

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

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Twenty-fifth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Online, 2-4, 21 and 23 June 2021

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

ADDENDUM TO TOWARDS A RESOLUTION ON *CITES AND FORESTS*

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Progress since May 2020

2. In document PC25 Doc. 12, the Secretariat introduced for consideration by the Plants Committee at its 25th meeting (PC25) an initiative relating to the development of a new resolution on *CITES and forests*. The resolution would provide strategic guidance on: a) ensuring coherence between CITES and the international governance framework on forests; and b) increasing visibility and resource mobilization in support of the Convention's role in ensuring the long-term conservation of species of wild fauna and flora occurring in, and dependent upon, forests.
3. Following the postponement – due to the COVID-19 pandemic – of PC25, scheduled to take place from 17 to 23 July 2020, the Committee took a number of intersessional decisions (see Notification No. 2020/056 of 21 September 2020), including the approval of its workplan for 2020-2022 as outlined in document PC25 Doc. 7.2.
4. Following an online briefing of the Plants Committee on 23 November 2020, it was agreed for the Secretariat to liaise with the Chair of the Committee (Ms. Flore Koumba) in conducting preliminary consultations with the Plants Committee on document PC25 Doc. 12, in preparation for PC25.
5. In the following sections, the Secretariat provides relevant updates, using as a basis the outline contained in paragraph 15 of document PC25 Doc. 12, and incorporating where appropriate the preliminary feedback received from the Plants Committee.

Concerning collaboration with organizations with substantial programmes on forests

6. In Annex 1 to document PC25 Doc. 12, the Secretariat listed the Resolutions in effect that are specifically relevant to forests and explored actions, should a new resolution on CITES and forests be adopted. As noted by the Secretariat, the proposed resolution would be of a strategic nature, and therefore not aim to replace Resolutions that are technical in nature.
7. Among the Resolutions specifically relevant to forests, two are strategic in nature: Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber* and Resolution Conf 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*.

8. Resolution Conf. 14.4 has not been revised since its adoption in 2007, as noted in paragraph 12 of document PC25 Doc. 12. It does not reflect the most recent developments in terms of collaboration between CITES and ITTO. Rather than revising this single-issue resolution, its provisions could be updated and incorporated under a broader strategic framework on CITES and forests.
9. Recommendations relating to Resolution Conf. 16.5 and the post-2020 future of the GSPC are addressed in the Addendum to PC25 Doc. 13. In the interest of consistency, discussions relating to Resolution Conf. 16.5 will not be further explored in the present addendum.
10. In document PC25 Doc. 12 (paragraphs 2 to 10), the Secretariat informed the Committee about its role as a member of the *Collaborative Partnership on Forests* (CPF). The CPF has in the meantime agreed its 2021-2024 workplan, a short version of which is available in the Annex to the present addendum. The joint initiatives in which the CITES Secretariat participates as co-lead\* or as supporting partner\*\* under the current workplan are: Communicators' Network\*; Forest Finance Facilitation\*\*; Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP)\*\*; Streamlining Global Forest-related Reporting\*\*; and Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW)\*.
11. The preliminary feedback from the Plants Committee on a draft resolution on CITES and forests is limited to date, but indicates that merging strategic Resolutions relating to forests under a new consolidated resolution merits consideration. It was also suggested that such a resolution should emphasize its strategic (not technical) nature and focus on collaboration and exchange of information with like-minded organizations.
12. Should a new resolution on CITES and forests be developed, its operative part could include guidelines for CITES collaboration with CPF and other relevant organizations with substantial programmes on forests, and provisions directing the Secretariat to report on such collaboration.

Concerning resource mobilization to ensure timely implementation of Decisions and Resolutions relevant to forests

13. In Annex 2 to document PC25 Doc. 12, the Secretariat included an overview of Decisions in effect that are specifically relevant to forests and their genetic resources, for which in most cases implementation relies on securing external funds (see also Notification No. 2020/072).
14. At the time of writing, the Secretariat has secured external resources in support of the implementation of several of the Decisions relating to forests, as further reported in relevant addendums to the agenda items of the present meeting. However, some of the costliest mandates relating to flora remain to be implemented (e.g. Decision 18.24 on *Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]*) due to the lack of external funds.
15. Should a new resolution on CITES and forests be developed, its operative part could include resource-mobilization guidelines for Parties and the Secretariat to take into account for implementing CITES activities relevant for forests, and Decisions and Resolutions in the CoP-to-CoP "forest-portfolio" that are dependent on securing external funds.

