



"On the Way to CITES CoP20: Acknowledging CITES' Role as an International Trade Convention Securing the Sustainable Management of Wildlife Resources"

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UZBEKISTAN



- Participants expected: **3,000-4,000**
 - Agenda items: **120+**
 - Proposals to amend App I and II: **51**
 - **39 Fauna (including 11 on aquatic species)**
 - **12 Flora**
 - New species proposed for inclusion: **160**
 - Decisions: **344**
 - Resolutions: **5 new**
 - Budget and finance;
 - One Health;
 - Anguillid eels
 - Human rights, Livelihoods and food security; and
 - People Living Alongside Fauna and Flora
- Species included in the CITES Appendices (PPLF)



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora

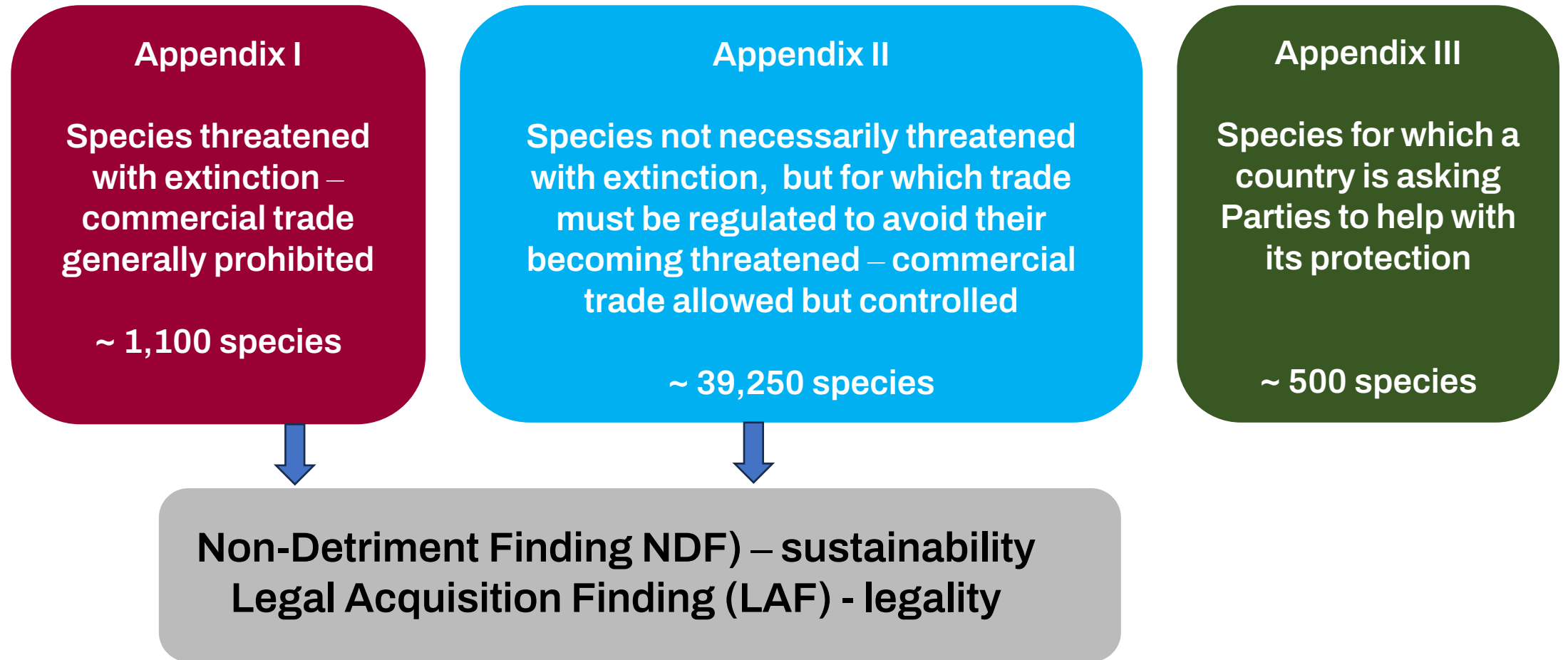


- CITES is a *trade* convention — that has conservation and science at its core.
- An international agreement between governments (185 Parties, including the European Union)
- Was signed in 1973 and came into force in 1975
- Aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival
- Works by subjecting international trade in selected species to certain controls through a licensing or permit system

CITES-regulated trade must be **legal**, **sustainable**, **traceable**



- **Currently covers over 40,900 species (of which over 34,000 are plants)**
- **Species are listed in three Appendices (I, II and III), according to the degree of protection they need**



Achievements

- Over the past 5 decades, CITES has continued to evolve
- Conservation turnarounds made possible by CITES (Vicuña, crocodile ranching, reptiles and African cherry)
- Regulated, legal trade can be a force for conservation



Challenges

- Illegal trade continues to flourish, often outpacing enforcement efforts.
- Many Appendix II species are traded in high volumes with weak or non-existent NDFs.
- Aquatic species — including sharks, eels, and corals — pose new regulatory challenges in terms of identification, traceability, and scale.
- Capacity gaps among Parties mean implementation is often uneven, especially for source countries in the Global South.



