

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

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand) 2-14 October 2004

Strategic and administrative matters

Committee reports and recommendations

Plants Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Introduction

1. This report has been prepared by Dr Margarita Clemente-Muñoz, Chairman of the Plants Committee (PC) with the kind collaboration of the PC members and the CITES Secretariat, and covers the period from 15 November 2003 to 5 May 2004. During this period the PC met on two occasions 13th meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 12 to 15 August 2003 (PC13), and 14th meeting, Windhoek, Namibia, 16 to 20 February 2004 (PC14). Representatives of 22 Parties, 1 United Nations agency, 2 inter-governmental organizations and 7 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated at PC13; representatives of 23 Parties 1 United Nations agency, 1 inter-governmental organization and 9 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in PC14.
2. The Committee wishes to thank the Authorities of Switzerland for the reception and the two excursions they offered to the participants in PC13 and the Authorities of Namibia, the hosting Party PC14 for organizing and supporting the meeting as effectively as they did.
3. Owing to administrative reasons, PC13 had to be limited to only four instead of the usual five days, which resulted in a lot of pressure on the Committee and some extra working hours to accomplish its workload. PC13 was held back to back with the 19th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC). Unfortunately another back to back meeting in 2004 was not possible. Since however both scientific Committees dealt during this period with a few common issues, liaison was established by the participation of both chairmen (an AC member at the PC and some Party observers) at the meeting of the other committee. This has allowed the joint submission by both chairmen of three joint documents to the CoP, dealing with those common issues (documents CoP13 Doc. 11.2, CoP13 Doc. 40 and CoP13 Doc. 57).
4. The composition of the PC is indicated below On 15 November 2002, immediately following the closure of the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12) the members and alternate members of the PC and the CITES Secretariat met informally in Santiago, Chile, and the PC elected Dr. Margarita Clemente-Muñoz (Spain) as its Chairman and Mr Quentin Luke (Kenya) as Vice-Chairman. In the course of 2003, Dr Patricia Davila (Mexico), alternate regional representative, replaced Mr. Bertrand von Arx (Canada) as regional representative for North America and Dr. Robert Gabel (United States of America) replaced Dr. Patricia Davila as alternate regional representative, after consultation among the North American Parties. It was impossible to nominate a second alternate representative for the Asian region as well as for the Central and South America and the Caribbean region.

Region	Regional representative	Alternate
Africa	Dr John Donaldson (South Africa) Mr Quentin Luke (Kenya) (VICE-CHAIRMAN)	Dr K Akpagana (Togo) Dr Sayed Ibrahim Khalifa (Egypt)
Asia	Dr. Irawati (Indonesia) Dr N. P. Singh (India)	Mr Zul Mukshar Shaari (Malaysia) Dr Jiansheng Jia (China)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Dr Fatima Mereles (Paraguay) Dr Enrique Forero (Colombia)	Ms Dora Ingrid Rivera (Costa Rica)
Europe	Prof. Dr. Margarita Clemente-Muñoz (Spain) (CHAIRMAN) Prof. Dr. Mr Giuseppe Frenguelli (Italy)	Dr Hanna Werblan-Jakubiec (Poland) Dr Jonas Lüthy (Switzerland)
North America	Dr Patricia Davila (Mexico)	Dr Robert Gabel (United States of America)
Oceania	Dr Greg Leach (Australia)	Mr Osia Gideon (Papua New Guinea)

5. All representatives were able to attend both meetings, only the representative of the region of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Dr Mereles) was unable to attend PC14.
6. The Chairman of the Standing Committee (SC) invited the PC Chairman to the 49th and 50th meetings of the SC (SC49 and SC50). The PC Chairman also attended AC19 (Geneva, August 2003) and to the AC20 (Johannesburg, March-April 2004). Participation of the PC Chairman in these meetings was made possible thanks to funding from Spain.
7. The PC Chairman also attended the workshop organized on the role of the Scientific Authorities for Plants in Perugia (Italy) by the European Region in November 2003 and hosted by the Authorities of Italy. The participants analysed and discussed the review of the criteria. Participation of the PC Chairman in this meeting was made possible thanks to funding from Italy and Spain.
8. The Central and South America and the Caribbean representative (Dr Forero) attended the meeting of the bigleaf mahogany Working Group in October 2003, held in Belem, Brazil.
9. An interesting meeting was held in Vilm in April 2004, organized by Germany and was devoted to the relationship between CITES and CBD. Owing to other obligations, the PC Chairman was unfortunately not able to participate. She was replaced by the PC Vice-Chairman, who was able to attend thanks to financial support from TRAFFIC.

Major issues

- NB. The PC recommends specific actions and these are highlighted in bold in this report. They are presented together in the Annex at the end of the document for reference.
10. The PC would like to point out that at the CoP12 the whole of the PC Chairman's report was transformed into different, separate decisions, whilst other resolutions and decisions at the CoP were also addressed to the PC. The result was a large number of Resolutions and Decisions directed to the PC. This fact, coupled with the particularly short working period (from August 2003-PC13 until February 2004-PC14) meant that the PC was obliged to establish priorities (see document PC14 Doc. 5.3 and paragraph 21 below).
 11. A working group was established (comprising all the representatives and the Secretariat) during PC14 to analyse the working program of the PC until the 13th meeting of the Conference of the

Parties (CoP13). The large intersessional workload for PC members was noted and the incongruence that during the CoPs the PC would not be formally present to advise the Parties, given that there is no funding provision on this. The PC agreed to adopt the recommendations from the working group not to present a working plan for the PC at CoP13 but to address this at PC15 **and to recommend that the CoP adopts the following:**