Concerning the development, management and implementation of forest-related activities and programmes undertaken under CITES

16. In the addendum to document PC25 Doc. 8, the Secretariat provides updates since May 2020 on the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP), including an assessment of progress in the implementation of Decisions 18.14 and 18.17.
17. Additionally, on 5 February 2021, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the CITES Secretariat signed an agreement to undertake the project "*Support to the implementation of the UN-REDD Initiative for Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong project, with a focus on trade in CITES-listed timber species*" (SFT-LMR-CITES). The agreement was negotiated over the course of 2020 and built upon the notion that compliance with CITES listings for forest species plays a key role in achieving UN-REDD+ objectives related to improved governance and trade across the Lower Mekong Region (LMR). The project is funded by the *Norway International Climate and Forest Initiative* (NICFI), with a budget of around USD 500,000.

18. The SFT-LMR-CITES project aims to strengthen the implementation of CITES' regulations in LMR Parties including Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. In doing so, it will also contribute to the implementation of valid Decisions relating to forests, particularly Decisions 18.234 to 18.237 on *Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]*, as well as ongoing Article XIII recommendations for the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Its expected outcomes and outputs, respectively, are:
  - (1) LMR Parties have enhanced capacities to ensure sustainability in trade of CITES-listed trees.
    - 1.1. Forestry priorities in LMR for CITES-listed trees are identified.
    - 1.2. Capacities on Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.) in the Lao People's Democratic Republic are strengthened.
  - (2) LMR Parties have enhanced capacities to ensure compliance with CITES regulations for tree species.
    - 2.1. Capacities on CITES electronic permit management and Legal Acquisition Findings (LAFs) are strengthened.
    - 2.2. Implementation of e-CITES in Thailand is improved.
    - 2.3. Resources and tools for identification of CITES-listed timber species in LMR are developed.
  - (3) LMR Parties have enhanced capacities to ensure enforcement of CITES regulations for tree species.
    - 3.0. Capacities on the physical inspection of timber shipments are improved.
19. The CTSP and the SFT-LMR-CITES initiatives are highlighted here because they are currently underway and are complementary to the implementation of Decisions relating to forests. To the extent that more forest-dependent species are being included in the Appendices and that the Convention continues to gain visibility as a key instrument in contributing to the global governance framework on forests in line with the 2021-2030 Strategic Vision, the Secretariat expects that CITES will be called upon to engage in a growing number of similar forest initiatives and projects.
20. Should a new resolution on CITES and forests be developed, its operative part could provide guidelines for Parties and the Secretariat when engaging in forest-related programmes or projects that are relevant to the implementation of CITES, including recommendations to align them, wherever possible, with the priorities established by the CoP-to-CoP "forest-portfolio".

Concerning outreach, communication and visibility in relation to the work of CITES that is relevant to forests

21. In line with Resolution Conf. 17.1 (Rev. CoP18) on *World Wildlife Day*, in its role as facilitator of the United Nations World Wildlife Day (UN WWD), on 3 March 2021, the Secretariat organized the event under the theme of "*Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet*" (see <https://wildlifeday.org>). The 2021 WWD succeeded in highlighting the link between the livelihoods, knowledge and experiences of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who rely on forests, and the conservation of these ecosystems and the wildlife they harbour.
22. Participants took part in two panel discussions on the role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and their livelihoods in the conservation and sustainable use of forests, and on inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment opportunities afforded by the sustainable management of forests. Speakers included representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities residing within or near forested areas in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. UN Member States' and CITES Parties' Management Authorities were also represented on the panels, as were UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements, civil society, and the private sector.
23. The 2021 WWD celebration was accompanied by two artistic events: the sixth edition of the World Wildlife Day Film Showcase, organized with Jackson Wild and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and the third edition of the World Wildlife Day Youth Art Contest, organized with the International Fund for Animal Welfare and UNDP. Winners were unveiled during the celebration, with both contests registering record entries, as filmmakers and young artists from around the world submitted their works illustrating this year's theme and key messages.

24. The 3 March 2021 event was also the first-ever virtual celebration of the UN WWD. The event was successfully adapted to an online setting and broadcast live through social media. This expanded the reach of the event and contributed to spreading its principal messages on the experiences of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and on the value of forest ecosystem services to a wide and global audience.
25. Additionally, as member of the CPF, the Secretariat contributed to this year's International Day of Forests (21 March), which had as theme "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being". More information on the event can be found at: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/forests-and-trees-day>.
26. Should a new resolution on CITES and forests be developed, its operative part could include guidelines on raising visibility of the importance of the Convention in contributing to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets. It could suggest specific actions relating to outreach and communication.

