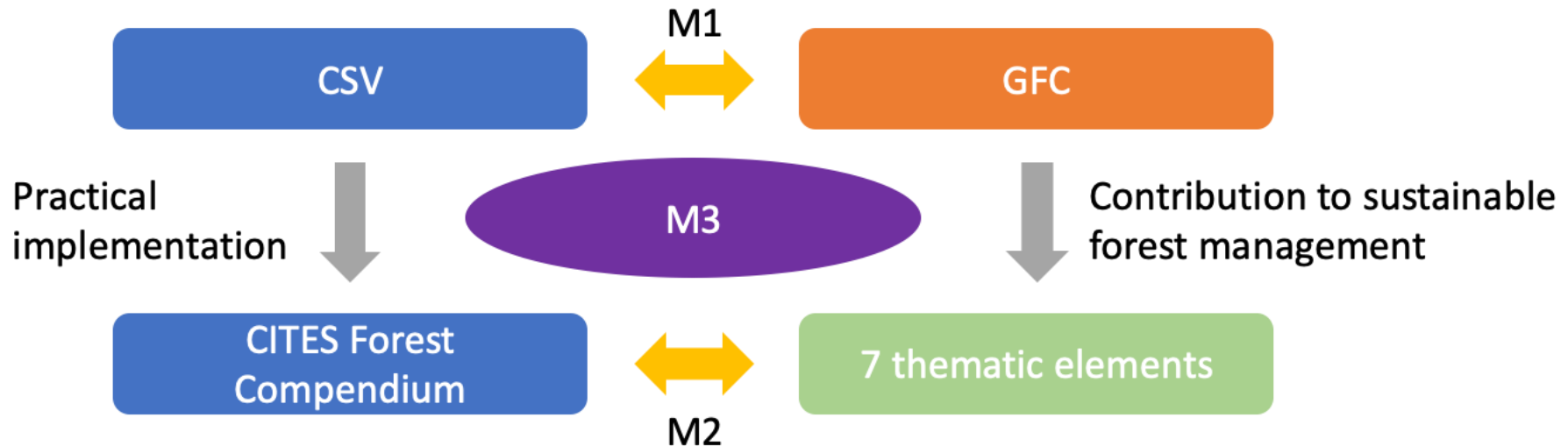
00<sup>3</sup> *Glycymeris* spp., Cuba (NDF, CTSP)



# Methodology Activity 2: Scope of an initiative on CITES and forests

Since the Compendium is the practical implementation of the CSV, and the 7 thematic elements are the way GFCs contribute to sustainable forest management, Matrix 3 (M3) was developed into a "narrative" focusing mainly on:

- Describing those strong connections (telling a story) to show how CITES is contributing to GFCs by implementing the Compendium.
- Identify gaps related to implementation of the 7 thematic elements that are not being addressed by CITES (by mandate or omission) and why;
- Propose recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Compendium (challenges and opportunities).