- i) **to delete all Decisions directed to the Plants Committee and formulate or reformulate those that require implementation in the future; and**
 - ii) to recommend that more funding be allocated to the Plants Committee to support the work of its representatives, *inter alia* to facilitate their participation in CoPs (see paragraphs 103 and 104 and document CoP13 Doc. 11.2).
12. It should be highlighted that during the whole period the communication of the Chairman with the members and alternate members has been excellent and they have constantly provided very valuable support to the Chairman. However, the communication problems of the regional representatives with Parties in some regions proved to be very difficult. This led to a general discussion about regional communication, as well as tasks, duties and commitments of regional representatives and their Parties in both scientific committees and resulted in a joint document submitted at the present meeting (see document CoP13 Doc. 11.2).
 13. Another issue that was analysed during the PC meetings was the plan to have meetings with the AC back to back in Geneva. The PC agreed to list in the Chairman's report the advantages and disadvantages of holding the meetings in Geneva.
 14. Holding meetings in Geneva may be more convenient considering the facilities that the Secretariat has access to there and that cost of travel for the Secretariat staff would be avoided. The cost for interpretation work would be the same and only the cost of travel of the interpreters would vary depending on the base location of the company selected (during the last four meetings the interpreters' company was based in Spain). Moreover, the policy of the Secretariat to accept the cheapest offer for interpretation (assuming that the offer is of a suitable quality) is excellent, producing savings in the budget. However, there are disadvantages to take into account, the most important is the lower participation of observers (especially those coming from developing countries) owing the higher cost for participation in meetings held in Geneva. The PC needs and highly values the participation of the observers of the Parties, IGOs and NGOs. They contribute a lot of work and also the PC especially needs to promote the participation of observers coming from countries of origin of CITES species, which is crucial to the work developed in the PC.
 15. It is also necessary to consider that holding meetings outside Geneva also has very remarkable advantages, especially the effect on the different regions to push CITES issues forward and to facilitate communication with the representatives and countries located in Africa, Asia, Central South America and the Caribbean. Holding the meetings in different countries helps Governments and the general public become aware of CITES issues. The cost of the facilities in the hosting countries also could be cheaper depending on the arrangements with the local organizers. Finally the PC pointed out that cost of participation of the Secretariat in meetings held outside Geneva could be reduced by sending fewer officers to the PC meetings and reducing costs for their participation in the meetings. Also it has to be pointed out that for PC13 and PC14, Italy and Spain paid for the participation of the European representatives. This produced savings in the PC budget. If in the future, developed countries would continue paying for participation of their members in the PC meetings, savings thus made in the budget could be reallocated to the travel budget of the Secretariat to attend the meeting.
 16. Holding back-to-back meetings with the AC outside Geneva could be a solution to save some money on the cost of travel for the Secretariat and interpreters. However it is necessary to consider that the Secretariat team dealing with animals or plants could be different, that host countries may be reluctant to take on such a large responsibility and/or have a particular interest in the business of one or other of the Committees and thus be reluctant to host meetings of both.

Regional reports and regional representation

17. The regional representatives presented their reports at every PC meeting in the agreed format, and the reports were distributed at each meeting and are available in the CITES website. These reports very usefully explain the work concerning plants undertaken in the regions.
18. The regional directories were completed in the six regions, thereby fulfilling Action 1.7.2 of the Action Plan. These directories are essential for communication within each region.
19. Regarding the training of new representatives on CITES procedures, the PC recommends that the Secretariat provide materials to the new regional representatives and alternate regional representatives, and a general introduction concerning the operation of the PC at the first formal meeting of the PC after the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see document CoP13 Doc. 11.2).
20. Only the European region was able to hold a regional meeting (Poland, April 2004). The PC members are convinced of the need to have regional meetings but the absence of funding makes this impossible. **The PC recommends organizing regional meetings by using seminars or other related meetings organized by the Secretariat. The regional representatives would prepare the agenda and chair the meeting and, where necessary, receive funding to attend that day. The Secretariat should look for funding, if necessary, to facilitate the participation at least of one regional representative to accomplish his/her regional representation duties during one day.**

Resolutions and Decisions directed to the PC by the Conference of the Parties

21. During PC13, a working group consisting of the Vice-Chairman as Chair and all PC members looked at the Resolutions and Decisions addressed to the PC in order to prioritize them. The issue was also discussed in the plenary session. Given the short time available to accomplish the tasks addressed to the PC until CoP13, the tasks were categorized as high, medium or low priority.

Review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II (Decision 12.97)

22. At CoP12 the Animals and Plants Committees were tasked with the coordination of an open, transparent and broadly consultative process involving all Parties to consider further revision of the CWG12 Chairman's text. The process was to include reviews of selected taxa, to ensure that the applicability of the criteria and guidelines to a broad array of taxa is assessed, and to make the results of these reviews widely available.
23. At PC13 the Committee established the following approach: select first the taxa that would be used to review the applicability of the listing criteria in the Chair's text, then to review the applicability of the criteria in regard to these taxa, and finally to revise the CWG12 Chairman's text. The PC also agreed a timetable and the mechanisms to do the work and communicated this approach to the AC. At its 19th meeting, the AC agreed on following the same approach.
24. The Criteria Drafting Group, the reviewers and the PC Chairman worked intersessionally: an intersessional working group set up by the PC, along with the Committee Chairman, worked toward completing and analysing the taxonomic reviews and simultaneously recommending specific changes to the CWG12 Chair's text. In November, 2003 the Chairmen of the AC and PC compiled the results of the taxonomic reviews and the Secretariat posted these results on the CITES website. Parties were given until February 2004 to submit comments on the results of the taxonomic reviews to AC and PC through their regional representatives.
25. At PC14 a working document examined the summary of the results of the taxonomic reviews prepared by the PC members and a broad and open discussion was conducted in plenary on the specific changes proposed by the taxonomic reviewers criterion by criterion. The participation of the AC Chairman, the AC African representative and several colleagues with expertise in zoology allowed to analyse in the results of the taxonomic review, considering them not only from the point of view of plants issues. The PC agreed on a draft document that was presented for information to the SC50 by the PC Chairman and sent to AC 20 for discussion. The AC based its discussions at its 20th

meeting on the document agreed by the PC and improved it, thereby completing the review of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP12) as well as the "Chair's Text".

