



# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/055

Geneva, 26 April 2023

CONCERNING:

Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Conference on the implementation  
of the outcomes of the CBD COP15 and CITES CoP19

1. This notification is published at the request of the African Union Commission (AU Commission).
2. The AU Commission is convening a high-level conference at the AU Headquarters from **30 May to 2 June 2023 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** on the implementation of the outcomes of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES. The conference will bring together Ministers and Member States' CBD and CITES focal points to reflect upon and review the outcomes of the two COPs (CITES & CBD); receive a brief on the deliberations on the Ocean Treaty; and develop an African Biodiversity Action Plan that can support and drive the effective implementation of the key commitments and decisions made.
3. The concept note and provisional agenda for the Conference are attached in the Annex to the present Notification.
4. Please note that the AU Commission, in collaboration with its partners, is in a position to provide economy class return tickets and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) to experts and senior officials from CITES Parties that are AU Member States. Such Parties are invited to nominate two representatives from the relevant Ministries/National agencies involved in wildlife policy, the CITES Management Authority or wildlife law enforcement. AU Member States Parties are invited to send official nominations, with names, passport copies, city of departure and contact details (phone and email) to the following email addresses. [NyambeH@africa-union.org](mailto:NyambeH@africa-union.org); [WanambwaL@africa-union.org](mailto:WanambwaL@africa-union.org); and [FebentT@africa-union.org](mailto:FebentT@africa-union.org) with copy to [akaaserge@yahoo.fr](mailto:akaaserge@yahoo.fr). Nominations should be sent by **1 May 2023**. The information should be received, ideally by 1 May 2023 but no later than 5 May 2023.
5. Partners willing to support the organization of the conference in kind, technically or financially are welcome to contact the AU Commission to the following email addresses. [NyambeH@africa-union.org](mailto:NyambeH@africa-union.org); [WanambwaL@africa-union.org](mailto:WanambwaL@africa-union.org); and with copy to [FebentT@africa-union.org](mailto:FebentT@africa-union.org).

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

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[cites.org](https://www.cites.org)



**AFRICA, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC CONFERENCE  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF  
THE CBD COP15 AND CITES COP19**

**30<sup>th</sup> MAY to 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2023**

**AFRICAN UNION HEADQUARTERS,  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**CONCEPT NOTE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

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## CONCEPT NOTE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The last quarter of 2022 was marked by an intense period of international engagement on environment and climate action, with critical negotiations, and the convening of meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COPs) to multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP19), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 27), United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14) and most recently in March 2023, the adoption of the Ocean Treaty after a decade of negotiations. The Africa Union Commission (AUC) played a significant role by coordinating and supporting African Union Member States in their preparation for and participation in many of these meetings. These meetings delivered outcomes that will have significant impact on the conservation agenda of the AU Member States in the years to come.

CITES CoP19 in Panama, for example, made steady progress in its efforts to tackle the global biodiversity challenge. It adopted a series of landmark decisions to regulate trade in a number of commercially important wild species, including commercially important timber and marine species, and made important progress in tackling the illegal trade in some of the world's critically endangered species, including big cats, elephants, rhinos, ebonies, rosewoods and marine turtles. Decisions were also made to address strategic cross-cutting issues such as links with zoonotic diseases, engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), as well as pathways to maximize the benefits these communities derive from legal and sustainable trade in wild species for their livelihoods.

At CBD CoP15 in Montreal, countries finally agreed upon a landmark Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), that sets the global conservation agenda for the next decade- spanning all biodiversity related conventions. The Kunming-Montreal Agreement includes the 23 Targets aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, ensuring that biodiversity is sustainably used and managed, and nature's contributions to people are valued, maintained and enhanced, supporting sustainable development for the benefit of future generations.

Strategically important, the African group managed to emphasize in the GBF, the topic of Access & Benefit-Sharing (ABS) and the establishment of a multilateral benefit-sharing system for Digital Sequence Information (DSI) including new funds for biodiversity conservation. Wide commitments were also made to substantially increase financial resources mobilisation of at least USD\$200 billion per year from all

sources by 2030, though securing resources for the effective implementation of the Framework. Closely related, is the recently agreed Oceans Treaty which aims to help place 30% of the seas into protected areas by 2030 to safeguard and recuperate marine nature.

