

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Eighteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 17-21 March 2009

EXCHANGE OF HERBARIUM SPECIMENS
(PC18 Doc. 12)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chair: the observers from Mexico and Austria.

Party observers: Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

Mandate

1. Prepare a report for the CoP on the implementation of Decision 14.130 with regard to the exemption of herbarium specimens; and
2. Draft a new decision for consideration by the CoP, with an indication of the budget required for its implementation.

Recommendations

The mandate of the WG refers to:

Decision 14.130 directed to the Plants Committee, and saying that the Plants Committee shall:

- a) analyse the amendments of annotations #1, #4 and #8 of proposal CoP14 Prop. 26 in order to decide whether there is merit in further developing and refining them, and
- b) if appropriate, prepare a proposal on annotations for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

In relation to the two point of the mandate, the WG produced the following document:

Mandate point 1

1. An intersessional working group on the exchange of herbarium specimens was established at PC 17 (PC17 WG14), co-chaired by Mexico and the Netherlands;
2. Mexico, as co-chair of this working group, submitted a document to PC 18 (PC18 Doc. 12), summarizing the results of the WGs work, and, based on the outcome of its work, proposing some activities for considerations; and
3. A working group was established at PC 18 (PC18 WG6) to discuss PC 18 Doc. 12 and to prepare a report for the CoP according to Decision 14.130.

The working group (PC18 WG6) is proposing:

1. The creation of an additional exemption related to non-living herbarium specimens for non-commercial purposes would be likely to open loop-holes in enforcement;
2. There is no need for an additional exemption related to non-living herbarium specimens for non-commercial purposes, if all existing exemptions for exchange of scientific material are properly implemented;
3. The registering of scientific institutions qualifying for exemptions for scientific exchange of article VII, paragraph 6, and the standard label system as outlined in Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP12) need to be further promoted and fully implemented (Secretariat, National CITES authorities);
4. To support the implementation and application of these processes a brochure containing guidelines for herbaria needs to be prepared;
5. An intersessional working group should be installed with the task to prepare such a draft brochure for consideration at PC 19;
6. This brochure, after adoption by PC 19, shall be posted on the CITES website (as an effective and low cost procedure); and
7. The brochure shall be sent by the Secretariat to the IAPT (International Association of Plant Taxonomy).

Mandate point 2

Directed to the Secretariat:

- a) Encourage Parties via a notification to contact their national scientific institutions, and to inform them about the implications and benefits under article VII, paragraph 6, and Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP12);
- b) Encourage Parties via a notification to apply article VII, paragraph 6, by registering scientific institutions as appropriate (as stated in Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP12)); and
- c) In compliance with decision 12.79 to support the preparation of an information brochure.

Directed to the Parties:

- a) Contact their national scientific institutions, and to inform them about the implications and benefits under article VII, paragraph 6, and Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP12); and
- b) Apply article VII, paragraph 6, by registering scientific institutions in accord with Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP12).

Budget required: expected to be very small.