#### Revised recommendations

27. The Plants Committee is invited to:

- a) consider document PC25 Doc. 12 and the present addendum;
- b) consider the value of developing a new resolution on CITES and forests;
- c) should it be developed, agree that the operative part could contain guidance on:
  - i) collaboration with organizations with substantial programmes on forests (as per paragraph 12);
  - ii) resource mobilization for implementing CITES activities, Decisions and Resolutions that are relevant to forests (as per paragraph 15);
  - iii) participation of Parties and the Secretariat in forest-related activities and programmes that are relevant to CITES (as per paragraph 20); and
  - iv) outreach, communication and visibility of CITES work relating to forests (as per paragraph 26); and
- d) provide any additional recommendation for the Secretariat to consider, should it bring a draft resolution for consideration by the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.



# CPF

Collaborative Partnership  
on Forests

## WORK PLAN 2021-2024

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*Working together to reach  
the Global Forest Goals*



DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS



In its Strategic Vision towards 2030, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) envisions that: "by 2030 all types of forests and forest landscapes are sustainably managed, their multiple values are fully recognized, the potential of forests and their goods and services is fully unlocked, and the Global Forest Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals and other global forest-related goals, targets and commitments are achieved. To support countries to achieve these aims, CPF will effectively enhance coherence and synergy on forest-related issues and values among its member organizations and help move from deforestation to restoration."

The CPF work plan 2021-2024 was developed in early 2021 to support the realisation of this vision. The member organisations of the CPF developed the work plan based on guidance received from the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and other governing bodies. It is aligned with the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and the proposed Quadrennial Programme of Work of UNFF for the period 2021-2024. The plan promotes forests' contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, other internationally agreed development goals, and the objectives of relevant global forest-related agreements and processes. The work plan will be revised once the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Quadrennial Programme of Work 2021-2024 is approved.

*Working together  
to reach the Global  
Forest Goals*



# CPF in action

Recurrently, the CPF engages in forest communication and outreach through its website, meetings, and events; operational activities such as policy coordination; contributions to the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) documentation and sessions; and activities on emerging issues and challenges, e.g., the joint CPF Statement, "Towards sustainability: forest solutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic", 2020).

CPF members work together to implement Joint Initiatives (JIs).

## **Jl: Streamlining Global Forest-related Reporting**

**Lead agencies: FAO and UNFF**

**Timeframe: 2021-2024**

This JI focuses on harmonizing reporting on forest resources and their management and using reports for various processes and conventions. The initiative aims to improve coverage, quality, and transparency of forest-related data and information and to reduce the forest-related reporting burden of countries. The focus of work lies in improving the methodology for reporting on primary forests, revising the terms and definitions, improving reporting for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, and advancing the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators.







## J1: Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World

Lead agencies: FAO and ITTO supported by CIFOR-ICRAF, CITES, and the World Bank

Timeframe: 2018-2022

The principal goal of this JI is to strengthen sustainable wood value chains to enhance their social, economic, and environmental benefits from production to consumption. By setting up collaborative activities with a broad range of stakeholders along the value chain, the initiative advances responsible production and consumption of legally and sustainably produced wood, enhances the generation of socioeconomic benefits from forests, and increases the supply of low carbon products for a climate-resilient planet. This initiative supports selected countries to advance in sustainable and legal wood production and trade. In addition, it plans to launch a global communication campaign to promote the use of sustainably produced wood.

## J1: Green Finance for Sustainable Landscapes

Lead agencies: CIFOR-ICRAF, GEF, and UNEP

Timeframe: 2021-2024

The initiative aims to boost bank and investor interest to increase capital flows towards forest and landscape restoration and deforestation-free agriculture. It further aims to create conditions for commitments to deforestation-free, sustainable commodity production and other forms of sustainable land use. This will be accomplished by releasing a framework including Key Performance Indicators; developing a standardized framing, measurement, and monitoring of environmental and social impacts related to agri/forestry loans and investments; and supporting agribusiness producer groups to better access business knowledge.



