

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Agarwood-producing taxa

REPORT OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee on behalf of the Plants Committee, with the support of the regional representative and alternate for Asia (Ms. Zhou and Ms. Al-Salem) and in consultation with the CITES Secretariat*.
2. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted the Decision 15.94, directed to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat as follows:

Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall consider current definitions of artificially propagated plants and how they apply to trees in mixed species plantations and report at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. At PC19 (Geneva, 2011) a working group was formed and the recommendations of the group were as follows:
 - a) *The Working Group noted the ongoing concerns expressed by the United States and other Parties about the possible ramifications of the deletion of the word 'monospecific' in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15). The concern is a broader issue than the application of 'artificially propagated' to other non-plantation species. It was considered unlikely that any new wording would alleviate these concerns. Nevertheless, the working group agreed to leave this issue for consideration in the proposed agarwood workshops in conjunction with the consideration of the application of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15).*
 - b) *Agarwood range States participating in the agarwood workshop to be held in Kuwait will be requested to provide information on the origin of their plantation material.*
 - c) *The Kuwait workshop will include an agenda item for agarwood range States to assess the application of artificially propagated in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) to their plantations.*
 - d) *The information derived from the agarwood workshop to be held in Kuwait will be fed into the second workshop being held in Indonesia.*

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

e) *The working group did not elicit any particular CITES-listed tree species that may be of concern with mixed-species plantations, but recommended that the outcomes of the agarwood workshops be a useful model for any future considerations of other CITES-listed tree species grown in mixed plantations.*

9. The Committee noted the recommendations and welcomed the assurances from Kuwait and Indonesia that they would work closely together on the subjects to be covered in agarwood workshops planned for Kuwait and Indonesia.
10. A workshop on Implementation of CITES for Agarwood-producing species was held in Kuwait, 3-6 October 2011, and the Asian Regional Workshop on Agarwood: Management of Wild and Plantation-Grown Agarwood was held in Bangka Tengah, Indonesia, 22-24 November 2011.
11. National reports were presented by Parties and two working groups were established during the two workshops: one on administrative issues, and one on scientific issues. The two workshops fulfilled discussions in line with the Decisions on agarwood-producing species that had been adopted at CoP15.
12. At PC20 (Dublin, 2012) the results and recommendations of the Agarwood workshops were presented (PC20 Doc. 17.2.1) and a working group (PC20 WG6) was established during the meeting.
13. After the discussions the Committee agreed the amendments proposed to Resolution Conf.10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species* and the draft decisions included in Annex. The aim for the proposed change of the title (to replace timber by tree) was to extend the application of the Resolution Conf. 10.13 to tree species that are traded not just only as timber species, such as the Agarwood specimens.
14. At the time to prepare the present document the Chair consulted with the Secretariat which pointed out that the operative sections of the Resolution refer to timber, not trees. At this regard the Resolution Conf. 10.13 (CoP15) should be adapted accordingly.
15. Regarding the draft Decision 15.95 (Rev. CoP16) was detected a mistake, the Chair consulted with the PC alternate member for Asia (Ms Al-Salem) who clarified that in the third line “sourced Agarwood. Identify” had to be changed to “sourced Agarwood, identify”.
16. The CoP16 is invited to consider the adoption of the Decisions and the amendments proposed to Resolution Conf.10.13 (Rev. CoP15) included in the Annex and, if the proposed change of the title is adopted, to instruct the Secretariat to adapt the Resolution accordingly.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (*Designation and role of the Scientific Authorities*) and the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

NB: Text to be deleted is ~~crossed out~~. Proposed new text is underlined.

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

Regarding:

- the title of the Resolution:

Implementation of the Convention for ~~timber~~ tree species

- paragraph g:

- g) timber or other parts or derivatives of trees grown in monospecific or mixed plantations be considered as being artificially propagated in accordance with the definition contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15);

DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

16.XX

Directed to the Plants Committee

To consider the current production systems of tree species including mixed and monospecific plantations and assess the applicability of the current definitions of artificial propagation in Resolution Conf. 10.13 and Resolution Conf. 11.11 respectively and report back to CoP17.

15.95 (Rev. CoP 16)

Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in cooperation with the Agarwood range States and the Plants Committee, organize a workshop to share experiences, discuss management of wild and plantation-source Agarwood, identify and agree on strategies that balance the conservation and use of the wild populations, while relieving the pressure on these by using the planted material.