

**Comments of the United Arab Emirates on the:
“CoP13 Prop. 49 (Indonesia) Inclusion of Agarwood-producing species,
Aquilaria spp. and *Gyrinops* spp., in Appendix II”.**

1. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is committed to the principles of the sustainable use of natural resource and believes that this can benefit both the producing and consumer nations and also assist in the long-term conservation of these species.
2. The UAE believes that the Agarwood trade has a number of specific issues which can be summarized as follows:
 - a) Very limited information is available regarding the population size and trend of the various species of Agarwood in various range States.
 - b) The Control of trade in Agarwood at the national and international levels will be very difficult to enforce due to the nature of the commodity that can be used and traded in various forms (wood, chips, powder, oil or as an ingredient in perfumes or medicines) especially if we are aware that the use of this commodity is related to cultural and religion issues. The UAE would suggest the need for some sort of labeling system.
 - c) The importation of Agarwood in all its forms is common for personal use. An exemption for a limited amount of Agarwood chips or oil for this purpose is needed like the exemption for personal use such as for caviar & crocodilian specimens (Resolution Conf. 12.9 – Personal & Household Effects).
 - d) There were six Decisions adopted at CoP12, Santiago, Chile in 2003 (*Aquilaria* spp. 12.66-12.71) dealing with DNA work, distribution of species, including all Agarwood species for identification purposes, the evaluation of Agarwood producing taxa to 2000 IUCN Criteria, determining population status and conducting further field research and trade dynamics in major import and re-exporting States and territories. At the 14th Plants Committee Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia in February 2004 a progress report on the above six Decisions shows that much work still needs to be done. We recommend that these Decisions be investigated fully before considering the present proposal.
3. The work of Indonesia for protecting Agarwood trees is appreciated and understood but we believe that many points should be first discussed among the importing and exporting countries before considering this proposal.
4. During the CITES Asian regional meeting in Mongolia (Aug.2002) Saudi Arabia raised the Subject of *Aquilaria malaccensis* and United Arab Emirates called for cooperation between the exporting & importing countries, but no further steps have been taken.
5. The UAE now calls to reconsider the proposal & reiterate again for the need of a formal consultation between all concerned Parties at a regional level to take place as soon as possible to address the issues of Agarwood trade and cooperation between exporting & importing countries at the regional level.
6. Due to insufficient consultation among the exporting and importing countries of agar wood, unbalance in the trade will be expected due to using the rights of reservation regarding this listing in this stage. So the postpone of the proposal will give the parties a chance to avoid this unbalance in trade.