

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

Strategic matters

CITES and people

CITES GENDER ACTION PLAN

1. This document has been prepared jointly by the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted [Resolution Conf. 19.3](#) on *Gender and international trade in wild fauna and flora*.
3. At the same meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.51 to 19.53 on the *CITES Gender Action Plan* as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee

19.51 *The Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee, subject to available resources, shall draw on the available body of knowledge, lessons and experiences on gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to legal and illegal international trade of wild flora and fauna, to develop a draft gender action plan for submission to the Standing Committee. The draft gender action plan should:*

- a) *consider the needs of indigenous and local peoples of all genders, especially women and girls, as well as how to incorporate their perspectives, skills and talents at all ages, and local and traditional knowledge;*
- b) *aim to ensure that women and girls in all their diversity have equal access to, ownership and/or control over the use of wild flora and fauna, can fully and effectively engage in international trade of species of wild fauna and flora, and receive a fair and equitable share of benefits arising from the use and trade of such wildlife; thus reducing poverty and gender gaps through the promotion of economic and decision-making freedom;*
- c) *aim to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in wild flora and fauna international trade chains;*
- d) *promote gender equality and increase and strengthen the participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making and participation in processes related to international wild flora and fauna trade;*
- e) *enhance the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of all genders, in particular women, in the implementation of the Convention, including through the engagement of civil society organizations, women's groups and women delegates, and provide opportunities for building their capacities; and*

- f) *identify specific actions to advance the objectives above, across international trade chains for sustainable and legal wild flora and fauna, including parts and derivatives, as well as associated activities, including harvesting, law enforcement, and policy-making.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.52 *The Standing Committee shall consider any draft gender action plan received from the Secretariat under Decision 19.51 and, if considered appropriate, submit a final version of that action plan, as an annex to the Resolution on Gender and international trade in wild fauna and flora, for approval by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.*

Directed to Parties and relevant stakeholders

19.53 *Parties and relevant stakeholders, are encouraged to:*

- a) *support the preparation of the “CITES Gender Action Plan” by sharing knowledge, case studies and other relevant experiences with the Secretariat;*
- b) *strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the gender-differentiated impacts of sustainable use and international trade in species of wild flora and fauna, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing; and*
- c) *provide financial support towards the development and implementation of the Gender Action Plan.*

4. To date, the Secretariat has received some funds from the European Union towards the implementation of Decision 19.51, which will allow for the collection of knowledge, lessons and experience on gender. It has also received information from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) regarding work under its [Gender and Illegal Wildlife Trade](#) workstream, including a guidance document and a [toolkit](#).
5. In initiating the work towards the implementation of Decision 19.51, the Secretariat has started the following tasks:
- a) Based on Resolution Conf. 19.3 and Decision 19.51, the Secretariat has developed a first draft outline of the CITES Gender Action Plan, found in the Annex to the present document.
 - b) Notification to Parties No. 2023/104 has been issued to invite Parties and relevant stakeholders to share knowledge, case studies and other relevant experiences with the Secretariat as well as a request for funding in support of the preparation of the *CITES Gender Action Plan*.
 - c) The Secretariat has also engaged with the Secretariats of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and United Nations agencies to collect information regarding their gender policy and action plans.
6. The Secretariat will continue to work with the Chair of the Standing Committee and other experts to develop a draft Gender Action Plan for submission to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting.

Recommendations

7. The Standing Committee is invited to:
- a) provide comments on the draft outline of the CITES Gender Action Plan contained in the Annex to the present document;
 - b) welcome the financial support from the European Union towards the implementation of Decision 19.51;
 - c) encourage other Parties and relevant stakeholders to provide further financial support to facilitate the efforts towards the development and implementation of the Gender Action Plan and to share knowledge, case studies and other relevant experiences with the Secretariat in support of the preparation of the Action Plan; and
 - d) request the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, to submit a draft *CITES Gender Action Plan* for its consideration at its 78th meeting.

DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE CITES GENDER ACTION PLAN

1. Introduction

- Background and mandates
- Linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda
- Linkages to the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030
- Linkages to the Global Biodiversity Framework
- Other United Nations bodies and MEA gender plans

2. Rationale

- The role of gender in the international trade in wild flora and fauna, both legal and illegal
- The role of women and girls in the conservation and sustainable use of wild fauna and flora
- Challenges of gender-blind and gender-aware approaches and opportunities for gender-sensitive strategies

3. Objectives of the Action Plan (*from Resolution Conf. 19.3*)

- Enhance Parties' understanding of gender and how it interacts with other identifying factors in matters related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora
- Contribute to making Parties' research, programming, and monitoring activities related to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora become gender-aware and gender-responsive
- Contribute to ensuring that Parties and relevant organizations include gender-specific indicators in their strategic planning
- Enhance the representation and participation of all genders in conservation and address issues relating to legal and illegal international trade in wild species of fauna and flora
- Increase public awareness about gender and conservation in wild species of fauna and flora

4. Strategies and interventions

- Data collection
- Representation in CITES meeting delegations
- Capacity-building
- Research on the role of gender in legal and illegal wildlife trade and, in particular, impacts on women and girls
- Incorporation of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities (IPLC) perspectives and knowledge
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Resource mobilization

5. Monitoring and evaluation

- Development of gender-specific indicators
- Reporting
- Periodic progress review

6. Conclusions and recommendations

7. Annexes

- Case studies, shared experiences, and other relevant information collected for the development of the Action Plan