# Results of Activity 1.1: Map Linkages

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

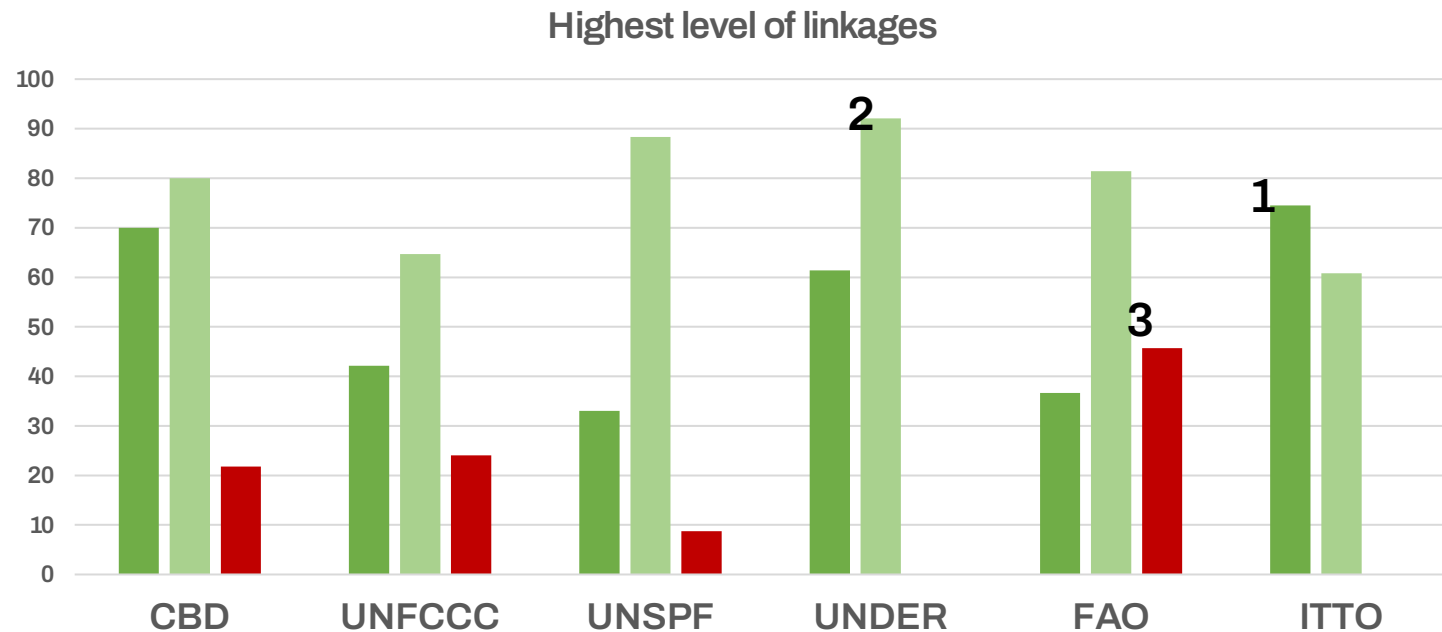
The selected set, type and level of interactions between CSV and the selected GFC are as follows:

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.



# Results of Activity 1.1: Map Linkages

From M1, the highest level of linkages between CSV and the selected GFC is as follows:



1. The highest level of **intersections** is between CSV and ITTO.
2. The highest level of **complementarities** is between CSV and UNDER.
3. The highest level of **gaps** is between CSV and FAO.