26. A detailed description of this process, as well as the result of the AC and PC reviews is submitted at CoP13 in the joint document CoP13 Doc. 57.
27. This result could not have been achieved without the interest, engagement and voluntary cooperation of highly motivated individuals in AC and PC and in the Scientific Authorities of many CITES Parties. I express my deepest gratitude to them.
28. The PC considers its task fulfilled and **recommends that Decision 12.97 be deleted.**

Periodic review of species included in the Appendices [Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev.CoP 12), Decision 12.96 and document SC49 Doc. 20.1]

29. Decision 12.96 directs the SC to "develop mechanisms to obtain greater involvement of the range States in the periodic review of the Appendices and provide guidance to reach a clear recommendation after the completion of the review". At SC49 the Standing Committee tasked the two scientific committees to look into this matter.
30. At PC13 a Contact Group on the Review of the Appendices was formed jointly with the AC. The Committee adopted the approach laid out in document PC13 Doc. 13.3 and agreed to examine the progress made by the Contact Group at PC14. The contact group was tasked to work intersessionally in the development of standard guidelines for conducting future reviews of taxa in the Appendices (including selection of species, types of information contained in the reviews, and questionnaires and other methods used to gather information from range States), and to provide guidance for a process to select and assess rapidly species to be reviewed.
31. The Committee further agreed not to initiate any new reviews until CoP13.
32. At PC14 the Committee discussed and adopted the result of the intersessional work of this contact group, and addressed it to the AC. The AC agreed on guidelines for the periodic review of plant and animal taxa in the CITES Appendices including a flow-chart for a rapid assessment technique for the periodic review of the Appendices. This was submitted in a joint document by the AC and PC Chairmen at SC51 (see document SC51 Doc. 13).
33. The PC considers the task directed to it by the SC therefore fulfilled.

Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade

34. Decision 12.75 directs the AC and PC to draft Terms of Reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade. At PC13 the Committee discussed draft Terms of Reference provided by the Secretariat and concluded that work [involving the AC] should commence intersessionally to review this draft and should be completed at PC14. Colman O'Criodain of the European Commission was selected as contact person.
35. The revised draft Terms of Reference were discussed and adopted PC14 and AC20. They are submitted in a joint document by the AC and PC chairmen (see document CoP13 Doc. 40).
36. The PC considers its task fulfilled and **recommends that Decision 12.75 be deleted.**

Guaiaacum spp. [Decision 11.114 (Rev. CoP12)]

37. During PC14 the observer from Mexico summarized the progress of current research on the population status and management of *Guaiaacum sanctum* in Mexico, as outlined in document PC14 Inf. 1. The Committee congratulated Mexico on its progress and thanked Germany, Mexico and the United States of America for supporting the project.
38. Mexico notified the Committee that it had sent its research protocol to the Cuban Authorities as a model of how similar research could be carried out for *Guaiaacum* spp. in Cuba. Mexico notified the

Committee of its intention to share the project results with the Cuban Authorities once complete. The Committee requested that the Secretariat contact to the Cuban Authorities suggesting that they write a proposal for a similar study to be conducted for *Guaiacum* spp. in Cuba and submit it to the Secretariat following the provisions laid out in Resolution Conf. 12.2 on Procedure for approval of externally funded projects.

Harpagophytum spp. (Decisions 12.63-12.65)

39. Namibia, Botswana and South Africa presented information at the PC14. The Committee congratulated them on their progress. The range States of *Harpagophytum* spp., Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, met to discuss what further involvement by the PC is required in relation to trade in *Harpagophytum*. The working group was chaired by the African representative (Dr Donaldson) who reported as outlined in document PC14 WG1 (see also document CoP13 Inf. 10). PC adopted the text and recommendations.
40. It was noted that plans to manage the trade sustainably were being developed and implemented in Namibia and Botswana before any decisions from CITES CoPs were directed at range States, but that Decisions from CoP11 and CoP12 (Decisions 12.63 to 12.65) had prompted positive action in South Africa to evaluate the resource and develop managed plans.
41. The CITES Decisions had also led to far greater regional cooperation. It was further noted that Botswana, Namibia and South Africa believe that they have fulfilled their obligations in terms of Decisions 12.63 and 12.64 and that further action with regard to Decisions 12.64 and 12.65 could best be dealt with through intergovernmental dialogue and marketing strategies to promote trade in products that provide a fair deal to harvesters. These actions do not require further CITES Decisions. **The PC accepted the reports from the range States and recommend to the CoP to delete Decisions 12.63, 12-64 and 12-65.**
42. Through experience with the proposed inclusion of *Harpagophytum* in CITES Appendix II and subsequent CoP Decisions (11.63, 12.63, 12.64 and 12.65), the PC recognizes that the implementation of CITES decisions may impact on the livelihoods of poor people. **The PC recommends to the CoP to accept the following draft decisions:**

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall explore options for Parties to include information on the impact of CITES listing on poor peoples' livelihoods as part of the process of drawing up and reviewing proposals to amend the Appendices.

Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall decide on what action is required for outstanding reports from the importing countries of *Harpagophytum*.

