



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2024/035

Geneva, 12 February 2024

CONCERNING:

SINGAPORE

Establishment of the CITES Global Youth Network

1. This notification is published at the request of Singapore.
2. At its 77th meeting, the CITES Standing Committee supported Singapore's efforts in establishing the CITES Global Youth Network (CGYN). This Notification is aimed at implementing the recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee as shown in executive summary [SC77 Sum.1](#).
3. Collaborating Parties for the establishment of the CGYN: Interested Parties are invited to join Singapore's effort in the establishment of the CGYN, by sending their expressions of interest through the Secretariat at info@cites.org. The Secretariat will assist Singapore's efforts by collating the submissions and ensuring geographical balance in the CGYN membership.
4. Youth nominations for the CITES Youth Leadership Programme 2024: The Programme will be held in Singapore from **22 to 25 April 2024**. Parties and observers are encouraged to nominate youths affiliated with their organization to attend the CITES Youth Leadership Programme 2024 **by 10 March 2024** through the online form at <https://go.gov.sg/citesyouthleaders2024>. It may require a selection process should the nominations exceed the capacity of the meeting.
5. Travel support: Interested Parties and donors are invited to join the Secretariat's effort in providing support to the youth delegates to attend the CITES Youth Leadership Programme. Subject to the availability of funds, limited travel support may be available for the participation of youth delegates from developing country Parties.
6. Details regarding CGYN and the CITES Youth Leadership Programme and nomination can be found in the Annex to this Notification. Any queries regarding this Notification should be made to info@cites.org, with a copy to steffi_tan@nparks.gov.sg.

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

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MORE INFORMATION ON CITES YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME IN 2024

Introduction

The CITES Global Youth Network (CGYN) aims to build a platform for youths to be equipped with the capacity to objectively understand and manage the intricacies of sustainable wildlife trade. Technical expertise is required to engage in the multifaceted dimensions encompassed in wildlife trade. Providing young individuals with essential knowledge, values, and skills will enable them to contribute constructively to CITES for a sustainable and equitable wildlife trade. It also creates a next generation network of young leaders to develop partnerships and collaborations that transcend geographical, generational, and sectoral boundaries.

Mandate

Resolution Conf 17.5 (Rev CoP18), paragraph 2, on *Youth engagement* invites Parties and the CITES Secretariat to *work with universities, youth groups, and other relevant associations and organizations, to create educated and engaged youth networks that can inform and influence conservation decisions.*

Building upon this, at its 77th meeting, the Standing Committee supported Singapore's efforts in establishing CGYN; invited interested Parties to join Singapore's effort in the establishment of CGYN; encouraged Parties and observers to nominate youths affiliated with their organization to attend the CITES Youth Leadership Programme and Global Youth Summit from 2025 onwards; and requested the Secretariat to support the efforts of Singapore and relevant Parties on the establishment of CGYN.

2024 CITES Youth Leadership Programme

Singapore will lead the establishment of the CGYN by hosting the CITES Youth Leadership Programme 2024, from **22 to 25 April 2024**. Focused on global environmental leadership, CITES, and biodiversity conservation, the programme aims to equip youths from all regions globally to step up and lead their own initiatives under CGYN.

Key programmatic segments include:

- formulation of CGYN's vision, mission, and terms of reference;
- discussions with leaders;
- a model CITES Conference of the Parties; and
- a cultural night.

Throughout the programme, youths will also be guided to implement a youth project to contribute to the implementation of CITES in their country or organization. Youth projects may address outreach and education, policy, enforcement, organising the Global Youth Summit in 2025, or other topics of youths' interest. Youths are expected to commit to the programme at least until December 2024. Youths will report on the progress and outcomes of their initiative to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting and will have the opportunity to showcase their work at the CITES Global Youth Summit in 2025 to continue engaging with youths around the world, for capacity-building in CITES-related matters.

The target audience for this programme are final-year university students or early-career youths aged 18 to 30, with an interest in wildlife conservation, sustainable wildlife trade, and environmental policy,

particularly in CITES. Youths are expected to have relevant experience in these areas. The participation of youths with proven leadership skills in these areas would also be advantageous.

Registration of nominated youth delegates

Interested Parties and organizations are urged to submit their nominations by **10 March 2024** through the online registration form at <https://go.gov.sg/citesyouthleaders2024> or by scanning the QR code below.



<https://go.gov.sg/citesyouthleaders2024>

A nomination letter dated and signed by an authorised official of the Management Authority or observer organization containing the names, functional titles, contact telephone and email of each of the designated participants is required to be attached in the registration form. As places are limited, early registration is encouraged.

Singapore and the Secretariat will review the nominations and select the Parties based on the relevant experiences and potential for implementing youth initiatives relating to CITES in their countries, while balancing geographical representation and gender balance. Subsequently, confirmation of participation will strive to be communicated to the Parties and nominees by 15 March 2024.

Practical information

The programme will be conducted in-person only and in English.

All participants are responsible for arranging their own visas and flights on time and covering the visa-related costs. Participants are encouraged to apply for their visa upon confirmation of participation by the Secretariat. Participants seeking an invitation letter to be issued specifically for the visa application purposes may contact Ms. Steffi Tan at steffi_tan@nparks.gov.sg and Mr. Lim Chin Mian at lim_chin_mian@nparks.gov.sg.

Travel costs, including flights and personal expenditure, should be borne by youths or their governments or organizations (except for youth delegates receiving travel support). Singapore will provide same-gender, twin-sharing accommodation for the youth delegates, as well as all meals during the duration of the workshop, except for dinner on 22 April and 23 April 2024.