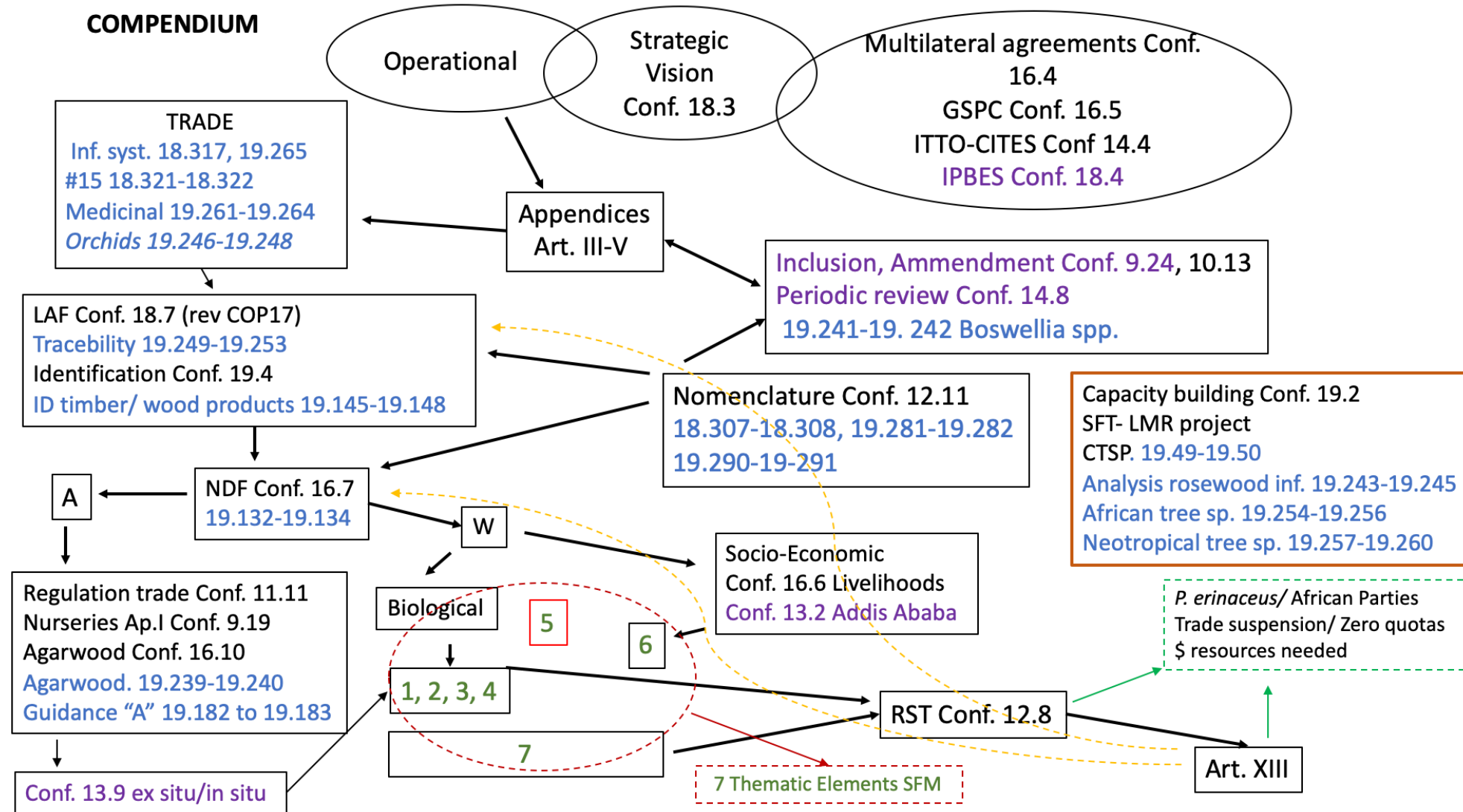


\*For each GFC there is an extended matrix and a summarized matrix in the Annexes.

# Results of Activities 1.2 and 