

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



Twentieth meeting of the Plants Committee
Dublin (Ireland), 22-30 March 2012

Regional Report

AFRICA

This document has been submitted by Regional Representatives for Africa**.

1. General information

- a) Regional representatives: (Authors) Beatrice Khayota (Kenya), David Hafashimana (Uganda)
Alternate members: Koffi Akpagana (Togo), Quentin Luke (Kenya)
- b) Number of parties in the region: 52.
- c) Number of parties responding to the communication: 7 (Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda).

2. Communication with other parties in the sub-region since PC 19

A call for information for national reporting in the regional report was sent to all Parties in the region via email on 19 January 2012 with a reminder on 7 February 2012

Kenya

MA and SA of Kenya gave clarification regarding the origin of *Osyris lanceolata* destined for export from Uganda.

3. Follow up on selected agenda items

4. CITES activities in the country in respect to:

- a) Review of significant trade

Tanzania is among range states of urgent concern in *P. africana*. In implementation of the recommendations, Tanzania is in the process of conducting *P. africana* inventory and management plan. Preliminarily Tanzania conducted National Resource Assessment (NAFORMA) which provided

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data on distribution of *P. africana*. On the other hand Tanzania continues looking for more funds to facilitate the completion of the Inventory.

Project proposal for an assessment of *P. africana* in the Tanzania natural forests was 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 and to the Government of Tanzania.

There was no feedback from the Secretariat concerning the *P. africana* proposal submitted. So no inventory was conducted on time due to insufficient funds.

Uganda

Visits were made by the CITES Scientific Authority (Flora) to *Prunus africana* harvesting areas and *Prunus* farmers (as part of general Forestry law enforcement in the country) to ensure sustainability of the harvesting activities, ensuring the harvesting is (Non-detrimental) to the species.

CITES Scientific Authority also carried out routine monitoring of harvests and exports of authorized quotas of *Prunus africana* bark.

MA and SA carried out Monitoring of three tree nurseries raising *Prunus africana* for distribution to interested tree farmers targeting those harvesting mature bark for export. The three nurseries had a total of 38,000 seedlings ready for planting. The nurseries are funded by the company exporting bark as part of the government conditions for the license to allow export.

The MA and SA compiled and submitted information in response to issues raised by the European Scientific Review Group in respect to *Prunus africana* quota for Uganda for 2011-2012.

- b) Periodic review of Appendices

Madagascar

At CoP15, Madagascar agreed to complete reviews of native palm species. The Scientific Authority proposes native succulent plant species at PC20 and will provide an update of the reviews. Action Plan for the conservation of succulent plant species has been established.

On 22nd December 2011, the following species on CITES Appendix III became effective: 104 species of *Dalbergia* (rosewood) and 5 species of *Diospyros* (ebonies) native to Madagascar.

Namibia has been participating in PC19 intercessional working group on the periodic review of appendices, and has undertaken to review *Euphorbia namibensis* and *Euphorbia namuskluftensis* (Annex 6 of Notification No. 2011/038) for consideration at PC21.

- c) CITES projects
- d) Registration of operations breeding/Artificial propagation Appendix-I animal/plant species for commercial purposes

South Africa

The process to register nurseries artificially propagating *Encephalartos* species is ongoing. South Africa has not submitted a request to register an Appendix I captive breeding operation.

- e) Others

Tanzania attended 19th plant committee meeting in Switzerland and participated in Working group on review of significant trade.

5. Promotion of CITES in the country

- a) Capacity building activities, awareness campaigns

Kenya

Two training sessions on CITES and control of trade in plant specimens were conducted for Customs officers and Kenya Plant Health Inspectors at border points in 2011. The training was meant to create awareness among the officers on CITES provisions with respect to control of international trade in wildlife and identification of specimens in the trade.

Training material from the CITES Virtual College was used in seminars presented to research Scientists at the National Museums of Kenya

South Africa

A training session for CITES Management Authorities of South Africa took place from 31 Nov-4 Dec 2011. The training session was presented by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

The Scientific Authority of worked together with TRAFFIC East and Southern Africa to develop a species identification tool for law enforcement officers. The tool, which focuses on priority South African taxa listed in the CITES Appendices will be available on a CD and also through the Internet. The tool provides decision trees for CITES species, has links to relevant legislation, allows photos to be uploaded and links to other sites with further identification materials, and enables the enforcement officer to send messages to an expert. The tool has been approved for use in South Africa and training is taking place.

Uganda

Some work was carried out on public awareness through interactions with *Prunus africana* farmers and civic leaders interested in trading in *Prunus* and other species on the CITES lists/ Appendices.