Definitions of the technical terms used in the annotations for medicinal plants [Decisions 12.23 and 11.118 (Rev. CoP12)]

43. The observer from France announced at PC14 that he would no longer be able to chair the supervisory group on definitions of technical terms used in the annotations of medicinal plants, established at PC13. The Chairman proposed the observer from Germany as the new Chairman of the supervisory group which the PC accepted.
44. The observer from Germany introduced document PC14 Inf. 3 and gave a presentation on *Revision of the # annotations for medicinal and aromatic plants included in the CITES Appendices* on behalf of the IUCN/SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group. The Committee congratulated the IUCN/SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group and the supervisory group for their work. The Committee decided that the supervisory group should review document PC14 Inf. 3 and advice on the process that should be followed to implement Decision 11.118 (Rev. CoP12). The supervisory group comprised the original members [the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean and North

America, and the observers from Canada, China, France, Germany (Chairman), Switzerland and the United States and TRAFFIC, and the Secretariat.

45. The observer from Germany reported on the recommendations by the supervisory group and the Committee agreed to support these recommendations (see document PC14 SG1 Doc. 1) and asked the supervisory group to produce a final report. The PC was consulted by the Secretariat on the final report and agreed on it (see document CoP13 Doc. 58).
46. **Regarding the Annotations of Medicinal Plants, the PC recommends the deletion of Decision 11.118 (Rev. CoP12).**

Trade in alien species (Decision 10.86)

47. The Decision 10.86 directed to the PC to establish cooperation with the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) in the implementation of their document *IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss due to Biological Invasion*. This is an old decision and the PC considered this issue is related to the CBD programme on alien species. Consequently, the Committee **recommend that Decision 10.86 be deleted.**

Relationship between *in situ* conservation and *ex situ* production of plants [Decision 12.11, paragraph I]

48. The PC discussed the relationship between *in situ* conservation and *ex situ* production of plants together with the production systems involving CITES-listed species and their impact on wild populations; designation of source codes.
49. The Committee agreed at PC14 that it would not make recommendations based on the Review of Production Systems report by the IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme, as outlined in the Annex to document PC14 Doc. 15. It advised the IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme to make corrections to the errors in the document that had been reported by participants in the meeting, to treat animal and plant taxa separately, and not to create additional source codes.
50. The Committee agreed that the Chairman would inform the IUCN/SSC Wildlife Trade Programme of these recommendations. Finally the Committee agreed that it would report at CoP13 that it could not make a decision on these two items and would propose to deal with them again at PC15.

Review of Resolutions on plants and plant trade [Resolutions Conf. 9.19 and Conf. 11.11 and definition of 'Artificially Propagated' Decision 12.11, paragraph e]

51. At PC13 a working group was established comprising the observers from Chile, France, Mexico, the United States (Chairman) and the Secretariat. This working group worked intersessionally. At PC14 the Committee congratulated the working group for its work and requested it to prepare a further review of Resolutions Conf. 9.19 and Conf. 11.11. The Committee decided that the working group during PC14 would comprise the original members, the regional representative of Africa and the observers from the European Commission and IWMC. The observer from the United States introduced document PC14 WG4 Doc. 1, outlining the recommended changes to Resolution Conf. 11.11.
52. The Committee agreed that the working group had to continue its work, making further amendments to the document following recommendations by the meeting participants and through working with the Secretariat, with the intention of preparing proposed amendments to Resolutions Conf. 11.11 and Conf. 9.19 for consideration at CoP13 (see document CoP13 Doc. 51).

Report of the Bingleaf Mahogany Working Group (Decision 12.21)

53. The representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Dr. Forero) reported on the recommendations of the working group (representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean, observers from the Netherlands and Guatemala, and the Secretariat) established at the PC14 on Bingleaf Mahogany, as outlined in document PC14 WG7 Doc. 1. The Committee agreed to adopt the following set of priorities:

- a) Management plans: the preparation and official adoption at the national and sub-regional levels of management plans for mahogany are a priority.
- b) Inventories: it is important to promote the conduct of forest inventories as well as to progress and promote programmes to determine and monitor the distribution, population size and conservation status of mahogany.
- c) Capacity building: it is necessary to develop capacity-building in monitoring and management relating to CITES procedures and documents.
- d) Working groups: the establishment in the range States of mahogany working groups is recommended.
- e) International collaboration: it is recommended that Parties, the CITES Secretariat and international and non-governmental organizations seek ways to share information through *inter alia* the organization of regional workshops, capacity-building programmes, the exchange of experiences and identification of financial resources.

54. The PC requested the CITES Secretariat to forward these recommendations to the members of the Working Group so that they can be considered in the report of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group for CoP13. It was commended to Brazil to prepare this report.

55. The working group also suggested the Secretariat consult with the members of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group on a possible meeting to be held before CoP13, subject to the availability of external funding.

Significant trade in plants

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.8

Trade in plants from Madagascar (Decision 12.73)

56. At PC14 the Committee commended the work of the Malagasy Authorities on their implementation of Decision 12.73. The Committee accepted the action plan for the reform of Madagascar's wildlife export trade, as outlined in document PC14 Inf. 12, noting that it should be used as a model for implementing similar country-wide reviews of significant trade in future.

57. The Committee requested that the Secretariat encourage the Malagasy Authorities to determine appropriate milestones for assessing the implementation of the action plan, and requested to be kept informed about progress with the action plan at future meetings.

Progress with the implementation of species reviews

58. The observer from TRAFFIC summarized the outcome of the reviews of significant trade for Cycads (document PC14 Doc. 9.2.2, Annex 1) and *Aquilaria malaccensis* (document PC14 Doc. 9.2.2, Annex 2). The observer from FFI summarized the outcome of the reviews of significant trade for *Pericopsis elata* (document PC14 Doc. 9.2.2, Annex 3) and *Aloe* species from East Africa used as extracts (document PC14 Doc. 9.2.2, Annex 4). The observer from the Democratic Republic of the Congo summarized document PC14 Inf. 18 outlining the conservation status of *Pericopsis elata* in this country. The Committee established a working group, chaired by the observer from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to:

- a) review the draft Terms of Reference for the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade;
- b) review the reports in the Annexes to document PC14 Doc. 9.2.2 and responses received from the range States; and
- c) revise the preliminary categorizations proposed and make recommendations for species in categories i) and ii), paragraph i), of Resolution Conf. 12.8.

