

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

Species specific matters

Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.)

REPORT OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been submitted by the Plants Committee.*
2. At its 18th meeting, the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Geneva, 2019) adopted the following Decisions:

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.203 *The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, by:*
 - i) *developing a questionnaire on potential conservation issues in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa to be circulated to the Parties through a Notification, and analysing the responses received;*
 - ii) *examining available trade data; and*
 - iii) *analysing available data on the conservation status of agarwood-producing species; and*
- b) *report findings and recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and advise on the need for a study to further assess impacts of harvest, management and trade in agarwood products on the conservation of agarwood-producing species in the wild.*

Directed to the Secretariat

18.204 *The Secretariat shall assist the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decision 18.203.*

3. The Chair of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat, in collaboration with the regional representative of Asia (Ms. Tika Dewi Atikah) submitted documents [PC25 Doc. 24](#) and [PC25 Doc. 24 Add.](#) to the Plants Committee at its 25th meeting (PC25, online, June 2021). These documents outlined in detail the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.203 and 18.204.

* *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.*

4. The addendum (PC25 Doc. 24 Add.) noted, based on the findings of preliminary consultations with the Plants Committee and relevant Parties, that differing opinions exist as to whether provisions under the newly adopted source code “Y” should replace the special provisions for trade in artificially propagated agarwood, as contained in paragraph 3 of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*.
5. Based on the recommendations contained in said documents, at its 25th meeting, the Plants Committee established an in-session working group co-chaired by the representative for Asia (Ms. Atikah) and the alternate representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng).
6. Based on the working group’s outputs [see [PC25 Com. 7](#)], the Plants Committee adopted the following recommendations:
 - a) The Committee agreed to postpone the consideration on the potential revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* for the next intersessional period.
 - b) The Committee further agreed to postpone the consideration on the potential revisions to Agarwood glossary and the Agarwood Non-Detriment Finding guidance for the next intersessional period.
 - c) The Committee noted that, in cooperation with the CITES Secretariat, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is in the process of implementing an agarwood study that could address some of the working group’s concerns regarding agarwood producing methodologies and the use of different source codes under different management scenarios.
 - d) The Committee invited range States to consider contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2020–2030), as part of global landscape restoration and species recovery of respective range States.
 - e) The Committee noted the needs for identification materials and the need for capacity-building and guidance on legal acquisition findings, including on the chain of custody, with regard to specimens of agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp).
 - f) The Committee agreed to submit the draft decision contained in Annex 1 to the present document for consideration at CoP19:

Recommendations

7. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the draft decision contained in Annex 1 to the present document.

DRAFT DECISION ON
AGARWOOD-PRODUCING TAXA (AQUILARIA SPP. AND GYRINOPS SPP.)

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.AA The Plants Committee shall, with the assistance of the Secretariat

- a) consider potential revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*, taking into account other relevant Resolutions, including Resolution Conf. 10.13 on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*, as appropriate;
- b) formulate any appropriate recommendations regarding the Agarwood glossary and the Agarwood NDF guidance; and
- c) make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The Secretariat proposes the following tentative budget and source of funding.

The proposed draft Decision 19.AA can be accomplished without external funding.