1.3: Contributions of CITES to tree species/forests

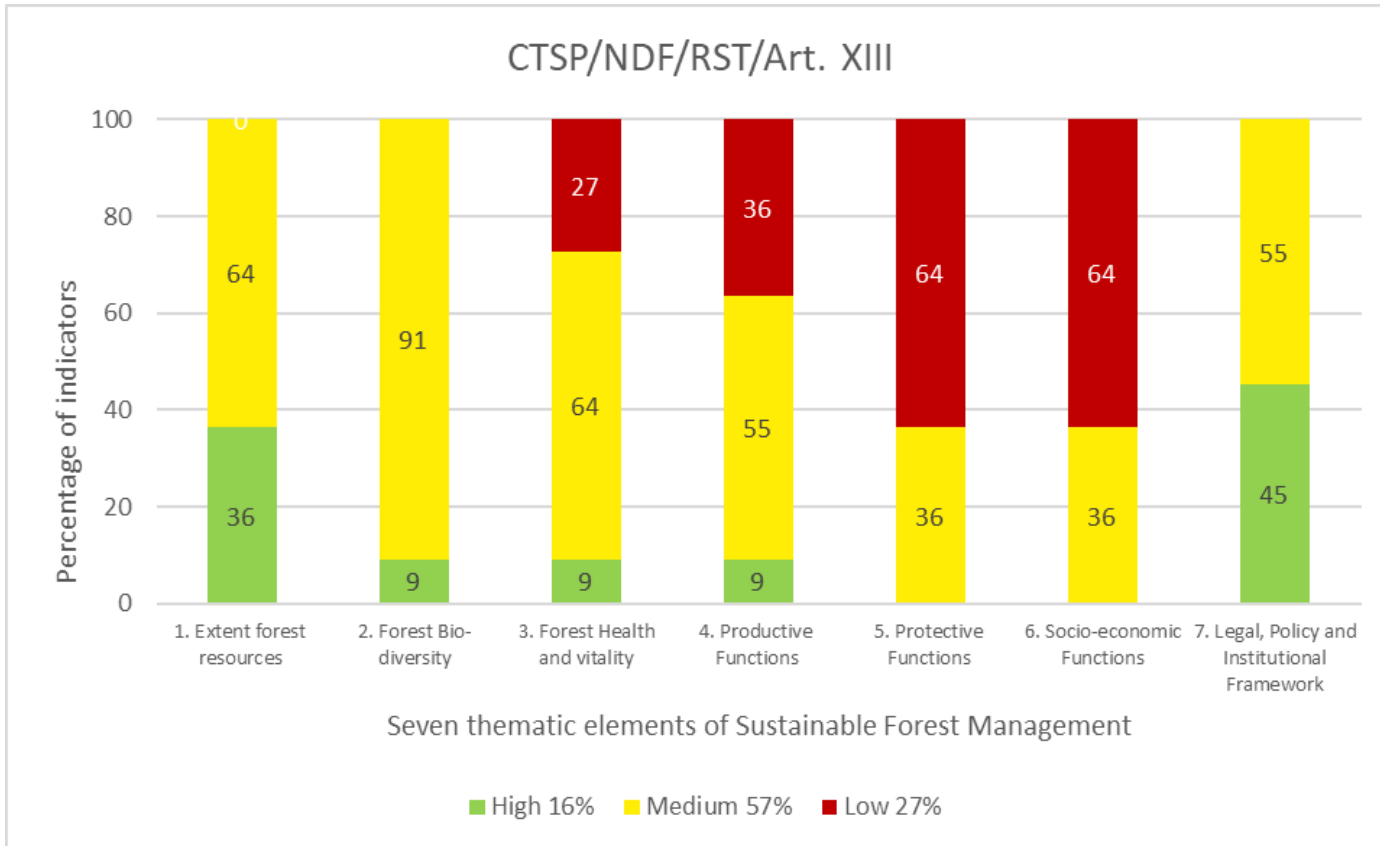
## Flow chart of the different elements of CITES Forest Compendium.

