



CITES CoP20
SAMARKAND 2025
UZBEKISTAN

20th MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
24 November - 05 December 2025



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

CITES CoP20: Key Outcomes

Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary-General

UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives - Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 30 April 2026

CITES Overview

- Signed in 1973, in force since 1975
- 185 Parties
- Aims to ensure international trade in animals and plants does not threaten their survival
- 41,000 species in 3 Appendices, with different degrees of regulation
- Legal framework & common procedural mechanisms



CITES CoP20 – Samarkand, Uzbekistan

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PLENARY SESSION

Plenary - Item 3



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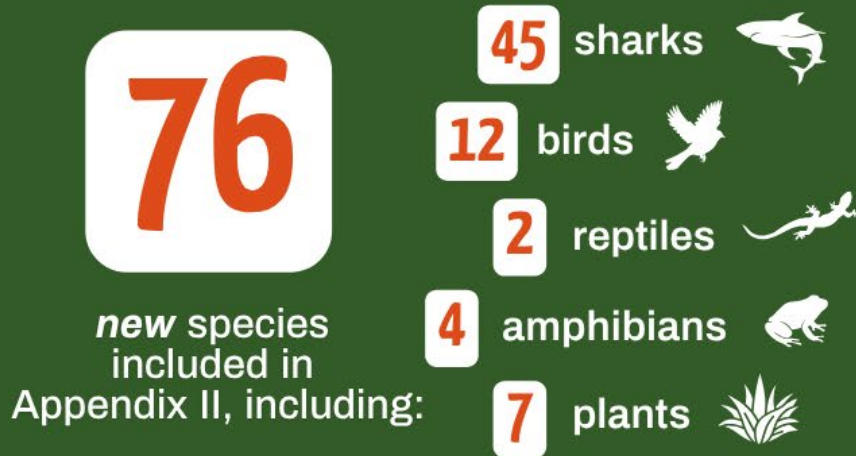


