

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

Key features	
<b>Type of organisation:</b> Secretariat of convention	<b>Secretariat staff:</b> 24 core staff and 8-10 project posts (2017)
Charter/Constitution: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, <a href="https://cites.org/eng/disc/text.php">https://cites.org/eng/disc/text.php</a>	<b>Total budget:</b> EUR 18 million (annual budget) (2017)
<b>Membership:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nature: governments</li><li>• Number: 183 parties</li></ul>	<b>Type of activity:</b> Policy dialogue, data collection and analysis, information exchange, development of legal instruments (trade regulations), crisis management, enforcement (recommendations of trade suspension, quota setting), dispute settlement
<b>Year of establishment:</b> 1973	<b>Sectors of activity:</b> Wildlife trade, conservation of flora and fauna
<b>Headquarters:</b> Geneva, Switzerland	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.cites.org">www.cites.org</a>

### Members (parties)

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China (People's Republic of), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### Relationship with non-members

Two countries are in the process of acceding to CITES.

#### Mandate

The CITES is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. The functions of CITES include assisting with communication and monitoring the implementation of the Convention to ensure that its provisions are respected; undertaking, under agreed programmes, occasional scientific and technical studies into issues affecting the implementation of the Convention; making recommendations regarding the implementation of the Convention, etc.

### IRC processes that take place within CITES

Exchange of information and experiences	Systematically
Data Collection	Systematically
Research and policy analysis	Systematically
Discussion of good regulatory practices	Systematically
Development of rules, standards or good practices	Systematically
Negotiation of international agreements	Never
Enforcement: imposition of sanctions	Systematically
Dispute settlement	Systematically
Crisis management	Systematically

### Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)		
Legally binding decisions	√	
Recommendations	√	
Political declarations		
Model treaties or law		
Production of technical standards		
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	

### Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction	Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments	√	
MoU or other agreements	√	
Participate in co-ordinating institution	√	
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	√	
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√	
Exchange information	√	

#### CITES history

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The text of the Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C., the United States, on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force.

Source: Updated from OECD (2016), *International Regulatory Co-operation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264244047-en>