

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

Nineteenth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 April 2011

Regional reports

## AFRICA

1. This report has been submitted by the regional representatives for Africa. As it was received by the Secretariat after the deadline for submission of documents, it is provided herewith in English only, the language in which it was submitted\*.

General Information

2. Representatives: Dr. David Hafashimana (Uganda) and Dr. Beatrice Khayota (Kenya)
3. Alternate members: Prof. Koffi Akpagana (Togo) and Mr. Quentin Luke (Kenya)
4. Number of parties in the region: 52
5. Number of countries responding to request for information: 10 (Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda)

Activities carried outGeneral

6. Under the auspices of the Capacity Building Program of the CITES Secretariat and with funding support from European Commission through the Secretariat, a 3-days capacity building workshop for the English Speaking African (Anglophone) countries was held in Kampala, Uganda on 19-21 January 2010 to assist Parties with implementation of CITES requirements especially on Non detriment findings. Invitations to the workshop were for three participants per country and **all** Anglophone countries participated.

## NAMIBIA

7. In Namibia, Hoodia dominates at the moment, in terms of volume of permits related to CITES-listed plants processed by the Management Authority. Discussion with Botswana and South Africa range states on implementation of annotation #9 is currently taking place.

\*

*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.*

## CAMEROON

8. Cameroon sheltered on 17-19 November 2010 a workshop on capacity building under facilitation of IUCN MIKE Programme. The participants came from 23 francophone countries.
9. Under the project "Be insure that International Trade of African CITES Annex II Tree Species is compatible with their conservation", the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional workshop was held under ITTO-CITES from 29 September to 2 October 2010. It aims to gather all the results obtained since the beginning of the programme in order to set an action plan 2010-2012 for capacity building and NDFs formulating for *Pericopsis elata* and *Prunus africana*.

The goals are:

- a) Setting up an action plan
- b) Present the results on the *Prunus* Project
- c) Share experiences in the Congo Basin
- d) Formulating an ACNP report for the North-Western regions
- e) Management of students who are working on CITES problematics
- f) Answers preparation for different requests from the CITES Secretariat

## LIBERIA

### Building the capacity of Liberia's CITES SA

10. Liberia became a signatory of CITES in 1981, but the eruption of civil war in 1989 dismantled its CITES Scientific Authority, preventing full implementation of CITES requirements.
11. With funding from the CITES Secretariat for capacity building, in January 2011, the government of Liberia held a two-day workshop to reconstitute its CITES Scientific Authority and build up the capacity of its CITES Management Authority.
12. The workshop was attended by more than 70 participants from government institutions, the private sector and civil society. The CITES Authorities for Kenya supported two representatives from the Kenya Wildlife Service to participate in the workshop as technical facilitators and share experiences in implementation of CITES. Participants to the workshop received information about applicable standards protecting CITES species in Liberia and the role of respective government authorities (Customs, and Management and Scientific Authorities) in the implementation of CITES. The workshop concluded with re-designation of the University of Liberia (UL) as the country's Scientific Authority.
13. The workshop participants agreed on a list of recommendations to strengthen CITES enforcement in the country including through, inter alia, establishing a database indexing Liberia's fauna and flora and compiling information relevant to the issuance of non-detriment findings, organizing training for the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, creating a herbarium, and carrying out species assessments.

### Regional collaboration and building capacities of CITES SA to monitor species populations

14. During the regional meetings at the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in March, 2010 in Doha, the African elephant Action Plan was finalized and adopted by the region's African elephant range States. Strategies for implementation of the action plan including establishment of the African Elephant Fund and the Fund's Steering Committee were discussed by the range States at the third meeting of the African Elephant range States meeting at UNEP, Gigiri in November 2010.
15. Kenya conducted its regular aerial count of the African elephant in the Tsavo-Mkomazi ecosystem in February 2011 and participated representatives of the CITES Authorities of United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan as part of regional collaboration and capacity building in elephant aerial counts.

## KENYA

16. Kenya's CITES SA conducted sensitization and awareness raising on threats of Alien and Invasive Species (AIS) of plants and the pathways of introduction of such species to the country. Sensitization Workshops were held in 2010 for Customs officers and Kenya Plants health Inspectorate Services officers at the border points and experts on AIS from National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service and Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI) among others made presentations on the subject.

17. The Scientific Authorities are developing a simple identification manual of Kenya's CITES listed plants and recorded Alien and Invasive plant species to assist with control in trade and introductions in the country.