The observer from the United Kingdom outlined the recommendations of working group on progress with the implementation of species reviews, as outlined in document PC14 WG 3.2 Doc. 1. The Committee adopted the recommendations of the group and the results will be incorporated into the Review of significant trade process.

Regarding *Prunus africana* the Secretariat advised that a consultant had been selected to carry out the review and that information on the biology and management of and trade in this species should be compiled for discussion at PC15.

Selection of new species

59. At PC14 the observer from UNEP-WCMC gave a presentation on *Analysis of trade trends with notes on the conservation status of selected species*. The observer from TRAFFIC introduced documents PC14 Inf. 5 and PC14 Inf. 6. The Committee established a working group to develop recommendations on the process for selecting species to be included in the Review of Significant Trade and to select species for the next phase of reviews of significant trade. The working group comprised the representatives of Africa (Chairman), Asia and North America, observers from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States, UNEP-WCMC, FFI, TRAFFIC and SSN, and the Secretariat.
60. The working group was given two tasks:
- a) To discuss the methodology proposed by UNEP-WCMC and the complementary process proposed by TRAFFIC.
 - b) To provide a list of species for the next phase of review of significant trade.
61. The representative of Africa (Dr. Donaldson) outlined the recommendations of the working group on the selection of new species for inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade, as outlined in document PC14 WG 3.3 Doc. 1. The Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations of the working group.
62. The proposal by TRAFFIC to include an initial expert review of taxa identified by UNEP-WCMC provided important additional information. However members of the working group felt that aspects of the proposal by TRAFFIC included work that should be done by the PC or that would form part of the Significant Trade Review process once species had been selected. As a result the decision was that the process should be as follows: the UNEP-WCMC analysis would be distributed to members of the PC and the PC members should then solicit information for species in their area. This information could then be brought to the PC meeting where the selection would be made.
63. UNEP-WCMC requested the PC to consider the timeframes. At present, the Secretariat is required to request information 90 days after the CoP. A more suitable arrangement could be to request UNEP-WCMC to supply their analysis 90 days before the meeting of the PC where a selection would be made.

Species selected for review

64. Regarding species selected for review, the species were selected based on information provided by UNEP-WCMC and TRAFFIC. A decision was made not to focus on a specific country until the review of Madagascar was further advanced. However, the working group decided to include species from Viet Nam (*Cibotium barometz* and *Dendrobium nobile*) and Belize (an orchid species still to be decided on) as way of getting preliminary information for Parties where a country-based review may be necessary. The species selected are:
- *Galanthus woronowii*
 - *Podophyllum hexandrum*
 - *Cyathea contaminans*
 - *Cibotium barometz*
 - *Dendrobium nobile*
 - An orchid species from Belize (to be selected)

Aquilaria spp. (Decisions 12.66-12.71)

65. At the PC14 the Committee examined the progress report on *Aquilaria* and the Plants Committee recommendations to the CoP are the following:

66. Decision 12.66:

The DNA work currently being undertaken by the National Herbarium of the Netherlands under contract with the Secretariat should continue and should be aimed at investigating the options for the development of identification tools based on molecular analysis.

The PC recommends **this decision be kept.**

67. Decision 12.67:

More detailed information on the distribution of species should be compiled and assessed as an aid to better trade reporting, using point-of-origin data.

This work should be conducted as part of Decision 12.69 and coordinated by IUCN-SSC with input from the IUCN Global Trees Specialist Group. The PC recommends **delete this decision.**

68. Decision 12.68:

*As the trade is in the readily identifiable product of agarwood, studies should include all known agarwood-producing taxa and not only the CITES-listed species *A. malaccensis*.*

The PC recommends **this decision be kept and to add: To discuss the possible inclusion of all agarwood producing taxa in Appendix II.**

69. Decision 12.69:

IUCN should be invited to re-evaluate the threatened status of all agarwood-producing taxa according to the 2000 IUCN criteria.

The PC is of the opinion that IUCN re-evaluation is a much needed activity and recommends that it be coordinated by IUCN-SSC with input from the IUCN Global Trees Specialist Group.

70. Decision 12.70:

A standard method for determining the population status of CITES-listed agarwood-producing taxa should be developed to assist Scientific Authorities in advising that exports will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV of the Convention. Such a standard method could be used to verify populations across all agarwood-producing areas, and allow not only the setting of appropriate quotas but also the verification of species being harvested.

The PC pointed out that this decision is dealt with under recommendations for Malaysia from the Significant Trade Review. The PC recommends **deleting this decision.**

71. Decision 12.71:

Further field research should be conducted on trade dynamics, including in the major import and re-exporting States and territories (Japan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Taiwan, province of China, and the United Arab Emirates).

The PC recommends that this decision be retained as it has only been partly completed with work in Southeast Asia. Work in East Asia and the Middle East is still required.

