

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

March 2025

Updates



COMMUNICATIONS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT:

The CBD is inviting stakeholders to submit information on best practices for sustainable wildlife management, including examples of effective policies, management approaches, governance frameworks, and other measures that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife (next page for more information). The Committee will discuss how best to engage. Reach out to Deb Hahn if you have information you would like to submit

ACTIONS:

After April 21, we will reach out for input on IUCN motions as needed.

RECENT/UPCOMING MEETINGS AND DATES OF INTEREST:

- Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Standing Committee 78: February 3 - 8
- Second Resumed Session of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (CoP): February 25 - 27
- IUCN Online discussion of motions: April 21 - June 21
- Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management: May 13-16
- Document Submission Deadline for CITES CoP20: June 27
- Ramsar CoP15: 23 July 23 - 31
- CITES CoP20: November 24 - December 5

Updates

RAMSAR

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 64th Standing Committee (SC) was held in January in preparation for CoP15 in July. We will review the SC decisions and the documents for CoP15 to determine if we need to develop positions or provide input to the U.S. State Department or other partners.

CBD

The Biodiversity CoP concluded the second resumed session of the CoP. One key decision was the opportunity for non-state actors to submit information about their work to conserve biodiversity and meet the Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

The CBD Secretariat is asking for best practices for sustainable (continued on next page)

Road to CITES CoP20

Every three years, CITES convenes a Conference of the Parties (CoP). The AFWA CITES Technical Work Group has already begun preparing for CoP20 that will held from November 24 to December 5, 2025. Each of the regional associations of fish and wildlife agencies has a member on the Work Group. The Work Group consists of Stewart Liley (Western), Carolyn Caldwell (Midwest), Buddy Baker (continued next page)

IUCN

The World Conservation Congress (WCC) will be held October 9 to 15, 2025. The online motions discussion forum will be an important place to influence the text of motions and then later in the summer vote on whether motions are approved. There are numerous motions that it maybe important to weigh in on. Some examples include the following. (continued next page)



- Increasing the participation of subnational governments across and through the Union
- Strengthening the Linkages Between Zoonotic Risks & Conservation Efforts
- Upholding indigenous peoples and local communities' rights to sustainable use in the face of harmful national and international legislation.
- Elevating the profile of the One Health approach within, across and beyond IUCN
- Maintaining, enhancing and restoring ecological integrity in conservation action
- Reaffirming IUCN commitment to sustainable use as a critical conservation tool
- Advancing the Sustainable Management, Use and Trade of Wild Species



wildlife management be submitted through an official letter to secretariat@cbd.int by April 15th. Submissions should be accompanied by relevant documentation, including web links to reports or, if not available online, PDF copies of relevant materials. Where possible, information should be provided in MS Word format, with a summary outlining the relevance of the practice to sustainable wildlife management.



(Southeastern), Gordon Batcheller (Northeast), and Deb Hahn (AFWA).

The Work Group attended Standing Committee 78 in February. Toni Kerns (Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission), and Deirdre Gilbert (Maine Department of Marine Resources) also attended. The focus was to strengthen relationships with sustainable use partners, build connections with Country delegates, and engage in discussions on issues and potential species listing proposals leading up to CoP20. The Team also worked to try and advance a genus wide resolution on *Anguilla* spp. but it was not approved by the Standing Committee. Instead it will be taken up at CoP20 in fall 2025. For more information about the meeting see the [SC 78 Meeting Report](#).

CONTACTS

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TIMELINE