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CITES CoP20 in numbers



21 species uplisted

2 species downlisted

39 out of 50 proposals adopted for amendment to CITES Appendices

3,447 participants

166 of 185 Parties represented



Parties accredited **157**

1,500+ media mentions

103 media representatives in attendance

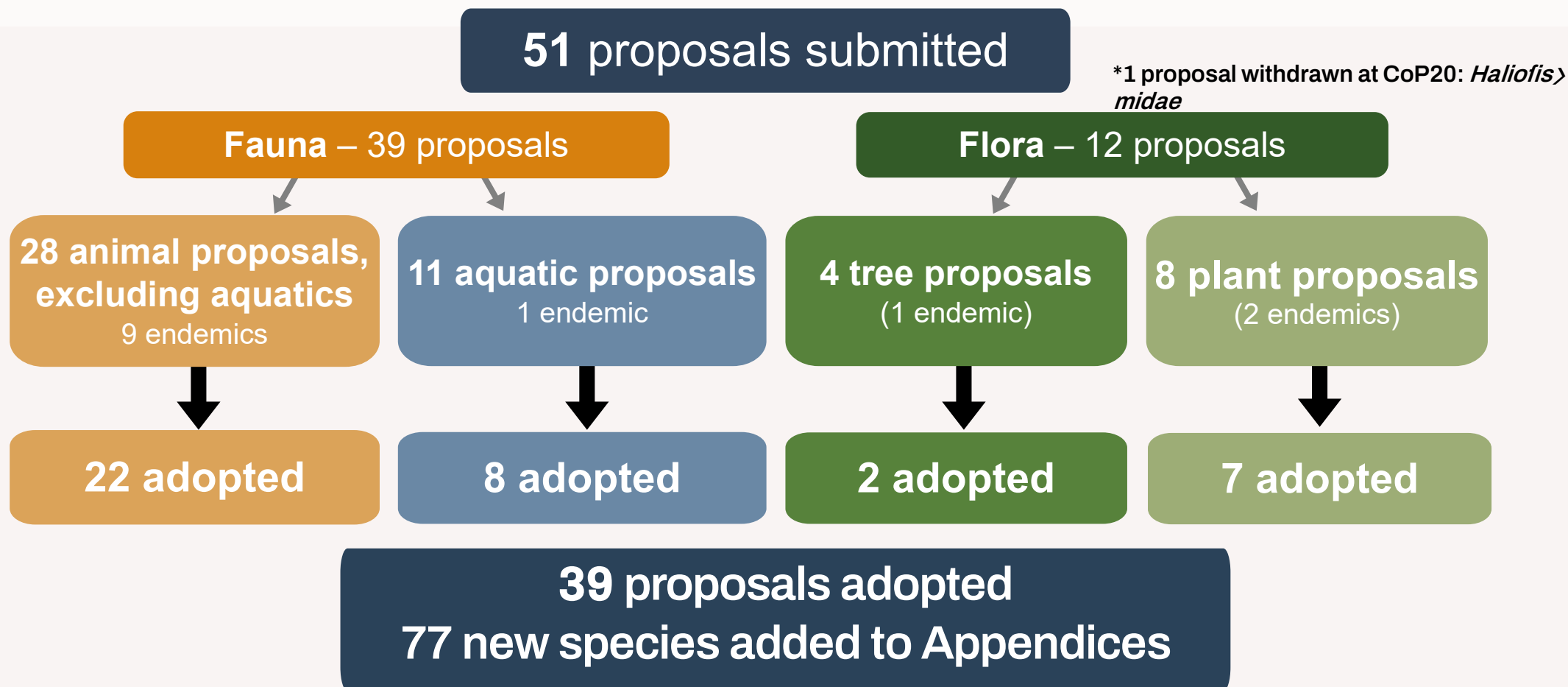
352 new Decisions

3 new Resolutions

21.2M  triennial budget approved (USD)