Master's course

72. The PC Chairman advised the Committee at PC14 of the results of the master's course (500 hours) on *Management, Access and Conservation of species in trade: The International Framework*. This master's course was taught four times, organized by the International University of Andalusia with the collaboration of the University of Cordoba, under the sponsorship of Spanish institutions mainly. The first two editions (1998, 1999) were given in Spanish and the following two (2000, 2003) in English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation into both languages.
73. Together with the lecturers from the Spanish CITES Scientific Authority (Ministry of the Environment) and CITES Management Authority (Ministry of the Economy), individuals from the CITES Scientific or Management Authorities of Argentina, Australia, Cuba, France, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, the CITES Secretariat, the Commission of the European Union, the Phytogenetic Resources Secretariat of the FAO, the University of Granada, the Polytechnical University of Madrid, the Spanish Environmental Police (SEPRONA), the Spanish and British Customs authorities, the Forensic Laboratory of the United States of America, IUCN, Adena-WWF, and others coming from well known institutions also participated as lecturers. The first course was taught by 57 lecturers from 14 countries, the second one by 62 lecturers from 14 countries, the third one by 57 lecturers from 10 countries and the fourth one by 81 lecturers from 13 countries.
74. In total 113 participants followed the four editions of the master's course. The participants came from 42 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. The participants were given a grant, which fully covered the tuition and accommodation. 59 participants from the first, second and third editions of the master's course have received their master's title and the participants of the fourth edition are preparing their dissertation to be presented during 2004.
75. Most of the participants are working in: governmental bodies in charge of environmental conventions; CITES Secretariat, non-governmental organizations; universities or others environmental institutions.
76. The programme provides a solid training on the main environmental conventions, in particular CITES and CBD, and it is appropriate for those who are involved in, or wish to become involved in, environment-related policy-making or the application of international agreements at the executive level.
77. The course includes practical training in several Spanish institutions. The participants have to pass exams weekly and when the period of teaching (400 hours) is over they prepare a final project or dissertation. The dissertation (equivalent to 100 hours of teaching) deals with specific topics studied during the master's course and relevant to their countries. They have to submit the work done to the University a year later and a Commission examines the dissertation and determines whether the participants deserves to obtain the Master's degree title.
78. The Committee agreed that this Master's course was a very useful tool for understanding and training staff working on CITES and addressed the frequent concerns from Parties, Committees and the Secretariat about the urgent need to strengthen the capacity of Management and Scientific Authorities of the CITES Parties. The Committee agreed that the Chairman's report for CoP13 include a request for a decision to support the Master's Course, and recommended the AC Chairman to do the same.
79. The PC Committee however took note with some concern that the future of this course is not assured, in view of the fact that it has been supported for four years by Spain alone. The PC therefore **recommended that the following Decisions be proposed to the Parties at CoP13:**

Directed to Parties:

Parties are called upon to provide financial assistance to the University of Cordoba (Spain) and to the International University of Andalusia (Spain) in order to support the continuation of the Master's course on *Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework*.

Directed to the Standing Committee and the Secretariat:

The Standing Committee and the Secretariat shall seek external funding to support the participation in the Master's course of students from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Standard slide package

80. At PC14 the observer from the United Kingdom presented the new packages produced. The Committee congratulated the United Kingdom on the production of the packages and Power Point presentations.

Export Quota Working Group (Decision 12.17)

81. The Secretariat reported to the Committee at PC14 that the Export Quota Working Group had not yet held a meeting. The Committee agreed to comment on reports from and reply to requests from the Export Quota Working Group as appropriate.

Technical implementation issues

82. The Secretariat pointed out this issue at PC13 and PC14. The Committee agreed that it did not have any technical implementation issues for consideration by the Standing Committee at present.

Review of Resolution Conf. 10.13 on Implementation of the Convention for timber species

83. The observer from the United States reported that the working group established at PC14 on the definition of the term 'plywood' recommended the United States submit the proposal outlined in the Annex to document PC14 Doc. 7.5.2 (Rev. 1) at CoP13. The Committee agreed to that recommendation.

Links with industry and traders to promote projects on sustainable use [Decision 12.11, paragraph k]

84. At PC14, the Committee discussed and developed recommendations for several plant species where importing and exporting countries have worked together, involving plant growers and traders, in order to safeguard its sustainable use and production.

85. An example is a technical review of artificial propagation of *Tillandsia xerographica* in Guatemala. A team of experts from the Netherlands and Austria have worked with the CITES authorities, scientists and plant growers in Guatemala and produced recommendations (see document PC14 Inf. 8) to promote a sustainable production. A new NGO of plant growers and traders in Guatemala, CONREFI, co-operates with the Government and the University in order to enable and control CITES implementation.

86. At PC14 the Committee was also informed by COMURNAT of the progress in the implementation of the *Programa Pau Brasil*, a comprehensive five year plan initiated by the users of *Caesalpinia echinata*. The Brazilian authorities and professional organizations representing bow and violin makers have come to an agreement which allowed this programme to start on 1 March 2004. 93. Other very good examples were pointed out: the project that linked Mexican plant growers producing *Zamia* located in small villages (ejidos) close to the *Zamia* natural habitat and traders in Germany or the projects on native medicinal plants including *Panax quinquefolius* from the United States.

Role of Appendix II [Decision 12.11, paragraph m)]

87. Not all species occurring in international trade need to be included in Appendix II. Those for which the level of trade is minimal and not detrimental do not deserve inclusion, and neither do those properly managed by the range States and, therefore, used in a sustainable way.
88. The essential purpose of including species in Appendix II is to prevent international trade in specimens thereof leading to depletion or extinction in the wild; in other words it is to exert controls to ensure that the trade is sustainable. The Appendix-II listing is therefore an excellent tool to contribute to the conservation, proper management and sustainable use of many species e.g. *Guaicum*, *Panax quinquefolius* (American ginseng) and *Zamia furfuracea*.
89. It is necessary that the general public understand that the inclusion of a taxon in Appendix II does not prohibit its trade. Consumers have to become aware of the economic incentives that the producers get maintaining a sustainable exploitation and this task is a general duty for the whole CITES system (Parties, Committees, Secretariat, NGOs etc.). **The PC recommends to the CoPs to delete Decision 12.11, paragraph m).**

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: analysis and links with the Convention on Biological Diversity (Decision 12.12)

90. The Committee congratulated the working group, established at PC13 and FFI for their work on analysing the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) and links with CBD regarding GSPC's target XI. The observer from FFI introduced the Annex to document PC14 Doc. 18. This work was done on a voluntary basis and was sent to the CBD Secretariat on behalf of the PC to fulfil Decision 12.12. The Committee suggested that a Committee member represent the PC at a meeting aimed at analysing links between CITES and CBD, held in Germany in April 2004. The Vice-Chairman attended this meeting (see document PC14 Doc. 18).
91. **The PC recommends the deletion of Decision 12.12 and the adoption of the following decision:**

The Plants Committee shall link its activities and collaborations with the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), especially regarding target XI 'No species of wild flora endangered by international trade', and with other CBD-related issues.

