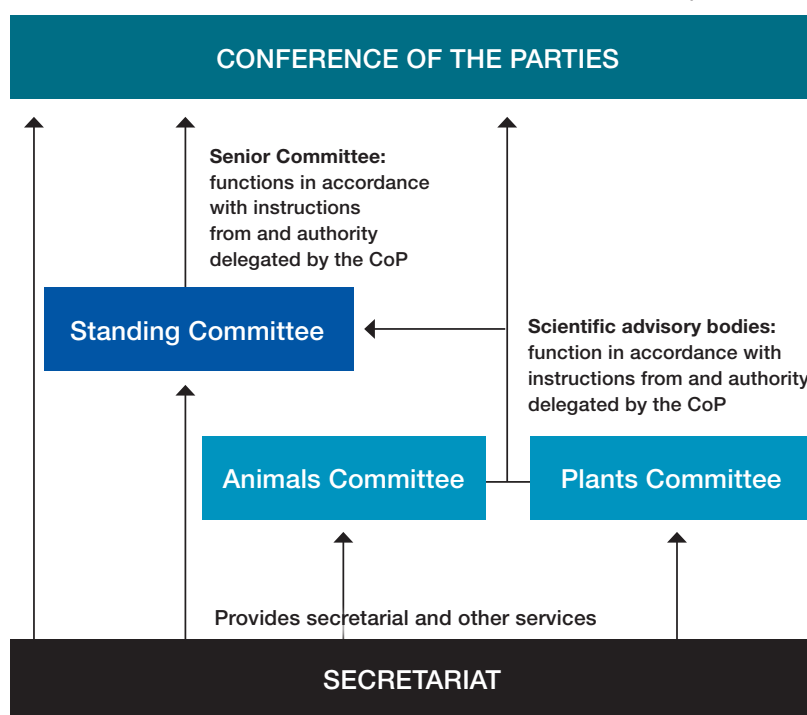


Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Institutional structure(s) supporting the agreement

CITES Governing bodies
Organigramme



The Parties to CITES are collectively referred to as the Conference of the Parties. Every two to three years, the Conference of the Parties meets to review the implementation of the Convention. These meetings last for about two weeks and are usually hosted by one of the Parties. The meetings are often referred to as 'CoPs'.

The Standing Committee provides policy guidance to the Secretariat concerning the implementation of the Convention and oversees the management of the Secretariat's budget. Beyond these key roles, it coordinates and oversees, where required, the work of other committees and working groups; carries out tasks given to it by the Conference of the Parties; and drafts resolutions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

The Animal and Plants Committees of experts were established at COP 6 (Ottawa, 1987) to fill gaps in biological and other specialized knowledge regarding species of animals and plants that are (or might become) subject to CITES trade controls. Their role is to provide technical support to decision-making about these species. These two Committees have similar terms of reference, which include:

- providing scientific advice and guidance to the Conference of the Parties, the other committees, working groups and the Secretariat;
- dealing with nomenclatural issues;
- undertaking periodic reviews of species, in order to ensure appropriate categorization in the CITES Appendices;
- advising when certain species are subject to unsustainable trade and recommending remedial action (through a process known as the 'Review of Significant Trade'); and
- drafting resolutions on animal and plant matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

This factsheet on **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** is included in the comprehensive report: *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*, pp. 18–21.