- Resolutions are shown in black and Decisions in blue.
- Within the orange case are elements not linked in the flow chart but that are crosscutting processes.
- Yellow arrows indicate requests under RST and Art. XIII.
- Bright green shows current *P. erinaceus* RST/Art. XIII.
- Dark green within the red circle are the 7 Thematic Elements for SFM.
- Inced in red is thematic element 5, not covered in CITES.
- Purple shows additional Resolutions not included in the Compendium.



# Results of Activities 1.2 and 1.3: Contributions of CITES to tree species/forests

## 11 Case studies results (CTSP, NDF, RST, Art. XIII, LAF)



### Key Contributions by Elements

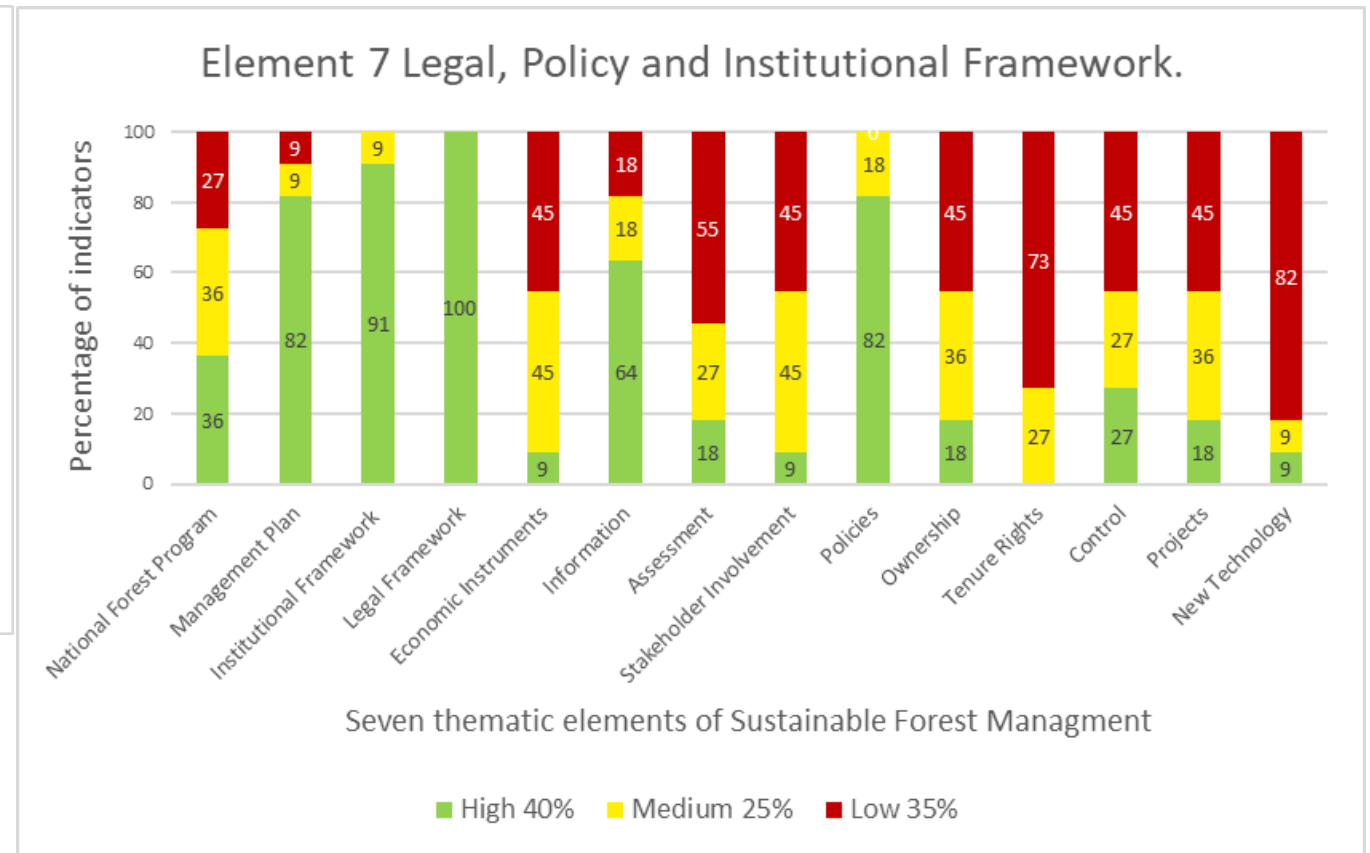
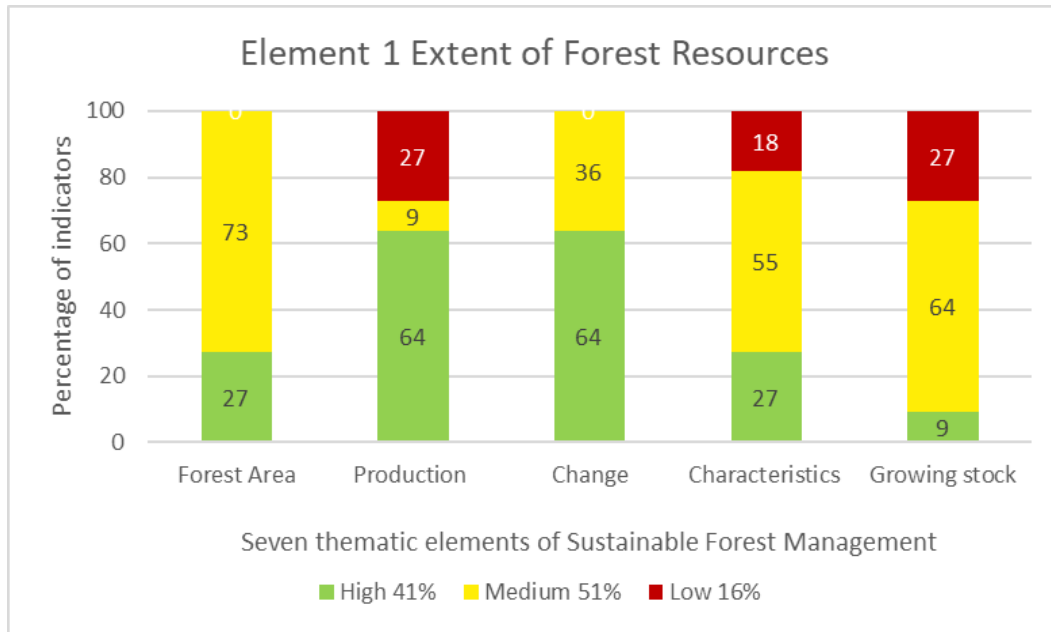
- **Highest Contributions:**
  - Element 7: Legal, Policy, and Institutional Framework (high in most cases).
  - Element 1: Extent of Forest Resources.
- **Lowest Contributions:**
  - Element 5: Protective Functions of Forest Resources (almost no information available).
  - Element 6: Socio-economic Functions (medium to low contributions).