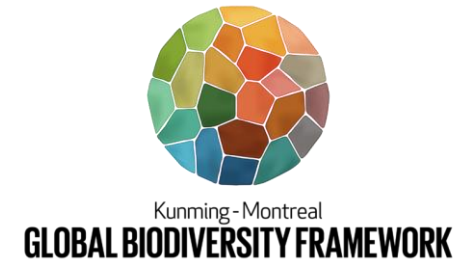
The Road to CoP20

- **CITES is only as strong as its implementation**
- **Need to invest in and strengthen:**
 - **The capacity of CITES national authorities**
 - **Enforcement cooperation**
 - **Digital tools for permitting and species ID**
 - **Robust stakeholder engagement, including Indigenous and local communities**
- **Importance of CITES as a science-based trade instrument**
- **Recognise and address the increasing complexity of global trade**



Integration with Other Agendas

- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Convention on Biological Diversity and its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- UN agencies such as FAO
- Enforcement bodies such as the World Customs Organization, Interpol, and UNODC through ICCWC.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

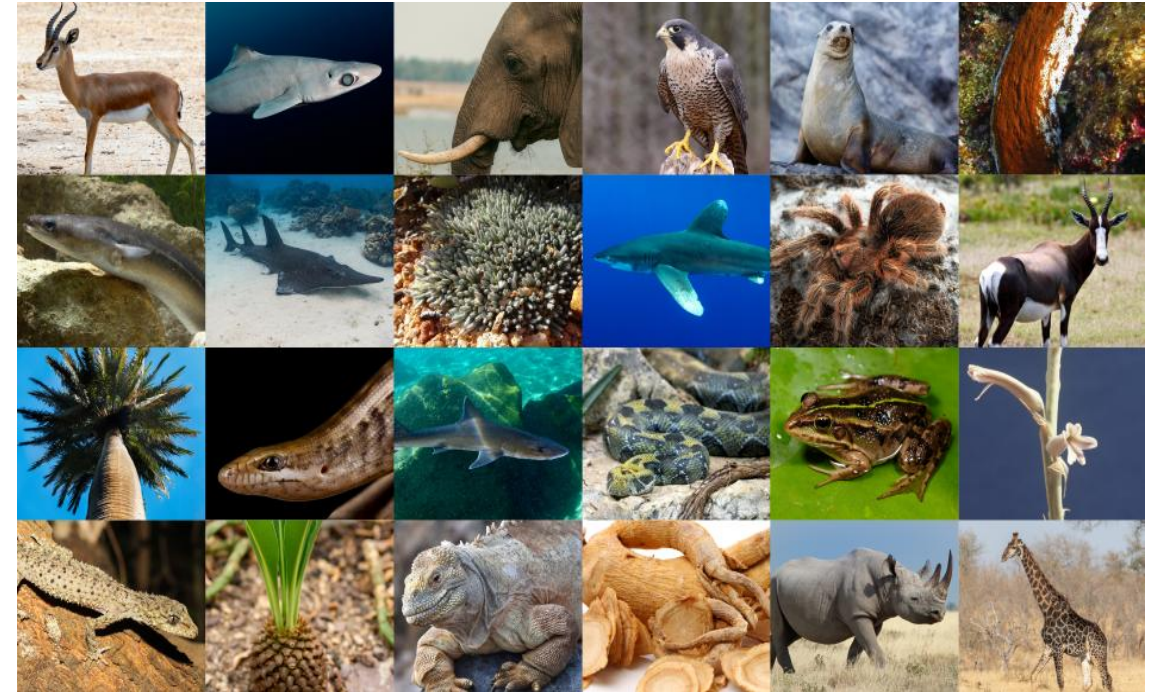


UNODC



So, what should CoP20 deliver?

- A reaffirmation of science-driven decision--making.
- A renewed focus on capacity building and implementation.
- Bold commitments to adequately fund and resource CITES.
- A deeper dialogue on sustainable use and community benefits.





Thank you