

Significant trade in plants

## EVALUATION OF THE REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE [DECISION 12.75]

1. This document has been prepared by the working group on the Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix-II species. The working group comprised of regional representatives of Africa, Asia, Oceania and observers from Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Germany, Ireland, Malaysia, Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK-Chairman), United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and the European Commission, TRAFFIC East /South Africa, Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Species Survival Network (SSN) and UNEP-WCMC. The working group was Chaired by the UK.
2. At its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 12.75 regarding the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, directed to the Animals and Plants Committees, stating that:

*The Animals and Plants Committees shall draft terms of reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, to be considered at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. To assist the Animals and Plants Committees in their implementation of Decision 12.75, the Secretariat drafted Terms of Reference (ToR) for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade for consideration of both Committees (see the Annex to this document).
4. The draft ToR were considered respectively by working groups at the 13th and 19th meetings of the Plants and Animals Committees (Geneva, August 2003). Comments on the draft were invited and a revised draft was prepared for the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee.
5. The revised draft was discussed at the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee and the text prepared by the working group on Significant Trade. The draft text is attached in Annex 1.
6. With regard to the issues where substantive decisions were required, the working group concluded as follows:
  - a) The working group decided that non-listed species should not be examined in detail as part of the review. However, the reviewer has scope to allude to *possible* effects on non-listed species.
  - b) With the regard to the timing of the review, the working group noted the views expressed at the 19th meeting of the Animals Committee, but concluded nevertheless that the review should not commence until after the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Draft Terms of Reference  
Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade

Objectives

1. The objectives of the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade are to:
  - a) evaluate the contribution of the Review of Significant Trade to the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a);
  - b) assess the impact over time of the actions taken in the context of the Review of Significant Trade on the trade and conservation status of species selected for review and subject to recommendations, taking into consideration the possible effects of these measures on other CITES-listed species;
  - c) formulate recommendations in view of the results and findings of the evaluation and the impact assessment; and
  - d) prepare a document on the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade and the resulting conclusions and recommendations, for consideration at the first appropriate meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Process

2. The evaluation will commence after the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, contingent on the availability of sufficient funds to ensure its completion. Evaluation of the process with respect to plants or the country based review will not commence until after the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. The Animals and Plants Committees will oversee the evaluation, which will be administered by the Secretariat. Consultants may be engaged to assist it in this regard.
4. A working group composed of members of the Animals and Plants Committees, Parties, the Secretariat and invited experts will be responsible for advising on the evaluation process, reviewing the findings of associated research and developing recommendations for wider consideration by the Parties.
5. The Secretariat will regularly report on the progress of the evaluation at meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees.
6. A final report, which may include proposed amendments to existing Resolutions or Decisions, or other recommendations, and that will incorporate the comments of the Animals and Plants Committees and of range States addressed in the report, will be submitted by the Chair of the Animals and Plants Committees [or by the Secretariat on their behalf] for consideration at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Before then the Chairman of the Animals Committee may however submit an interim report at an intervening meeting of the Conference of the Parties if this is considered useful.

Content of the evaluation

7. The evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade should include the following activities:
  - a) Assess:
    - i) the process used to select species for review (including the reliance on numerical data), and the species selected as a result;

- ii) the process and means used to compile and review information concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) for the selected species (including communications with the range States), and the subsequent use of this information by the Animals and Plants Committees for the categorization of species and the issuance of recommendations;
  - iii) the types and frequency of recommendations made;
  - iv) the nature and rate of responses to recommendations, and problems identified;
  - v) the use of the recommendations by range States as guidance for managing target species and other [CITES-listed] species with similar characteristics;
  - vi) the nature and scale of the support provided to range States for implementing the recommendations, including field projects;
  - vii) the ongoing process to monitor and review the implementation of recommendations; and
  - viii) the impacts of the process on other aspects of CITES implementation, including how problems identified in the course of the review but not directly related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) were addressed.
- b) Conduct case studies of a representative range of species and countries subject to recommendations to assess subsequent short- and long-term changes in:
- i) conservation status of the target taxa in the range States;
  - ii) trade volumes and patterns of the target taxa, considering trade involving the range States subject to recommendations, other range States and non-range States;
  - iii) production or management strategies for the target taxa;
  - iv) market developments of conservation relevance (such as shifts in supply or demand);
  - v) costs and benefits associated with the management of and trade in the target taxa (such as the effects of trade suspensions and export quotas, shift in trade to non-CITES species or increased illegal trade );
  - vi) protection status of the target taxa within range States, and regulatory measures outside range States;
  - vii) trade patterns, conservation status and management for other CITES-listed species that might be suitable 'substitutes' for the target taxa; and
  - viii) changes in conservation policies in range States as a result of the process.
- c) Analyse the information to assess the effectiveness, costs and benefits of the Review of Significant Trade as implemented so far, by reference to the cost of the process, the time it takes, and identify means to improve the contribution it makes to the objectives of the Convention, by reducing the threats to wild species.,<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The phrase 'effectiveness, costs and benefits' is intended to address issues such as whether or not the funds spent on the process give value for money comparable to that for other CITES activities, and whether the timescale envisaged in the process is too long for species that are in rapid decline.