



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2024/115

Geneva, 10 October 2024

CONCERNING:

SINGAPORE

CITES Global Youth Network

1. This notification is published at the request of Singapore.
2. At the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee, Singapore and the Secretariat submitted document [SC77 Doc.27 \(Rev1\)](#) on *Establishment of the CITES Global Youth Network*, calling for the nomination of 40 youth representatives from different geographical regions to be part of the founding members of the CITES Global Youth Network (CGYN). Youths will participate in the CITES Youth Leadership Programme, hosted by Singapore in 2024, to build their knowledge on CITES-related issues; develop leadership skills; and forge cross-cultural bonds and partnerships. As founding members, they will co-create the network's vision, mission, and terms of reference and execute the planned activities for one year. As indicated in the [SC77 Summary Record](#), the Standing Committee:
 - a) supported Singapore's efforts in establishing the CITES Global Youth Network (CGYN);
 - b) invited interested Parties to join Singapore's effort in the establishment of the CGYN;
 - c) encouraged Parties and observers to nominate youth affiliated with their organization to attend the CITES Youth Leadership Programme in the first half of 2024 and Global Youth Summit from 2025 onwards; and
 - d) requested the Secretariat to support the efforts of Singapore and relevant Parties on the establishment of the CITES Global Youth Network.
3. To implement the recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee, Singapore issued a [Notification to Parties No. 2024/035](#) to call for collaborating Parties for the establishment of the CGYN, youth nominations for the CITES Youth Leadership Programme 2024, and travel support.
4. The present Notification reports on the CITES Youth Leadership Programme 2024 and invites youth nominations and travel support for the CITES Global Youth Summit 2025.
5. Report on the CITES Youth Leadership Programme 2024: The CITES Youth Leadership Programme (CYLP) hosted by Singapore on 22–25 April 2024 saw the attendance of 41 youths nominated by CITES Parties (i.e., Management Authorities, Scientific Authorities, and

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

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Enforcement Authorities) and observer organizations, representing 31 countries from all six CITES regions. During the programme, these founding members collectively envisioned future initiatives under the CGYN. The event was organised by local youths with support from the National Parks Board (NParks) of Singapore, the CITES Secretariat, Mandai Nature, Temasek Foundation, and other donors via the Garden City Fund – an NParks charity and registered Institute of a Public Character (IPC). Generous financial support from the Government of Switzerland supported the participation of the youth delegates, made possible with the administrative support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Malaysia. For more information, please refer to the [CITES-NParks Joint Press Release](#) and the [Post-Event Report](#) prepared by the CGYN.

6. Youth nominations for the CITES Global Youth Summit 2025: Founding members of the CGYN will organize the inaugural CITES Global Youth Summit from 27 to 31 May 2025. Hosted in Singapore, this summit aims to:
 - a) empower young leaders with the knowledge, skills, and networks on CITES necessary to address wildlife trade challenges;
 - b) foster collaboration among young professionals from diverse backgrounds and learn from experts on emerging issues and understanding various topics discussed at CITES; and
 - c) develop practical solutions to wildlife trade challenges, encourage participants to share their success stories, discuss regional action plans, identify regional leaders, and contribute to addressing illegal wildlife trade.
7. Parties and observers are encouraged to nominate youths affiliated with their organization to attend the CITES Global Youth Summit 2025 through the online form at <https://tinyurl.com/citesyouth2025>. Registration closes on **22 February 2025**. A selection process, supported by the Secretariat, may be required if nominations exceed the meeting capacity.
8. Travel support: Interested Parties and donors are invited to provide support to the youth delegates to attend the CITES Global Youth Summit. Subject to the availability of funds, limited travel support may be available for the participation of youth delegates from developing country Parties. Youth nominations who wish to be considered for financial support must register via the online form by **20 November 2024**.
9. Details regarding CGYN and the CITES Global Youth Summit and nomination can be found in the Annex to this Notification. Any queries regarding this Notification should be made to cites@nparks.gov.sg and citesglobalyouthnetwork@gmail.com, with a copy to info@cites.org.
10. The present Notification replaces Notification to Parties No. 2024/035 of 12 February 2024.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE CITES GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT IN 2025

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.

2025 CITES Global Youth Summit

Following the CITES Youth Leadership Programme held in Singapore in April 2024, founding members of the CGYN will organize the inaugural CITES Global Youth Summit in mid-2025, with support from the National Parks Board (Singapore's CITES Management Authority), the CITES Secretariat, and partners. Hosted in Singapore, this Summit will aim to (i) empower young leaders with the knowledge, skills, and networks on CITES necessary to address wildlife trade challenges; (ii) foster collaboration among young professionals from diverse backgrounds and learn from experts on emerging issues and understanding various topics discussed at CITES; and (iii) develop practical solutions to wildlife trade challenges, encourage participants to share their success stories, discuss regional action plans, identify regional leaders, and contribute to addressing illegal wildlife trade.

CGYS will achieve these aims by being a platform for youths to:

1. Strengthen the CITES Global Youth Network (CGYN) as a platform for youth engagement and leadership;
2. Empower young leaders with the knowledge, skills, and networks necessary to address wildlife trade challenges;
3. Foster collaboration among young professionals from diverse backgrounds; and
4. Develop practical solutions and regional action plans for addressing wildlife trade issues.

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 one of the five pillars of CGYN: Governance, Capacity Building, Research & Innovation, Networking & Collaboration, and Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA). Youths are expected to commit to the programme at least until December 2025. Youths will report on the progress and outcomes of their initiative to the Standing Committee and will 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 observer organizations are urged to submit their nominations through the online registration form at <https://tinyurl.com/citesyouth2025>. Registration will close on **22 February 2025**. Youth nominations who wish to be considered for financial support must register via the online form by **20 November 2024**, 23.59 hours (CET).

A nomination letter dated and signed by an authorized 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.

The Secretariat will support the selection process led by the CGYN organizing committee, who will review the nominations and select the participants based on the relevant experiences and potential for implementing youth initiatives relating to CITES in their countries. Due consideration will be given to balancing geographical representation and gender diversity. Subsequently, the organizing committee will strive to communicate confirmation of participation by the last week of March 2025.

Practical Information

The programme will be conducted in-person 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 cites@nparks.gov.sg.

Travel costs, including flights, meals, and personal expenditure, should be borne by youths or their governments or organizations. The organizing committee will provide same-gender, twin-sharing accommodation for the youth delegates. Subject to the availability of funds, travel support may be provided to selected youths. Further information will be communicated to applicants as soon as possible.