

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

Seventeenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 April 2008

AGARWOOD
(Agenda item 17.2)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chairman: The representative of Oceania (Mr Leach);

Parties: Asian Representative (Tukirin), Kuwait, Malaysia, Thailand;

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, TRAFFIC, TRACE.

Mandate

Working Group on agarwood-producing species, chaired by the representative of Oceania

Develop principles, criteria and indicators for the making of non-detriment findings for wild specimens of agarwood-producing species.

Comments

The working group took as its starting point PC17 Inf.4 'Developing a non-detriment finding methodology for agarwood-producing taxa'.

Range states raised the issue of discriminating wild from cultivated agarwood, the difficulty in trade reporting and consequent implications for making NDF when these products are mixed.

The working group draws attention to the consideration of merging annotations #1 and #4 with respect to defining what agarwood products are controlled in trade and any consequent implications for harvest/trade reporting. It was suggested the final NDF methodology might account for this by concentrating on the earlier stages of harvest and crude processing (wood chipping).

Range states voiced concerns relating to the potential complexity involved in applying the methodology and the fact that not all range states have yet been given the opportunity to provide opinion on the current draft of PC17 Inf. 4.

Issues relating to CITES-controlled products in trade are the subject of Decisions 14.137-14.144 and their subsequent implementation.

Recommendations

1. PC17 Inf. 4 represents a considerable body of work on agarwood NDF methodology and the working group agreed that it is a good basis for moving towards the implementation of decision 14.143.
2. The regional representatives of Asia should contact range states to solicit comment on the document, particularly in relation to the practical implementation of the proposed NDF method. In addition the representatives should highlight the significance of this draft document as the basis for a case study which will be presented to the international NDF workshop in Mexico in November 2008.
3. The regional representatives should collate range state responses and present to the working group chair for incorporation into discussions in Mexico.
4. Given that agarwood is primarily utilized as a medicinal and aromatic plant, the Mexican workshop should assess the possible relevance and contribution of the document, 'International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP)', for the development of an agarwood NDF methodology.
5. At PC18 the plants committee shall assess the agarwood-specific output from the Mexican workshop in terms of meeting the requirements of Decision 14.143.