#### MADAGASCAR

18. Yearly visit to nurseries for evaluation and quota establishment. Three identification manuals written with SA:
- a) Most Traded Orchids of Madagascar
  - b) Most Traded Palm Species of Madagascar
  - c) Precious Woods of Madagascar
  - d) Attended the Francophone Capacity Building Workshop in Douala, Cameroon in Nov 2010 on NDFs.
  - e) Applied for funding for Manual on Succulents in January 2011 and awaiting reply.
  - f) Trained Customs and Police on plant identification and CITES requirements

#### MOROCCO

##### General information

19. The Kingdom of Morocco has ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Flora (CITES) October 16, 1975 with effect from January 14, 1976. Pursuant to Article IX of the Convention, Morocco has designated the Management Authority, represented by:
- The High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight Against Desertification  
Directorate for the Fight against Desertification and Nature Conservation  
3, Rue Haroun Errachid, Agdal  
Rabat  
Morocco  
Tel: 212 537 67 39 32  
Fax: 212 537 67 26 28
  - The Scientific Authority is represented by:  
The Scientific Institute of Rabat (IS)  
B.P. 703 Sharia Ibn Battuta  
Rabat  
Morocco
  - Institute Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV)  
B.P. 6202 Rabat Institute  
Rabat  
Morocco
  - Ecole Nationale Forestière d'Ingénieurs (ENFI)  
Tabriquet  
Salé  
Morocco
  - The National Fisheries Research Institute (NHRI)  
N 2, Rue Tiznit  
Casablanca 01  
Morocco

##### Communications with the parties in the region since AC24

20. Morocco participates regularly in meetings of the Arab group involved in international conventions relating to Combat Desertification and Biological Diversity. During team meetings, representatives of Arab countries, including countries in North Africa, examining issues related to implementation of conventions related to biodiversity conservation, including CITES.

Monitoring of relevant items of the agenda (recommendations) of the previous meetings of the Animals Committee

21. The High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight Against Desertification, CITES focal point, ensure regular review, monitoring and strict enforcement, within the limits of national jurisdiction and resources available, recommendations arising from the CITES COPs as well as meetings of its committees

Activities concerning the country's CITES

- a) the Review of Significant Trade

Most species of animals listed in the CITES Appendices and which Morocco is part of their range are protected by national law and their trade is prohibited.

- b) periodic review of Appendices

The proposed amendments to the CITES Appendices are reviewed periodically during each COP of the parties, by a national committee of CITES Scientific Authority, the CITES Management Authority and government departments and NGOs concerned.

- c) Bills CITES

Morocco has developed a draft law on the protection of flora and fauna species and regulating trade. This project was adopted by the Council of Government, 18 June 2009 by the Council of Ministers November 26, 2009 and the House of Councilors in 2010. Currently it is in final review by the House of Representatives before its adoption in plenary.

- d) the registration of captive breeding operations for commercial animal species in Appendix I

There are no breeding establishment for commercial purposes in Morocco.

Promotion of CITES in the country

- a) capacity building activities, awareness campaigns

Organising a training session for officials operating at customs border posts, 14, 15 and 16 October 2009, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Species Survival Network (SSN) in collaboration with the High Commission for Water and Forests and the Fight Against Desertification. It is planned to hold another training session in May 2011 as part of the Moroccan-American cooperation in implementation of CITES. This training is designed for customs officials operating at two border posts in Casablanca and Tangier. The High Commissioner of Forestry and Desertification Control, in its capacity as Management Authority of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Morocco, had organized in partnership with the International Technical Assistance Program of the U.S. Department of Interior and the United States Embassy in Rabat American regional workshop on capacity building of Scientific Authorities on implementation of CITES. This workshop, held from 27 to 30 October 2009, was intended to Scientific Authorities for CITES countries of the Middle East and North Africa and was facilitated by trainers from "United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the CITES Secretariat.

- b) the scientific community in the country and the agenda of CITES

The scientific community, and particularly members of the CITES Scientific Authority is very active in the implementation of CITES at the national level. Indeed, the scientific community is asked to advise scientists on various topics related to animal and plant species listed in CITES Appendices.

TANZANIA

22. At its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting (PC16), the Plants Committee categorized *P. Africana* from Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, and the United Republic of Tanzania as of urgent concern. In consultation with the Secretariat, the Committee formulated recommendations with deadlines for their implementation. These were submitted to the **Range States of Concern** by the Secretariat in August 2006.

23. At the same meeting, the Plant Committee established an intercessional working group on *P. Africana* with the task of providing guidance to relevant range states on the implementation of the recommendations of the Plants Committee on this species.