These decisions have significant relevance to efforts being undertaken by AU Member States to meet their global biodiversity commitments. The AUC, in collaboration with the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), CARICOM from the Caribbean and SPREP from the Pacific are keen to support member states in their effort to effectively implement the outcomes of the CITES and CBD COPs as well as the Oceans Treaty. To this end, a conference will be held at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 May - 2nd June 2023.

**The objectives of the conference are to:-**

1. To review the outcomes of CITES CoP19, CBD CoP15 and Ocean Treaty and identify cross-cutting strategic issues that emerged among them including those related to issues such as IPLC engagement, livelihoods, sustainable use, zoonotic diseases and one health approach).
2. Identify priority actions that need follow-up from Member States potential gaps and problems in implementation that need to be addressed
3. Identify support needed for effective implementation and Identify the coordination and collaboration mechanisms necessary to effectively implement the action plan
4. Develop an action plan that can support and drive the effective implementation of the key commitments and decisions made, including actions to ensure adequate capacity building and resource mobilization from both public and private sectors.
5. Ensure alignment, synergies and complementarity in financing, developing and implementing of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as the national instruments to implement the GBF

The conference will be an in-person meeting and is aimed at the CBD and CITES Focal Point Persons responsible for implementation of the two Conventions in the Member States. The conference will consist of plenary sessions, separate sessions held in parallel for the CITES and CBD focal points specifically and break out groups/contact groups. Relevant expert organizations will also be invited to provide technical support and advice at the workshop, including the Secretariats of CBD, CITES, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Global Environment Facility (GEF), TRAFFIC, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Convention on Migratory Species and the World Wildlife Fund among others.

## **Format of the Conference**

The conference will have the following sessions

- **30 May 2023:** Opening Plenary
- **31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023:** Experts and Senior Officials meetings of the CBD and CITES Experts
- **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023:** A Ministerial /High level segment.

## **Agenda:**

A provisional agenda of the conference can be found overleaf.

**ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA**  
**AFRICA, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC CONFERENCE**  
**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF**  
**THE CBD COP15 AND CITES COP19**  
**30<sup>th</sup> MAY to 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2023**  
**Plenary Session 1: 30 MAY**

Time	Agenda	Facilitator
<b>DAY 1: 30 MAY 2023 (Plenary)</b>		
08:30-09:00:	Arrival and registration	AUC
09:00 – 10:00:	<b>Session I: Opening</b>	
	Welcome Remarks (AUC)	
	<b>Statements by Organising Partners</b>	
	<b>Statement by Representative of CSOs</b>	
	Opening Statement; OACPS	
	Opening Statement: AUC	
	Official Opening - Host country	
Organization matters and adoption of the agenda		
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Family Photo &amp; Health Break</b>	
10:30-13:00:	<b>Session II Presentations</b>	
	<b>Presentation 1:</b> Overview of key highlights from CITES CoP19 and CBD CoP15	AUC
	<b>Presentation 2:</b> Key outcomes and priorities for implementation of CITES CoP19 outcomes	CITES Secretariat
	Discussions	
	<b>Presentation 3:</b> Key outcomes and priorities for implementation of CBD CoP15	CBD Secretariat
	Discussions	
	Recap of Presentations and discussions	Moderator
Discussions		
13:00 – 14:00:	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00-15:30	<b>Panel session:</b> Strategic issues to consider (sustainable use including of BBNJ, IPLC engagement, DSI, ABS One Health, resource mobilization; link action plan-NBSAPs)	Experts from Member States and International organizations
	Discussions	Moderator

<b>15:30-15:45</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
<b>15:45-17:00:</b>	<b>Session III working sessions</b>	
	Collaboration and coordination mechanism for the implementation of an Action Plan, coherence with NBSAPs	AUC and OACPS
	Discussions	Moderator
Recap and next steps for concurrent sessions	Moderator	

**CLOSED SESSIONS: PARALLEL/CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**31<sup>st</sup> May & 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