Guidelines for transport of live plants

92. At PC14 the observer from the United States introduced document PC14 Inf. 15. The Committee agreed that the document proposed a useful standard form for reporting non-compliance with IATA transport guidelines. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a Notification to the Parties recommending that the Parties use that standard form when such situations arise.

Review of heavily traded non-CITES species [Decision 12.9, paragraph a) iii)]

93. The PC agreed that the Chairman present *Harpagophytum* spp. as a case study of a heavily-traded non-CITES species in the Chairman's report for CoP13, pursuant to Decision 12.9, paragraph a) iii). (see document CoP13 Inf. 10)
94. The review of heavily traded non-CITES species was included in the PC working programme to fulfil Action Point 2.1.4 of the Action Plan of the CITES Strategic Vision. However, at PC14 the Committee agreed to give this task low priority. **The PC recommends to the CoP to delete the Decision 12.9, paragraph a) iii).**

Progress report on the evaluation of tree species (Decision 12.10)

95. The observer from the Netherlands reported at PC14 on the work by the Netherlands, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, to hold four regional workshops on tree conservation between 2004 and 2006. The PC discussed further steps to be taken on the "*Contribution to an Evaluation of tree species using the new CITES listing Criteria*" published by the Netherlands.

96. The PC supported the recommendation by the Netherlands to organize regional workshops on tree conservation and management on the basis of the evaluation report. A first regional workshop to be organized by UNEP-WCMC and range States is foreseen for the end of 2004, with further workshops in 2005 and 2006, pending on further funding. **The PC recommends to the CoP to delete Decision 12.10.**

Checklists and nomenclature

97. The botanist of the Nomenclature Committee reported on the outcomes of the recent Nomenclature Committee meeting (Windhoek, 17 February 2004). The Committee congratulated all those who were involved in the production of the new CITES checklists. It also supported the recommendation of the botanist of the Nomenclature Committee that he draft a proposal for consideration at CoP13 to amend Resolution Conf. 12.11 in order to include taxon-based checklists as standard references for species nomenclature. Finally it also recommended that he produce a document outlining the Terms of Reference and the working practices of the Nomenclature Committee.

Proposal to include *Caesalpinia echinata* in the Appendices

98. The observer from Germany advised the Committee at PC14 that he had not received an official response from the Brazilian CITES Authorities with regard to their position on a proposal to include *Caesalpinia echinata* in Appendix II. Germany would consequently not be submitting such a proposal at CoP13. The observer from COMURNAT reported on the progress of the International Pernambuco Conservation Initiative (see paragraph 86).

PC budget

99. At CoP12, the Parties approved an annual budget of USD 211,000 for the operation of the PC for the years 2003-5 inclusive.

100. Expenses incurred (in USD) for organizing PC meetings in 2002-2004, excluding Secretariat staffing costs, are present in the table below.

Description	PC12 Leiden (The Netherlands), 13-17 May 2002	PC13* Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 August 2003	PC14 Windhoek (Namibia), 16-20 February 2004
Salary/travel of conference staff (rapporteur and interpreters)	20,054	19,217	26,000
Logistics for PC meeting **	0	5,279	9,900
External translation of documents	3,315	9,614	2,850
Travel and DSA of PC members ***	24,074	24,846	27,000
Travel and DSA of Secretariat staff ****	5,970	0	21,300
TOTAL	53,413	58,956	87,050
Annual budget (in USD)	60,000	64,000	82,000

* This meeting lasted four days and it was held back to back with a meeting of the AC.

** At PC11 paid by the Government of Netherlands.

*** Number of sponsored PC members: 2002: 8, 2003: 8, and 2004: 7.

**** At PC14 the Secretariat's travel costs were higher because, exceptionally four staff members attended this meeting. Two new staff members joined the Scientific Support Unit at the beginning of 2004 and the Secretary-General considered it was important they should be introduced to the Committee.

NB. The assistance of the representatives from Italy and Spain has been fully financed by these countries. At PC13 Paraguay provided the air-ticket for its representative to attend.

101. For the next triennium, 2006-2008, the PC requires as a minimum the same support as in the previous three years, provided for meetings take place annually and allowing simultaneous translation during its regular meetings. Taking into account the decision of the Standing Committee concerning the inclusion of the full costs incurred by the Secretariat in organising and holding the meetings in budgeting (see document SC50 Doc. 12.4 Annex 2 and document CoP13 Doc. 8.3), this *status quo* support requires USD 253,865 in 2006, USD 241,754 in 2007 and USD 260,184 in 2008. These figures are provided by the Secretariat.
102. To carry out its work and accommodate costs related to activities other than the regular meetings adequately, an additional budget of USD 15,000 would be necessary.
103. The PC – as the previous PC has done – also **recommends considering allocating funds (for example USD 30,000) to assist the work of the Chairmanship only in the case that the chairman comes from a developing country and is not able to benefit from government or institutional financial or technical support.** The chairmanship of the PC is very time-consuming. Without adequate financial and other support by the Chairman's country or institution, it will be impossible to undertake the task efficiently and expeditiously. It is the Chairman's and the Committee's concern that these constraints might in particular prevent PC representatives from certain developing countries from being elected Chairman of the Committee, or operating effectively in this position. It is therefore suggested that the budget subcommittee of the Standing Committee look into the possibilities of allocating funds that can be used on a case-by-case basis to compensate for the time of a Chairman.
104. The PC agreed to include in the report of the PC Chairman for CoP13 a proposal to extend the mandate of the Committee to allow it to discuss and manage its own budget (see document CoP13 Doc. 11.2).

