



Preparing for the World Wildlife Conference 2019 (CITES CoP18)

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

- One of the earliest global biodiversity treaties (1973)
- With near-universal participation (183 Parties)
 - *Incl. EU (since 2015) and all MS*
- Aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival
 - *Appendix I: species threatened with extinction – international trade permitted only exceptionally*
 - *Appendix II: species potentially threatened by over-exploitation through trade – control of trade through import/export permits and certificates*



CITES – some overarching issues

- Enabling (and tracing) legal, sustainable trade and fighting illegal trade
- Enforcing the rules and building capacities
- International regulation, national laws and local livelihoods
- Legal and social norms (behavior change, demand reduction)
- CITES as a vehicle for broader concerns, beyond trade risks to species conservation

CITES CoP18 – key topics

- Amendment of Appendices: (up-/de-)listing of species
 - *2/3 majority needed for adoption of proposals*
 - *Revising earlier listings/annotations (Dalbergia rosewood)*
- Other species-specific matters
 - *Agarwood, apes, big cats, corals, eels, elephants, hornbills, pangolins, rhinos, sharks, turtles, ...*
- Country-specific issues
 - *Ongoing compliance cases: Guinea, Laos, Nigeria, DRC*
 - *Malagasy ebonies, rosewood/palisander*
- Other issues
 - *Involving rural (local, indigenous) communities*
 - *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 (→ CBD post-2020)*

CITES CoP18 – process/milestones

- Regular discussions with MS experts in EU CITES Committee
- Commission non-paper outlining draft position
- Deadline for submitting proposals for CoP18: 24 December
- Council decision on EU position, incl. on third-country proposals
- 18th Conference of the Parties – Colombo/Sri Lanka, 23 May to 3 June 2019
- Deadline for implementation of CoP decisions: 3 September 2019



Outreach before/during CoP18

- Consulting range states on listing proposals
 - *EU proposal, other range states as potential co-sponsors:*
sea cucumbers (Holothuria)
 - *EU as potential co-sponsor: several reptile species (water snakes, geckos, lizards), butterflies*
- Alerting partner countries to looming trade sanctions, helping them to become compliant
- Securing EU status, rights as CITES Party
 - *Allies against US challenge to EU voting rights!?*

ENV contacts for CITES

- Emmanuelle Maire, HoU F.3
- Jorge Rodríguez Romero, DHoU
- Matthias "Leo" Maier, Team Leader
- Dagmar Zíková, Scientific Officer
- Michaela Schwedeler, Policy Officer
- Hélène Perier, Forest Policy Officer (*on leave*)
- Heidi Führmann, Policy Assistant
- Wendy Vermeiren, Secretary

Thank you.