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

Kenya is in the process of convening its National CITES Technical Committee meetings for enhanced delivery of tasks with respect to implementation of CITES provisions especially matters of Non-Detriment Finding studies. The National CITES Technical Committee is in the process of engaging the wildlife authorities of United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda to share information on conservation status of East African Sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*) with a view to developing a joint conservation strategy for the species including consideration for listing on an appropriate CITES Appendix.

Madagascar

During the current reporting period, there was verification of wild species, parts and derivative of CITES-listed plants. Of these, in the framework of trade, many were exports and a few imports.

Regulation relating to scientific names of precious timber species is published in partnership of the Scientific Authority and Management Authority.

Identification guidance and conservation plan of orchids, palms and Baobab trees are established and will be disseminated through training.

South Africa

The Scientific Authority of South Africa has worked with scientists and other stakeholders to undertake NDFs on 16 species, including 12 critically endangered cycad species. The interim findings (NDFs) will be published for public comment.

Tanzania

Lack of recognition of Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) as Scientific Authority in Tanzania in plant matters instead of Wildlife Division affects the performance of CITES activities (plant matters), due to delays in inter-institutional communication, delaying information flow.

c) Collaboration with other MEAs

Kenya launched in November 2011, a National Strategy for Bio-prospecting within and outside Protected Areas. This strategy aims at mainstreaming sustainable utilization of wildlife in the country in line with the provisions of CITES with respect to international trade and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with respect to Access to Genetic resources and fair and equitable Sharing of Benefits accruing from the use of the resources.

Also Kenya collaborated with Lusaka Agreement on control of illegal trade in wildlife specimens of *Osyris lanceolata*; currently a non-CITES listed species that entered into the international trade markets recently and is heavily traded illegally thus calling for trade control measures.

Kenya has a new Constitution since August 2010 and the Constitution provides for domestication of International Treaties that Kenya is signatory to. As such, provisions of these treaties Conventions and Protocols form part of the national Law and therefore this new dispensation calls for the CITES Authorities for Kenya to enhance implementation of the provisions of CITES among other related Treaties , Conventions and Protocols that the country has entered into.

The Regional Representative for Africa Beatrice Khayota was in the Kenyan delegation to the First Plenary of IPBES held in October 2011, in Nairobi, and subsequently completed a questionnaire in preparation for the upcoming meeting in Panama.

The Representative also attended the 4th International Barcode of Life Conference held in Adelaide Australia. Among the topics discussed, were on how DNA bar-coding could provide solutions for CITES, in terms of wildlife fraud, verification of illegal trade and rapid identification of species.

Uganda- The regional representative, David Hafashimana participated in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group meeting at the CBD secretariat on cooperative procedures and institutional mechanisms to promote compliance with the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and to address cases of non-compliance.

d) Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

Kenya has been engaging conservation NGO's and development partners being stakeholders in wildlife conservation and partnered in implementation of CITES through formulation of a National Invasive and Alien Species Action Plan. A component of this Plan is to control export and import of plant species that may be potential invasive species in the country.

Madagascar

Contact was made with specialists and/or NGOs: WWF, CI, WCS, RBG- Kew, OCDE, FAO

In addition Madagascar worked with a variety of plant specialists and NGOs in partnership with Malagasy government through the Director General of Forests.

Uganda

A fact finding visit was conducted by two officials from Uganda to France to witness the processing of *Prunus africana* bark from Uganda with a view to explore possibilities of doing some preliminary value addition to the bark in Uganda before export.

e) Emerging issues

f) Others

Kenya

17th to 19th March 2010: Representatives of national Herbaria of East Africa met to discuss progress on (taxonomic) updates to the List of East African Plants (LEAP) and to make preliminary (IUCN) Conservation Assessments for endemic species. The meeting was held at the AICAD HEADQUARTERS in Kenya and funded by the JRS biodiversity Foundation. Following these updates, the region will be releasing an updated version of the LEAP; preliminary conservation assessments of endemic taxa for all countries await formal publication.

Red-listing workshop 2011: 5th Red-listing workshop of the EAPRLA was held in Nairobi. A total of 235 taxa were assessed.

Madagascar

Rosewood timber was seized by Malagasy Government due to non compliance with CITES. Currently institutions cooperate as volunteer in equity and transparency trade for these timber products.

The Scientific Authority and Management Authority will develop an action plan and management plan to improve, complement, and finalize identification guide on several CITES topics and plan to organize, in conjunction with the Secretariat of CITES, a training for local , regional authorities, customs and inspectors about succulent plants species.

The study concerning precious timber species continues and will be submitted at COP16 and will propose to be reviewed in Appendix II.