Acknowledgements

105. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the members of the PC for their commitment, enthusiastic collaboration and the excellent job done. I also thank the Chairman and the members of the AC for their support, cooperation and interest in the activities of the Plants Committee. I extend my thanks to the observer-delegates from the Parties; IGOs and NGOs and the CITES Secretariat, with special mention to Mr Morgan, Ms Sosa Schmidt, Mr De Meulenaer, Ms Zentilli, Ms Campos and Ms Unger for their very valuable contributions to the PC. Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Management and Scientific Authorities of Spain, my country, and the University of Cordoba and Botanic Gardens of Cordoba, for the superb support that I have received from them to accomplish my tasks as Chairman.

Summary of recommendations outlined in the report of the Chairman of the Plants Committee

Recommendations regarding Decisions directed to the PC at CoP12:

Deletion of all Decisions directed to the Plants Committee and reformulation of those that require implementation in the future as follows (paragraph 11):

- Deletion of Decision 10.86 concerning Trade in alien species (see paragraph 47).
- Deletion of Decision 11.114 (Rev.CoP12) concerning *Guaiacum* species.
- Deletion of Decision 11.118 (Rev. CoP12) concerning Annotations for medicinal plants in the Appendices (see paragraph 46 and document CoP13 Doc. 58).
- Deletion of Decision 12.9 to Decision 12.12 inclusive, concerning the work programme of the Plants Committee (see paragraphs 89, 91, 94 and 96).
- Deletion of Decision 12.13 concerning regional meetings of the Plants Committee.
- Deletion of Decision 12.14 and Decision 12.15 concerning regional directories.
- Deletion of Decisions 12.63 to Decision 12.65 inclusive concerning *Harpagophytum* species (see paragraph 41).
- Deletion of Decision 12.67 and Decision 12.70 concerning *Aquilaria* species (see paragraphs 67 and 70).
- Deletion of Decision 12.73, Decision 12.74 and Decision 9.33 concerning Review of Significant Trade.
- Deletion of Decision 12.75 concerning Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade (see paragraph 36).
- Deletion of Decision 12.97 concerning Review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II (see paragraph 28).

Recommendation concerning Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and links with the Convention on Biological Diversity

Adoption of the following decision:

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 13.xx The Plants Committee shall link its activities and collaborations with the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), especially regarding target XI 'No species of wild flora endangered by international trade', and with other CBD-related issues. (see paragraph 91)

Recommendation concerning *Aquilaria* species.

Adoption of the following decisions:

Directed to the Secretariat

- 13.xx The Secretariat should invite IUCN to re-evaluate the threatened status of all agarwood-producing taxa according to the 2000 IUCN criteria. (see paragraph 69)

Directed to the Parties

- 13.xx The DNA work currently being undertaken by the National Herbarium of the Netherlands under contract with the Secretariat should continue and should be aimed at investigating the options for the development of identification tools based on molecular analysis. (see paragraph 66)
- 13.xx As the trade is in the readily identifiable product of agarwood, studies should include all known agarwood-producing taxa and not only the CITES-listed species *A. malaccensis* and the possible inclusion of all agarwood producing taxa in Appendix II needs to be discussed. (see paragraph 68)
- 13.xx Further field research should be conducted on trade dynamics, including in the major import and re-exporting States and territories in Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Middle East. (see paragraph 71)

Recommendations regarding regional representation.

Adoption of the following decisions:

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 13.xx The PC recommends organizing regional meetings by using seminars or other related meetings organized by the Secretariat. The regional representatives would prepare the agenda and chair the meeting and, where necessary, receive funding to attend that day. (see paragraph 20)

Directed to the Secretariat

- 13.xx The Secretariat to look for funding, if necessary, to facilitate the participation at least of one regional representative to accomplish his/her regional representation duties during one day. (see paragraph 20)

Recommendations regarding *Harpagophytum* spp.

Adoption of the following decision:

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 13.xx The Plants Committee shall decide on what action is required for outstanding reports from the importing countries of *Harpagophytum*. (see paragraph 42)

Recommendation concerning inclusion of species in the CITES Appendices.

Adopt the following decision:

Directed to the Secretariat

- 13.xx The Secretariat shall explore options for Parties to include, on the proposals to amend the Appendices, information of the impact that including a species in the CITES Appendices may have on poor peoples' livelihoods. (see paragraph 42)

Recommendations regarding training and promotion of awareness (Objective 4.6. of the Strategic Vision through 2005)

Adoption of the following decisions:

Directed to Parties

- 13.xx Parties are called upon to provide financial assistance to the University of Cordoba (Spain) and to the International University of Andalusia (Spain) in order to support the continuation of the Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework. (see paragraph 79)

Directed to the Standing Committee and the Secretariat

- 13.xx The Standing Committee and the Secretariat shall seek external funding to support the participation in the Master's course of students from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. (see paragraph 79)

Recommendations regarding PC budget

The Plants Committee recommends considering allocating funds additional to its regular budget (for example USD 30,000) to assist the work of the Chairmanship only in the case that the chairman comes from a developing country and is not able to benefit from government or institutional financial or technical support. (see paragraph 103)