

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



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

Administrative and financial matters

STANDARD DISCLOSURE FORM FOR
MEMBERS OF THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS COMMITTEES

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Standing Committee.*
 2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 18.2 on *Establishment of Committees*. The Parties agreed to include a section on conflict of interest in committees where the membership consists of individuals in paragraph 8 to this Resolution that reads as follows:
 8. **AGREES** that a “conflict of interest” refers to any current financial interest which could significantly impair an individual’s impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a Member of a committee. A candidate’s employment by itself does not automatically constitute a conflict of interest. For committees where individuals are elected as Members, such as the Animals Committee and Plants Committee, the following procedures apply:
 - a) Parties proposing candidates as Members or alternate Members are to request that, together with their names and curricula vitae, each candidate provides a Declaration of Interest which should be circulated to the Parties of the region concerned before the meeting of the Conference by the Parties at which the Members will be elected. In that declaration in the standard disclosure form agreed by the Standing Committee, the candidate should disclose any current financial interest that might call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a Member or alternate Member of the committee;
- [...]
- c) Each Member and acting Member shall, at the beginning of each meeting of the committee using the standard disclosure form agreed by the Standing Committee, declare whether they have any financial interests that he or she considers call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the agenda for that meeting of the committee. A conflict of interest may also be identified by any credible source and brought to the attention of the Chair of the committee through the Secretariat. If a Member has such a financial interest, he or she may take part in discussions but not in the decision-making regarding the agenda item in question. If the Member is the subject of the potential conflict of interest, he or she shall not chair the meeting or sub-meeting for the agenda item in question;
3. At its 75th meeting (Panama City, November 2022), the Standing Committee agreed on the use of the *Standard disclosure form for CITES declarations of interest* contained in the Annex to the present document.

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

However, during the discussion, an amendment was proposed by Israel to add the word “commercial” before “harvesting” in question 2 of the form as follows:

2. *Do you have, or have you had during the past four years, an employment or other professional relationship with any company, organization or institution directly involved in the commercial harvesting, breeding, propagation, domestic or international trade of specimens of CITES-listed species or directly representing the interests of any such entity?*

The Standing Committee noted the proposed amendment by Israel and agreed to consider the proposal at its 77th meeting (SC77).

Recommendations

4. The Standing Committee is invited to consider the proposed amendment to the *Standard disclosure form for CITES declarations of interest* as indicated in paragraph 3 above.



**Standard disclosure form for CITES declarations of interest
(First page)**

A "conflict of interest" refers to any current financial interest which could significantly impair the individual's impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a member of the Committee. A candidate's employment by itself does not automatically constitute a conflict of interest.

1. Do you or an immediate family member have any financial interest in the subject matter of the meeting or work in which you will be involved, which may be considered as constituting a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest?

Yes: No: If yes, please provide details:

2. Do you have, or have you had during the past four years, an employment or other professional relationship with any company, organization or institution directly involved in the harvesting, breeding, propagation, domestic or international trade of specimens of CITES-listed species or directly representing the interests of any such entity?

Yes: No: If yes, please give details in the box next page.

I hereby declare that the disclosed information is correct and that no other situation of real, potential or apparent conflict of interest is known to me. I undertake to inform you of any change in these circumstances, including if an issue arises during the meeting or work itself and that I shall conduct myself in full compliance with the conflict of interest provisions set out in paragraph 8 of Resolution Conf. 18.2 on Establishment of Committees

Signature

Date

Name

Region

Standard disclosure form for CITES declarations of interest

(Second page)

1. Type of interest (e.g. investments, research support, advocacy, intellectual property, financial interest (including details on any compound, work, etc.)	2. Name (of company, organization or institution)	3. Owned by (e.g. you, a family member, employer, research unit or other?)	4. Current interest? (or year ceased)