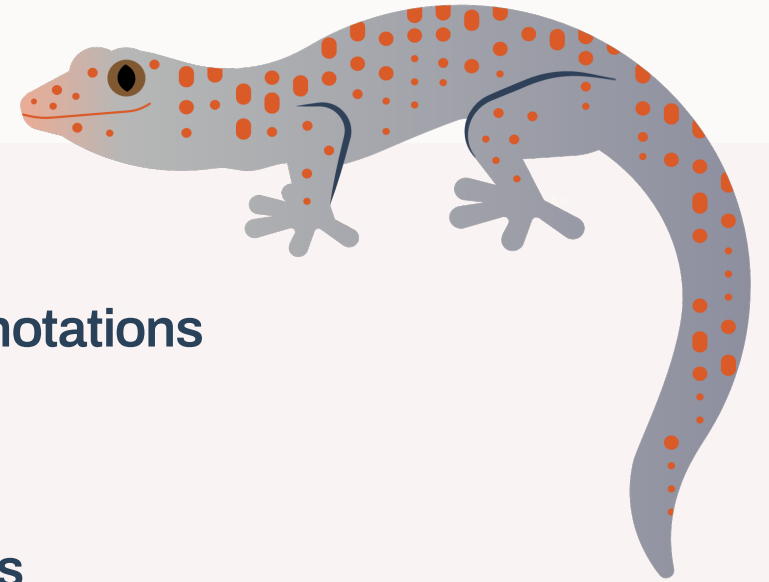
= 6.98% increase

Amendment of CITES Appendices I & II



Amendment of CITES Appendices: stats

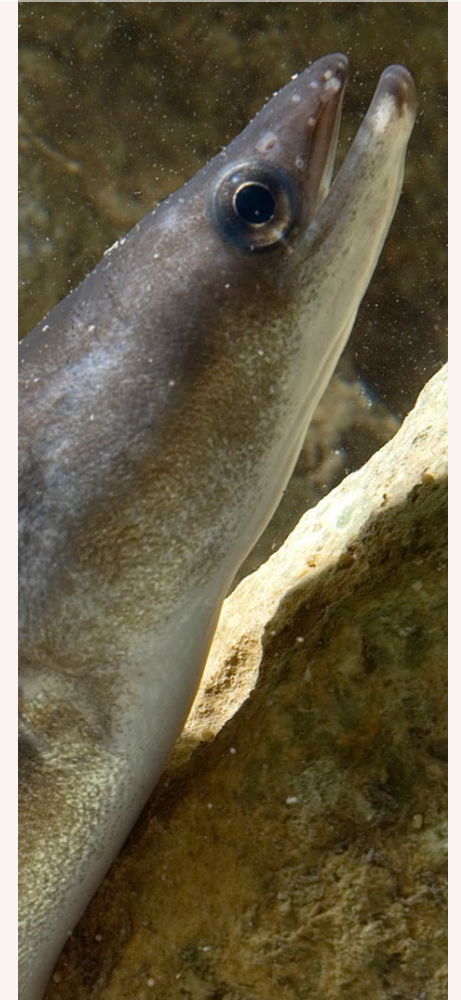
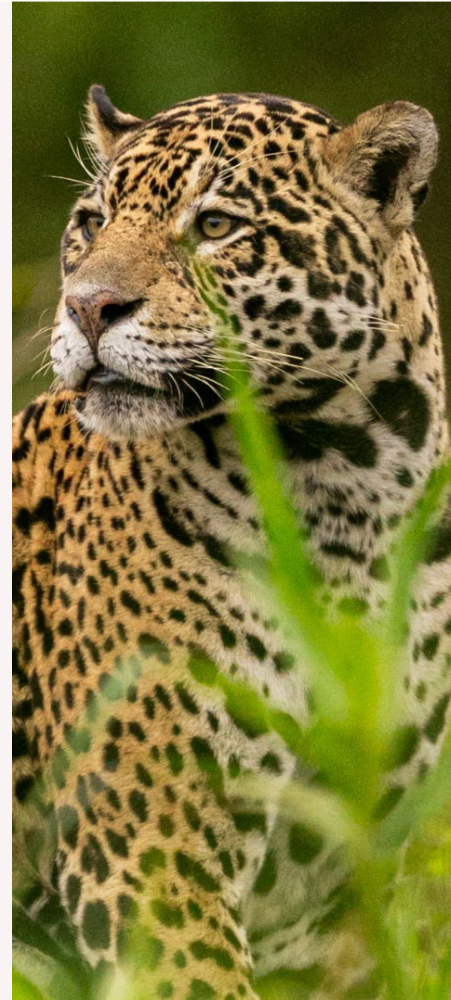
- Total proposals submitted: **51** (1 withdrawn)
- Total proposals adopted: **39**, including **10 with amendments** (e.g. delayed implementation / restricting the scope or including annotations for more specificity)
 - Uplisted (App II → App I): **19 Fauna** species; **2 Flora** species
 - Downlisted (App I → App II): **1 Fauna** species; **1 Flora** species
- New species included in the Appendices: **74 Fauna** species, **8 Flora** species (6 based on nomenclature changes)
 - New species in App II : 69 Fauna species; 7 Flora species
 - New species in App I: 5 Fauna species; 1 Flora species
- Species deleted from the Appendices: **2 Fauna** species
- Endemic species proposals: **12 out of 13** proposals adopted



Agreements on a range of species issues

Key highlights:

- 82 new listings, incl. 50 marine species, endemic reptiles, sloths, sea cucumbers, deep-water sharks, dorcas gazelle, birds
- Strengthened monitoring of all anguillid eels to improve trade controls and address trafficking
- Formal recognition of 2 African elephant species
- Resolution on jaguars, strengthening range-wide conservation through the Regional Action Plan



Successes in species conservation

- **Bontebok:** Removed from the Appendices following long-term population recovery
- **Saiga antelope:** Trade reopened in wild specimens from the Kazakhstan population under strictly limited conditions due to reduced extinction risk
- **Guadalupe fur seal & Parlatore's podocarp:** Long-term population recovery, supported by national protection and international cooperation



Operational focused enforcement efforts

- Strengthened implementation and enforcement to tackle illegal wildlife trade (IWT): **a clear roadmap** through monitoring, implementation of trade controls, and coordinated law-enforcement action
- **Renewed mandates** for the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)
- Expanded use of CITES **annual illegal trade reports**
- Stronger guidance on **addressing corruption** that facilitates wildlife crime
- Call for **enhanced cross-border law-enforcement coordination**, e.g. knowledge-sharing on anti-trafficking technologies and increased investment in enforcement efforts



