



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

Ratifying CITES: reservations and declarations

CITES is not subject to general reservations; however, specific reservations may be entered in accordance with the provisions of amendments to the Appendices to the Convention, which means that any State may, on depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, enter a specific reservation with regard to:

- any species included in Appendix I, II or III; or
- any parts or derivatives specified in relation to a species included in Appendix III.

Until a Party withdraws its reservation, it will be treated as a not a Party to the Convention with respect to trade in the particular species or parts or derivatives specified in such reservation.

Milestones in the implementation of the agreement

1973: CITES was adopted

1975: CITES entered into force (there are currently 184 Parties to the Convention)

2010: the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) was created to further enhance the international cooperation needed to support national efforts to strengthen the enforcement response

2015: the United Nations Group of Friends on Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking, co-chaired by Gabon and Germany, promoted the first UN General Assembly resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife

2019: the General Assembly further underscored the importance of national-level action and commitment to effectively address illegal wildlife trade

2023: CITES celebrates its 50th anniversary

Parties to the agreement and stakeholder interests

- 184 Parties
- 29 SIDS, 7 PSIDS (Fiji, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu)
- Parties are allocated to each of the six major geographical regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Central and South America and the Caribbean, and Oceania)

Rules of procedure

The [rules of procedure](#) for CITES apply to any meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention convened in accordance with Articles XI and XVII of the Convention.

Topics covered in the rules of procedure include:

- Arrangements of the meeting (Rules 7–15)
- Officers (Rules 16–17)
- Rules of order and debate (18–21)
- Voting (Rules 26–29)
- The Conference shall as far as possible decide on draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents by consensus
- All votes on procedural matters relating to the conduct of the business of the meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of the Representatives present and voting
- All other decisions shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of Representatives present and voting

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.