

# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2024/036

Geneva, 21 February 2024

CONCERNING:

Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly:  
Events of relevance to CITES Parties

1. The sixth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) will take place in Nairobi (Kenya) from 26 February – 1 March 2024. UNEA-6 will feature Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) high on the agenda under the theme: effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Several resolutions on synergies and collaboration have been proposed for UNEA-6. The following events at UNEA are of particular relevance for Parties to CITES:

Wednesday 28 February:

- MEA Leadership Dialogue on *Strengthening the science policy interface for effective implementation of environmental commitments*
- MEA Leadership Dialogue on *Strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level including through means of implementation*
- MEA side event on *Stepping together toward ratification and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement*

Thursday 29 February:

- MEA side event on *Better addressing the triple planetary crisis through the cooperation between the MEAs implementation and compliance committees*
- MEA side event on *Catalyzing environmental impact and visibility through digital transformation: MEAs embracing knowledge-driven capacity-building*

Friday 1 March:

- MEA side event hosted by the CITES Secretariat on *CITES and forests – linking sustainable forest governance to climate change mitigation and supporting livelihoods*. Please see the invitation and programme in the Annex to the present Notification.

For more information, please click [here](#).

2. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2023/043 of 4 April 2023.



# Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) at the Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly



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



### Side event

## **CITES and Forests – linking sustainable forest governance to climate change mitigation and supporting livelihoods**

**Friday 1 March 2024, 10:00 am – 11:30 am**  
**Venue: Helipad, MEAs Events Tent B, UNEP HQ**

**Refreshments  
Provided** ☺

Timber producing, aromatic and medicinal tree species are some of the world's most valuable wildlife commodities in trade. When managed sustainably, trees can provide revenue to nations and to the livelihood of rural communities and poverty alleviation; however, illegal and unsustainable harvesting of these trees can quickly lead to deforestation. Today, various high-value tree species are vulnerable to overexploitation due to their commercial value, and many CITES listed tree species are said to be illicitly harvested and traded globally.

Forest loss contributes to one-sixth of annual greenhouse gas emissions, making it a major contributor to climate change. Creating robust linkages between sustainable forest management and trade regulatory mechanisms that addresses the prevention of illegal trade in valuable tree species and promotion of legal, sustainable trade is therefore crucial and it is at the core of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

This side event will focus on the linkages between sustainable forest management and the CITES provisions at the national level, to ensure that Parties can better comply with the Convention's requirements for legal, sustainable trade in tree species of commercial significance. It is an example of cross-fertilization between MEAs and synergies working in practice – demonstrating how addressing biodiversity loss can contribute to addressing climate change mitigation and enhanced livelihoods, linking two of the three planetary crises (biodiversity loss and Climate Change) through multilateral action.

The side event will also showcase a new project funded by the Government of Germany through the International Climate Initiative 2023, which is aimed to strengthen CITES implementation thereby contributing to improving forest governance, to reducing deforestation and to livelihoods.

Time	Agenda item	Speakers
10.00	<b>Opening remarks Keynote</b>	Ms. Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary-General Ms. Steffi Lemke, Federal Environment Minister, Germany
10.20	<b>Climate change – biodiversity nexus</b>	Ms. Dechen Tsering, Director, Climate Change Division, UNEP
10.30	<b>Sustainable forest governance</b>	Ms. Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director, ITTO
10.40	<b>The experience of UN-REDD in supporting Sustainable Forest management</b>	Ms Akikio Inoguchi, Lead, UN-REDD Lower Mekong Initiative, Forestry Officer, FAO
10.50	<b>CITES Tree Species Project (CTSP) – short film introducing the new project</b>	
11.00	<b>Conservation of CITES-listed tree species and forest governance: perspectives from the Parties</b>	Mr. Miguel Ceara Hatton, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic (tbc) Mr. Max Andonirina Fontaine, Minister for the Environnement, Madagascar (tbc) Ms. Flore Koumba Pambo, Chair, Plants Committee
11.15	<b>Q &amp; A - discussion</b>	Discussion - all
11.30	<b>Closing remarks</b>	Ms. Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary-General