**GROUP 1: CITES FOCAL POINTS AND EXPERTS**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
	<b>DAY 2: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023</b>	
<b>09:00-10:30</b>	Recap of Day 1	Moderator
	Identification of national and regional priorities	
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
10:45 – 13:00	Implementation and Enforcement – national and regional priorities	
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	Species-specific matters – national and regional priorities	
<b>15:30 – 15:45</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
15:45 – 17:00	Upcoming meetings and processes	
	Recap and recommendations	
	End of day 2	
	<b>DAY 3: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023</b>	
<b>09:00-10:30</b>	Recap of day 2	Moderator
	CITES strategic issues (IPLC engagement, CITES and Livelihoods, pachyderms, sustainable use, zoonotic disease, etc)	
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
10:45 – 13:00	CITES strategic issues (contd.)	
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	Framework Draft Action Plan matrix	
<b>15:30 – 15:45</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
15:45 – 17:00	Draft Framework Action Plan matrix (contd.)	
	Recap and recommendations	Moderator
	End of day 3	



**GROUP 2 CBD FOCAL POINTS AND EXPERTS**

Time	Agenda	Facilitator
<b>DAY 2: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023</b>		
<b>09:00 – 10:30</b>	Recap of Day 1	Moderator
	Reducing threats to biodiversity (Targets 1-8)	
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
10:45 – 13:00	Meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing (Targets 9-13)	
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming (Targets 14-23)	
<b>15:30 – 15:45</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
15:45 – 17:00	Upcoming meetings and processes (SBSTTA, SBI, OEWG on DSI, different AHTEGs, Establishment / funding of NBSAPs) etc)	
	Recap and recommendations	Moderator
	End of Day 2 <i>Networking Event: Host TBD</i>	
<b>DAY 3: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023</b>		
<b>09:00 – 10:30</b>	Recap of day 2	Moderator
	Strategic issues (resource mobilization, ABS, DSI, IPLCs, monitoring framework, Biodiversity and Health, SWM, mainstreaming / whole of government processes, etc)	
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
10:45 – 13:00	Strategic issues (contd.)	
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	Draft Framework Action Plan matrix; linkages to NBSAP process	
<b>15:30 – 15:45</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	
15:45 – 17:00	Draft Framework Action Plan matrix (contd.)	
	Recap and recommendations	Moderator
	<i>End of Day 3: Networking Event Host TBD</i>	

**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT (MINISTERIAL) 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2023**

**Plenary Session**

Time	Agenda	Facilitator
<b>DAY 4: 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2023 (PLENARY)</b>		
<b>High level Opening – Open Session: 09:00 – 10:30</b>	Opening Statement by H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, AUC Chairperson	Moderated by H.E. Amb Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for ARBE, AUC
	Statement by H.E. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Secretary General, OACPS	
	Statements by Partners	
	Statement by CSO Representatives	
	Official Opening – Comoros AU Chairperson	
	Overview of key highlights from Expert Working Group sessions	AUC
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>BREAK – Group Photograph</b>	
<b>Presentation of the Expert’s Report – Closed Session 11:00 -13:00</b>	Presentation of CITES framework action plan	Working Group on CITES Chair or Rapporteur
	<b>Q &amp; A and Discussions</b>	
	Presentation of the Africa Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Post-2020 GBF	Working Group Chair or Rapporteur
	<b>Q &amp; A and Discussions</b>	
	Collaboration and coordination	AUC & OACPS
	<b>Ministerial Statements</b>	
	Adoption of framework action plans and next steps	AUC
<b>Open Session</b>	Statements from Partners and CSOS	Moderated by H.E. Amb Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for ARBE, AUC
	Statement from OACPS	
	Statement from AUC	
	Statement from AU Chair (Comoros)	

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
<p><b><i>Organised Events, Bilateral Meetings and Social Events during / back to back Conference week</i></b></p>	<p><b>ABS - Capacity Development Initiative:</b>                      African – European exchange on ABS and DSI:                      Intersessional process, implementation and collaboration opportunities                      Hybrid afternoon Session 2.30 - 4.00 pm tbc.                      . (after closure of conference)</p>	<p>EVENT ORGANISERS</p>
	<p><b>UNEP</b></p>	
	<p><b>UNDP</b></p>	
	<p><b>Africa Wildlife Foundation</b></p>	