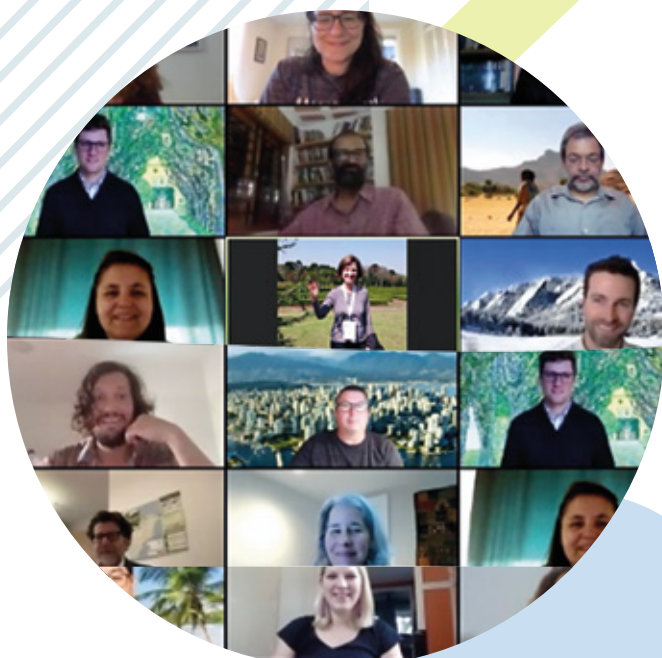


## Jl: Forest Landscape Restoration

Lead agency: IUCN

Timeframe: 2018-2021

This initiative aims to enhance synergies in the global Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) process and help countries and stakeholders scale up and strengthen the implementation of FLR at national and sub-national levels. It will mainstream FLR into national, regional, and international policy frameworks. It supports selected countries to develop bankable FLR project proposals; and publishes reports on integrating protected areas in FLR approaches and the FLR programmes of CPF members.



## Jl: Global Forest Expert Panels

Lead agency: IUFRO

Timeframe: continuous

This initiative aims to assess available scientific information in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, objective, open and transparent way. It will produce reports on forest-related issues of high concern, including emerging issues. About every second year, a Global Forest Expert Panels is formed on a selected topic to develop a global assessment report on that topic. Past panels e.g. focused on Forests, Trees and the Eradication of Poverty (2020), Forest and Water on a Changing Planet (2018), Illegal Logging and Related Timber Trade (2016).

## Jl: Communicators' Network

Lead agencies: CIFOR-ICRAF, CITES, FAO, UNFF

Timeframe: continuous

The CPF Communicators' Network facilitates actions to increase forest-related communication impact. It amplifies outreach activities of CPF members, events and coordinates strategic communication. It advises annually on a common theme for the International Day of Forests and supports the promotion of the Day.



## Jl: Forest Finance Facilitation

Lead agency: UNFF

Timeframe: 2021-2024

This initiative supports the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network to mobilize financing from all sources to manage all types of forests and help countries design national forest financing strategies. A Clearing House Mechanism was developed, and the initiative seeks to develop a database on financing flows to forestry.

## Jl: Wangari Maathai Award

Lead agency: FAO

Timeframe: 2012 – open-ended

The CPF periodically awards extraordinary individuals for improving our forests and the lives of people who depend on them through the Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award. The awardee is selected based on his/her contribution towards the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of forests and communicating the key role forests play in rural livelihoods and the environment across generations. The awardee is recognized at an international forest event and receives a cash prize.



## JI (in the pipeline): Pathways for Designing a Mechanism to Incentivize Deforestation Free Landscapes and Value Chains for Green Growth

Lead agencies: World Bank and ITTO

Timeframe: TBD

This initiative will aim to identify fiscal measures and incentives that could work and motivate the forest sector in the medium to long term. This includes taxes on "legal" timber (e.g., excluding wood from deforestation), "sustainable" timber taxes, royalties, tax benefits, and returns.

## JI (in the pipeline): Turning the Tide on Deforestation

Lead agencies: FAO, UNEP, UNDP

Timeframe: 2021-2024

This initiative will aim to upscale global ambitions to address deforestation, map out UN system and CPF work and initiatives on deforestation, and identify gaps and propose solutions. It will focus on specific emerging issues and strengthen common advocacy based on data. The initiative will propose a global Action Plan on "Turning the Tide on Deforestation," in support of countries' efforts to halt deforestation.



## JI (in the pipeline): Forest Education

Lead agencies: FAO, ITTO, IUFRO

Timeframe: 2021-2024

This initiative is designed to raise awareness globally of the necessity for educational and training programmes that ensure forest workers, technicians, and professionals are fit for the workplace and that stimulate young people's appreciation and knowledge of forests and forest-related careers.

