

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Strategic matters

TOWARDS A RESOLUTION ON CITES AND FORESTS

This document has been submitted by Canada in relation to agenda item 15.\*

1. The North American Region recognizes the importance of collaboration between CITES and other international organizations and agreements dealing with natural resources, including global forest-based organizations. For that reason, we support CITES' involvement in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management. However, we are concerned that this proposed resolution is mixing the operational fundamentals of CITES with collaboration.
2. The North American Region wishes to better understand the urgency expressed by the Secretariat and some Parties, and the way in which the draft resolution proposed by the Secretariat would bring added strategic value to the current means by which CITES addresses forest issues.
3. We believe strongly that a new strategic resolution on CITES and Forests, initiated by the Secretariat, requires careful consideration by Parties, and the direct input of the Plants and Animals Committees in the development process, given the connection to flora and fauna. We find it premature to consider submitting a resolution for consideration at CoP19.
4. Noting that the primary focus of the Convention remains the sustainable use and conservation of species in international trade by ensuring such trade is legal and does not threaten the survival of species in the wild, we acknowledge that in pursuing this core role, CITES Parties and the Secretariat also indirectly contribute to international conservation of ecosystems. However, we are not convinced that the potential of separate resolutions focused on ecosystems, whether forests, oceans, or deserts, will elevate rather than detract from core CITES work. We therefore invite the Standing Committee to consider a third option as a way forward.
5. Noting that certain activities called for in the proposed draft resolution, including the collection of information from Parties, the creation of the compendium and the webpage by the Secretariat, and adaptation of budget scenarios for tree species projects, could commence at CoP19 to the benefit of CITES-listed tree species, we propose revised draft Decisions which borrow from and would replace the draft decisions presented in Options 1 and 2 in Document SC74 Doc. 15. Our proposed draft decisions would support work on issues that are central to CITES' core functions, while allowing time for the scientific committees to consider the value of, and, as deemed necessary, to draft a resolution on forests that could support implementation of CITES. The new draft decisions capture actions identified in paragraphs 1, 3, 10, and 13 of the draft resolution, but would engage the Plants and Animals Committees and reduce the scope of activities in the next intersessional period to CITES-listed tree species, rather than the broad scope of activities across the "forest cluster" proposed in the draft resolution.

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\* *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*

### **19.AA Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall:

- a) In collaboration with the Plants Committee, develop a compendium of activities in Resolutions and Decisions that are relevant to CITES-listed tree species, and make the compendium available on the CITES website;
- b) create a dedicated webpage to share information about CITES and Forests;
- c) issue a notification to Parties to gather information on their activities and programmes that support the Resolutions and Decisions identified in the compendium;
- d) provide information for input and consideration to the 33rd and 27th meetings of the Plants and Animals Committees, respectively, that may inform implementation of Decision 19.BB; and
- e) provide a report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of these Decisions at its XX meeting.

### **19.BB Directed to the Plants Committee (and the Animals Committee, as appropriate)**

The Committees shall:

- a) In collaboration with the Secretariat, develop a compendium of activities in Resolutions and Decisions that are relevant to CITES-listed tree species to inform work under Decision 19.AA, taking note of their prioritization where applicable, including as established by the Committee work plans for the 2022-2025 intersession;
- b) The Committees shall consider the value of developing a possible new strategic resolution on CITES and forests, as outlined in document PC25 Doc. 12, and document PC25 Doc. 12 Addendum, and taking into consideration document SC74 Doc. 15; and
- c) prepare an overview of the issue from a technical and scientific perspective; and provide its recommendations for consideration of the Standing Committee.

### **19.CC Directed to Parties**

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) Take account of the coherence between CITES and the international bodies that address the conservation of forests and forest-dependent species, including but not limited to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, SC74 Doc. 15, and the work plans of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests' (CPF) and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW);
- b) Share with the Secretariat for publication on the website outputs, outcomes and progress derived from the implementation of such initiatives that support the Resolutions and Decisions listed in the compendium.

### **19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) Consider the report from the Secretariat on the implementation of Decisions 19.AA and 19.CC, and recommendations of the Committees under Decision 19.BB;
  - b) develop recommendations, as appropriate, which may include identifying existing Resolutions that would need to be revised or repealed, and new resolutions that may be needed; and
  - c) provide recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. We urge Standing Committee Members to support the draft decisions we have proposed, which merge and build on elements of Options 1 and 2, to facilitate awareness raising about the Convention's role in the

conservation of wild species so that CITES may be counted among the solutions to addressing or supporting international conservation activities, while proceeding through the usual Committee development.