\*For each case there is an extended matrix and a summarized matrix in the Annexes.



# Results on Activities 1.2 and 1.3: Contributions of CITES to tree species/forests

## Analysis by thematic element indicators for the Case studies (CTSP, NDF, RST, Art. XIII, LAF)



\*Change in the forest area

\*Characteristics of the forest such as age class, soils, protection zones, type of ecosystems, successional stage, forest percentage.

\*Information on the communication and availability of forest-related data freely accessible to the public

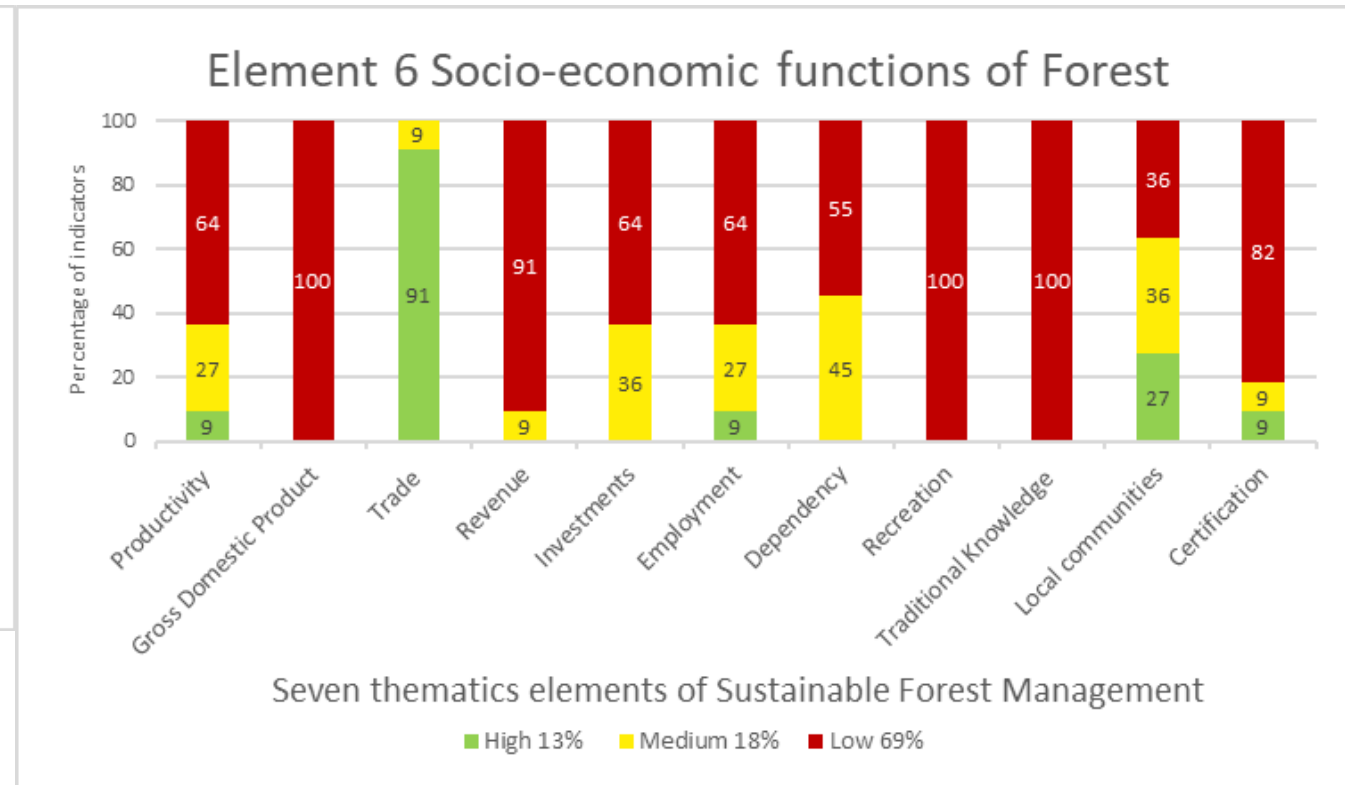
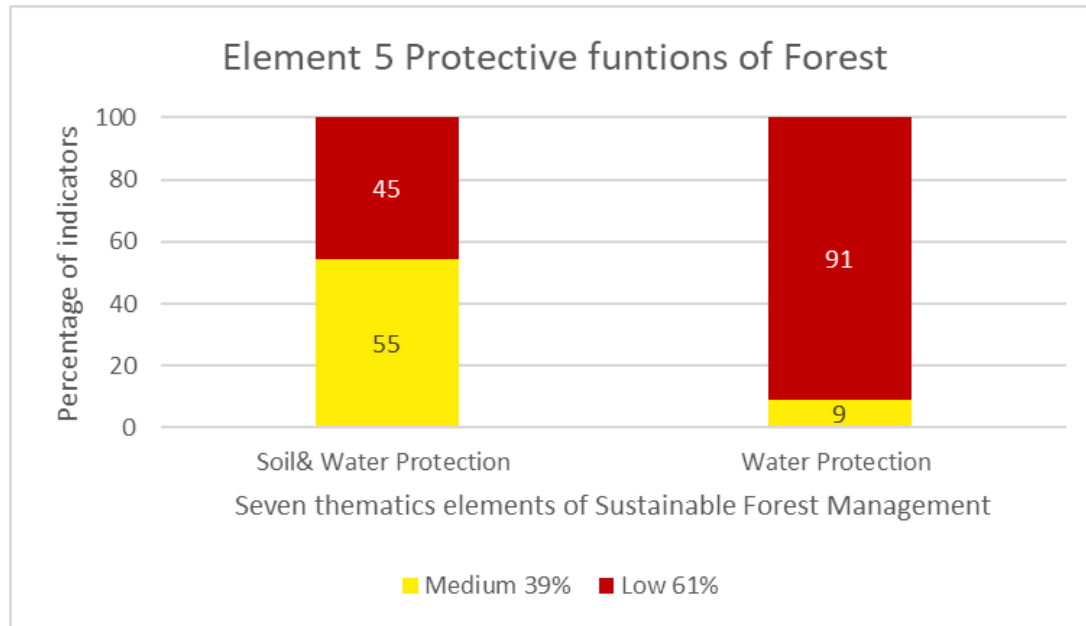
\*Assessment about measuring progress towards