#### Implementation of the recommendation

- a) Project proposal for an assessment of *P. Africana* in the Tanzania natural forests were prepared. The main objective of this project proposal was to conduct an assessment on *P. Africana* to provide Management Authority with data that can enable it to make informed decisions with regard to its trade. The proposal was submitted to the Secretariat to solicit funds
- b) Attended the workshop on **Implementation of Review of Significant Trade (RST) Recommendations for *P. Africana*** in Naivasha-Kenya in 2008
- c) Attended COP 15 meeting at Doha in 2010
- d) From 2010 to 2013 National Forest Resources Monitoring and Assessment (NAFORMA) is in process of which *P. Africana* is one of the species also covered in the assessment.

#### Constraints in implementation of recommendations

- a) There was no feedback from the Secretariat concerning the submitted proposal. So we didn't manage to conduct inventory on time due insufficient fund.
- b) Recognition of Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) as Scientific Authority as all notifications pass through Management Authorities (Wildlife Division) which affect the performance of CITES activities particularly plant matters.

#### TOGO

24. So far any plants species of the Togolese flora are not concerned by the species generally discussed during PCs, Togo is involved in CITES activities. He ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Flora (CITES) 23 October 1978 and Entry into force in 21 October 1979.
25. According to Article IX of the Convention, the Managing Authority for CITES is the Direction of Fauna and Ranging which is supported by the Direction of Environment and that of Water and Forests.

#### Implementation of the recommendation

26. The Managing Authority:

- a) participates in some sub-regional and regional workshops
- b) participates in the Implementation of Review of Significant Trade Recommendations for *P. Africana* in Naivasha-Kenya (2008)
- c) attended COP15 meeting at Doha in 2010
- d) organizes two (2) workshops for local stakeholders (NGOs, local populations, etc.) on forest ecosystems conservation, local forest species breeding as solution to imported species
- e) organizes a workshop on mushroom species breeding for food
- f) etc.

#### Constraints in implementation of recommendations

- The collaboration between the Managing and the Scientific Authority is not often functional
- There is a lack of information circulation between the Parties in the region
- There is a necessity of contacts addresses updating for fluent communication.

#### UGANDA

##### General

27. Getting response from the parties when contacted continued to be a challenge especially to the regional representatives, making it difficult to report in a timely manner.

28. The issue of obsolete and sometimes contradictory laws with low penalties for offences involving plants continue to be a major challenge in many countries.
29. Inadequate human and financial resources for CITES implementation especially regarding Plants with priority given to large animals.
30. Inadequate capacity to differentiate between CITES and non-CITES species.

#### Other topics related to CITES

##### Work to be done until next plants committee (if not already mentioned above)

31. Implementation of a project on Sustainable Conservation management of *Prunus africana* as part of CITES significant trade review.
32. Implementation of a project on National status and distribution of East African Sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*) and assessment of the species as a potential candidate for CITES Appendix II listing at CoP15 or CoP16.
33. Continued update of plant experts' directory.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

34. Following the 59<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee, in March 2010, the CITES Secretariat informed South Africa about the decisions made by the Standing Committee regarding the export of wild and artificially propagated specimens of *Pachypodium bispinosum* and *P. succulentum*. South Africa implemented the recommendations made by the Standing Committee and set a zero export quota, from 2010, for exports of specimens of *Pachypodium bispinosum* and *P. succulentum* taken from the wild. This zero quota will remain in place until South Africa has complied with the other recommendations. South Africa is making progress with the implementation of the recommendations by the Plants Committee and a resource assessment has been undertaken. A full report, providing feedback on the implementation of all the recommendations will be submitted to the CITES Secretariat upon completion.
35. In response to the request from the CITES Secretariat on 7 January 2011, South Africa provided further information on *Aloe pratensis* to the Secretariat. In terms of the Red List of South African Plants, 2009, *Aloe pratensis* is classified as Least Concern. Trade from South Africa is miniscule and there was no record of wild specimens in international trade from South Africa in the CITES trade database. The removal of the species from the Significant Trade Review process was therefore proposed.

#### CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

36. A training session for CITES Management and Scientific Authorities of South Africa took place from 4-8 October 2010. The training session was presented by Ms S. Nash from the CITES Secretariat and South Africa greatly appreciated the assistance received from the CITES Secretariat in terms of this training session.
37. South Africa is developing an electronic Identification toolkit for priority South African species listed in terms of CITES to assist in terms of compliance monitoring and enforcement.

#### GENERAL

38. Since December 2010, the South African Scientific Authority has conducted provisional Non Detriment Findings on most *Encephalartos* species from South Africa together with conservation departments from provinces that have wild populations. This process has included a review of information on the status of cycads in the wild, the regulatory environment, and information on legal and illegal trade.

#### OTHER TOPICS RELATED TO CITES

39. South Africa published CITES regulations on 5 March 2010 in the Government Gazette. The regulations were promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 and the regulations came into effect on the day it was published.