Strong regional cooperation

- Political leadership and commitment from **Central Asian Parties**:
 - Samarkand Declaration & Regional cooperation Action Plan
 - Strengthened cooperation to address transboundary challenges
- Unified voices from ...
 - **Africa** on vultures and mammals
 - **Central and South America** on finches, tarantulas and reptiles
 - **Pacific Island Countries**



Navigating through challenges

- Approved budget at 6.98%
- Innovative financing mechanisms
- Better preparedness to support future/potential hosts for the arrangements for CoP meetings
- Enhancing the work and efficiency of the Convention – testing prioritization exercises
- Many Decisions directed to Parties: towards more Party-led implementation actions



Alignment with the KMGBF



- Resolution Conf. 16.4 (Rev. CoP20)
Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions
- Resolution Conf. 18.3 (Rev. CoP20)
CITES Strategic Vision: 2021 2030
- Resolution Conf. 16.5 (Rev. CoP20)
Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Moving to implementation

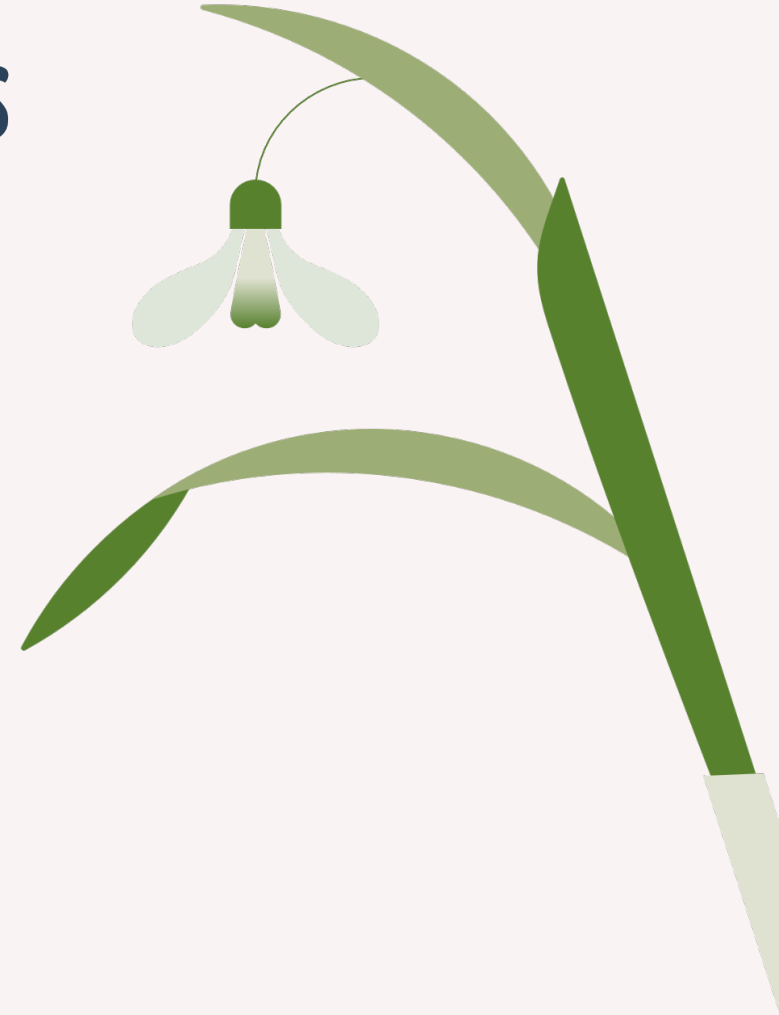
- **Implementation has started...**
 - Notification to the Parties to collect information, ad hoc reports
 - Intersessional Working Groups established
 - Donor consultation underway, Notification on funding gaps to be published
 - Preparation for Animals & Plants Committee meetings (July 2026)
- **Discussion with Ecosystems & Law Divisions**
 - Identifying areas of cooperation: UNEP to strengthen CITES implementation at national/regional levels
 - Complementary convening powers of UNEP and CITES
 - Regular check-in calls



Thank you | Merci | Gracias



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