\*Control data that allows strategic monitoring of silvicultural systems in natural and planted forests.



# Results on Activities 1.2 and 1.3: Contributions of CITES to tree species/forests

Analysis by thematic element indicators for the Case studies (CTSP, NDF, RST, Art. XIII, LAF)



- \***Soil and water protection** Area and percent of forest land with significant soil degradation and waste water
- \***Water protection** forest area protect for water harvesting
- \***Gross Domestic Product** Contribution of the forest sector to gross domestic product
- \***Recreation** Area and percent of forests available and/or managed for public recreation and tourism



# Results on Activities 1.2 and 1.3: Contributions of CITES to tree species/forests

## Cautions and Observations:

- Results reflect availability of information, not necessarily its contribution (long reports).
- More documented cases (e.g., RST) do not necessarily translate into higher contributions/impact (i.e. Zero Quota).
- Differences in objectives of reviewed documents (e.g., NDFs, project reports) limit direct comparisons.

## Overview of Matrix 2 Findings:

- The Compendium considers nearly all elements related to tree species that contribute to forest conservation and are interconnected in the process.
- However, the increasing number of tree species with potential for inclusion in the Appendices, activities necessary for proper implementation, and capacity-building needs of already listed species, highlight the need for order, structure, and prioritization (e.g., next steps for CTSP, application of Resolution Conf. 19.2 on capacity building, etc.).

## Resolutions Analysis:

- Contributions mainly align with thematic elements 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 through Res. Conf. 9.24 (listing criteria), 10.13 (tree species), and 16.7 (NDFs).
- For thematic element 5: Addressed broadly in CSV but not in specific Resolutions.
- For thematic element 6: Tools like Res. Conf. 16.6 (livelihoods) and 13.2 (Addis Ababa) could provide relevant information.



# Results on Activities 1.2 and 1.3: Contributions of CITES to tree species/forests

## CTSP Projects:

- Projects vary in scope; some provide foundational support for decision-making and compliance.
- Those related to capacity building, identification, and governance primarily contribute to thematic element 7 (legal, policy and institutional framework).
- Projects aiding in NDF development contribute significantly across multiple elements.
- ITTO-CITES collaboration has significantly supported implementation:
  - 28% of NDF materials created via ITTO-CITES Programme.
  - Projects have supported African Parties (e.g., Benin, Togo, Nigeria) in capacity building and governance.

