

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 5 – 9 June 2023

Thirty-second meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 19 – 23 June 2023

Appendices of the Convention

Annotations

ANNOTATIONS

1. This document has been submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as Chair of the Standing Committee's working group on annotations.*
2. At the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP19) which directs the Standing Committee to re-establish the working group on annotations, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees. At its 76th meeting (Panama City, November 2022), the Standing Committee re-established the working group. The terms of reference, as outlined in Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP19) are as follows:

Directed to the Standing Committee, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees

16.162 (Rev. CoP19) *The Standing Committee shall re-establish the working group on annotations, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees, recognizing that the Animals and Plants Committees are an important source of expertise and advice to Parties on such scientific and technical issues. The group shall include, but not be limited to, members from the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee, observer Parties, CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, enforcement authorities, including customs, and industry representatives. The Standing Committee shall particularly endeavour to ensure balanced representation of importing and exporting Parties. The terms of reference for the working group shall be:*

- a) *in close collaboration with ongoing efforts in the Plants Committee, to continue reviewing the appropriateness and practical challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations to the Appendices, including but not limited to those on the tree species, of the agarwood-producing taxa (Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.), Aniba rosaeodora, Bulnesia sarmientoi and orchids, and to identify options to streamline these annotations taking into account the guidance*

* *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.*

provided by Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on Use of annotations in Appendices I and II;

- b) to develop or refine definitions of terms used in current annotations as appropriate, and submit them for adoption by the Conference of the Parties and subsequent inclusion in the Interpretation section of the Appendices;*
- c) to review and update the definitions of wood and wood products currently located in paragraph 1 c) of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on Implementation of the Convention for tree species, for logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and plywood;*
- d) to conduct any work related to annotations directed to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee; and*
- e) to prepare reports on progress made in addressing the issues tasked to it and submit them for consideration at the 77th and 78th meetings of the Standing Committee.*

3. The composition of the working group, comprising Parties and Non-Party observers is as follows (see Notification to the Parties [No. 2023/036](#) of 24 March 2023 with the addition of FAO accepted after the deadline):

Chair: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Chair),

Parties: Austria, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, European Union, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Chair), United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe;

IGOs and NGOs: World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Born Free Foundation, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale (CSFI), Confederation of the European Music Industries (CAFIM), Conservation Alliance of Kenya, Conservation Force, Fondation Franz Weber, ForestBased Solutions Llc, Forest Trends, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Humane Society International (HSI), International Association of Violin and Bow Makers, International Fur Federation (IFF), IWMC-World Conservation Trust, League of American Orchestras, Lewis & Clark – Global Law Alliance, Madinter Trade S.L., Pearle, South African Taxidermy & Tannery Association, Taylor Guitars, TRAFFIC, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

4. The working group draws the Committees' attention to the fact that, according to Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP19), the working group should also be composed of Members of the Animals Committee and of the Plants Committee. The working group has recently begun discussions by email.
5. The working group also draws the Committees' attention to the discussions to-date on annotations and the report submitted to CoP19 in document CoP19 [Doc. 85.1](#).

Recommendations to the Plants Committee

6. The Plants Committee is invited to:

- a) agree on which of its Members will participate in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations;
- b) offer comments and guidance regarding the tasks included in the working group Terms of Reference as presented in paragraph 2 of the present document), and in particular, paragraphs a) and c); and

- c) suggest any additional work related to annotations that could be directed to the working group, as per paragraph d) of Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP19).

Recommendations to the Animals Committee

- 7. The Animals Committee is invited to:
 - a) agree on which of its Members will participate in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations;
 - b) suggest any additional work related to annotations that could be directed to the working group, as per paragraph d) of Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP19).