## Website and Reporting Suggestions to Improve:

- Prioritize better organization, structure, and capacity building for CITES listed tree species.
- Enhance the CITES website to clearly communicate contributions, priorities, and distinctions in forest conservation.
- Increase resources to support Article XIII processes and international collaboration for better outcomes.



## Results on Activity 2: Scope of an initiative on CITES and forests (cont..)

To tackle the complexity of aligning CITES with multiple GFCs and the 7 thematic elements, an approach utilizing complementary matrices is being considered to enhance clarity. These matrices are structured as follows:

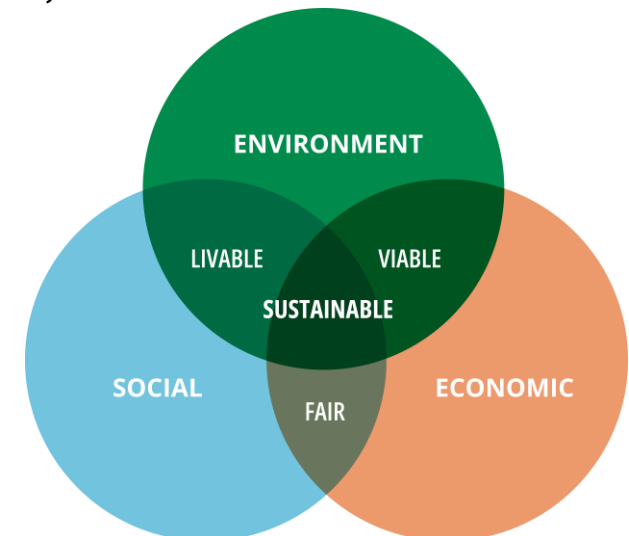
- **Matrix 3A: CITES contributions to global forest management**
  - Focuses on how the CITES Forest Compendium contributes to each GFC.
  - Identifies areas where CITES provides direct contributions to sustainable forest management.
- **Matrix 3B: gaps and implementation challenges**
  - Highlights where CITES faces structural or regulatory challenges in contributing to GFC.
  - Maps out limitations in the implementation of CITES-listed species regulations.
- **Matrix 3C: recommendations for strengthening the CITES Forest Compendium**
  - Presents specific recommendations for enhancing the CITES Forest Compendium.
  - Prioritizes actions based on feasibility and impact.



# Results on Activity 2: Scope of an initiative on CITES and forests

M3 helps recognize, among other things, that:

- In order to implement CITES (i.e. making an NDF) you have to rely on management plans for that species/area, which necessarily considers ecosystem elements when managing it (i.e. conserving habitat, best practices to avoid damaging other species or the environment, keep old trees as seeders, etc.), so likely we are already covering an ecosystem approach without knowing/specifying it.
- Some GFCs (i.e. CBD) are focused on conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing, while CITES is focused on sustainable use and international trade (extraction, commercial purposes), but both can have the same goals and synergies (especially to avoid duplicating efforts).
- Conservation of ecosystems and ecosystem services (and the species within them) in the **LONG TERM** require considering a broader concept of sustainable use (environment, social and economic) where elements such as involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, are crucial.



## Closing views

The interdisciplinary study provides elements to evaluate the potential scope of an initiative on CITES and forests, guide other initiatives relevant to forests such as the CTSP and the future work of CITES related to tree species, with the aim of enhancing their legal, sustainable and traceable trade.

CITES tree species can also be umbrella species for conservation and sustainable use of forests while maintaining ecosystem functions and services. Their management through inclusive participatory planning processes are key to contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other global forest commitments.



**THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN**  
For Life on Earth



**CITES**

**Thank you!**



# Questions for the participants' feedback

Based on the information shown here:

- a) **What are the main elements/considerations to propose recommendations to enhance the implementation of the CITES Forest Compendium?**
  
- b) **Would you consider an initiative on CITES and Forest is needed to strengthen Compendium elements and fill the gaps identified (regarding the 7 thematic elements), to support tree species/forests within CITES mandate? If yes: What could be the main elements/considerations to define avenues for any future initiative relating to CITES and forests, in preparation for CoP20?**