

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

BOSWELLIA TREES (*BOSWELLIA* SPP.)

1. This document has been submitted by the Plants Committee.\*
2. At its 18th meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.205 to 18.208 on *Boswellia* trees (*Boswellia* spp.), as follows:

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**18.205** *The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties and, as appropriate, liaise with relevant stakeholders of *Boswellia* trade, requesting the following information:*

- a) *biological data on *Boswellia* species, including population size, distribution, status and population trends, identification information, and its role in the ecosystem in which it occurs;*
- b) *available information about harvest and exploitation levels, trade names, stakeholders close to the harvest of the species and supply chain characteristics for domestic consumption and international trade;*
- c) *information on threats to these species, especially as it pertains to the underlying causes of poor regeneration capability and the impact of harvest on these species;*
- d) *information on any initiatives to artificially propagate these species or produce plantations of them;*
- e) *existing regulations and ownership structures pertaining to the species, and their habitat, drivers of habitat trends and management measures in place or under development, including sustainable harvest practices; and*
- f) *suggestions for meetings or other venues that might provide opportunities to collaborate or share information regarding harvest and management of these species.*

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**18.206** *The Secretariat shall compile and submit for consideration of the Plants Committee information received as per Decision 18.205.*

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\* *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.*

### **Directed to the Plants Committee**

**18.207** *The Plants Committee shall review the information received and other relevant information available to it regarding the status, management, and trade in Boswellia species, highlighting key gaps in knowledge and making recommendations to inform further efforts to address the sustainable use and conservation of these species, including whether any of the species meet the criteria for listing under CITES.*

### **Directed to the Parties**

**18.208** *Range States and Parties involved in management, propagation, or trade of Boswellia species are encouraged to provide information to the Secretariat, as requested in Decision 18.205.*

3. The Secretariat and the Plants Committee regional representative of Europe (Ms. Ursula Moser) submitted documents [PC25 Doc. 25](#) and [PC25 Doc. 25 Add](#) to the Plants Committee at its 25th meeting (PC25, online, June 2021). These documents outlined the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.205 to 18.208. They also referred to the substantial amount of information (500+ pages) that was received in response to Notification No. 2020/056, issued as per Decision 18.205 and presented in information documents [PC25 Inf. 3](#), [PC25 Inf. 7](#), and [PC25 Inf. 18](#).
4. The [addendum to document PC25 Doc. 25](#) notes that the Secretariat received funding to commission a short consultancy for additional research on specific aspects of Decision 18.205, which were not yet covered by the information presented in document [PC25 Doc. 25](#). At the time of writing, the consultancy is being finalized and its outcomes will be made available to the Conference of the Parties in due time.
5. Based on the recommendations contained in said documents, at its 25th meeting, the Plants Committee established an in-session working group chaired by the representative for Europe (Ms. Ursula Moser).
6. Based on the working group's outputs [see [PC25 Com. 2](#)], the Plants Committee adopted the following recommendations:
  - a) The Committee acknowledged that there are remaining gaps in knowledge and that the addendum outlines gaps comprehensively. A high volume of information was gathered that could lend itself to some deep analysis. That also would require some country-specific follow-up.
  - b) The Committee noted that there are conservation concerns for several species that are currently most traded, that there is potential for trade to shift to other species, and that further work is needed to better understand and address look-alike considerations with other *Boswellia* species as well as *Commiphora* species.
  - c) The Committee further noted that considerable work is ongoing regarding identification, systematics, distribution, legislation and trade. Good knowledge exists about particular *Boswellia* species in certain places, but the level of knowledge varies and is not consistent across all species and range States.
  - d) The Committee also noted that pressure on the species due to cosmetics and personal care, medicinal, religious and other uses is evolving. There are no specific HS codes for any part or derivative of *Boswellia* species and species are also traded in mixtures, making analysis of trade difficult.
  - e) The Committee agreed to take into account the concern for communities who depend on these species and recognized that national working groups could be a way forward to consider international trade-related issues because needs and uses are country-specific.
  - f) The Committee noted that conservation issues of *Boswellia* spp. woodlands as an ecosystem should be considered.
  - g) The Committee agreed that harvest of many species for international trade is often not sustainable and several species currently traded meet the listing criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.
  - h) The Committee encouraged range States to consider including *Boswellia* species in CITES Appendix III where the cooperation of other Parties is required to support national regulation.

- i) The Committee agreed to submit to CoP19 the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to the present document.

### Recommendations

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

### COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt draft decisions 19.AA to 19.CC presented in paragraph 6 i) of the present document with the amendments outlined in paragraph B below in order to take into account a new report on *Boswellia* species in international trade. The Secretariat has compiled data and information related to Decision 18.205 in document PC25 Doc. 25 and made this information available as a CoP19 information document. As requested in draft decision 19.AA, this report focuses in particular on identification of *Boswellia* species and potential look-alikes, and on species and specimens in trade and trade volumes of *Boswellia* specimens. Further, the Secretariat recommends Decisions 18.205 to 18.208 be deleted since they have either been implemented or carried forward in the new set of draft decisions.
- B. Therefore, the Secretariat proposes the following amendments to draft decisions 19.AA and 19.BB:

Proposed new text is underlined, proposed deletions are indicated in ~~strikethrough~~

#### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 19.AA The Secretariat shall share the report in information document CoP19 Inf. 10 (Rev. 1) ~~information received through the consultancy on *Boswellia* trees, and other information provided by Parties and stakeholders, with the Plants Committee, in particular related to identification of *Boswellia* species and potential look-alikes, and to species and specimens in trade and trade volumes of *Boswellia* specimens.~~ The Secretariat shall also identify meetings or other venues that might provide opportunities to collaborate or share information regarding harvest and management of these species.

#### ***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 19.BB The Plants Committee shall review the available information submitted by ~~to~~ the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 19.AA and the gaps in knowledge identified in document PC25 Doc. 25 on *Boswellia* trees (*Boswellia* spp.) to inform possible listing proposals for *Boswellia* species, including consideration of appropriate annotations consistent with the guidance in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON BOSWELLIA SPP.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**19.AA** The Secretariat shall share the information received through the consultancy on Boswellia trees, and other information provided by Parties and stakeholders, with the Plants Committee, in particular related to identification of Boswellia species and potential look-alikes, and to species and specimens in trade and trade volumes of Boswellia specimens. The Secretariat shall also identify meetings or other venues that might provide opportunities to collaborate or share information regarding harvest and management of these species.

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

**19.BB** The Plants Committee shall review the available information submitted to the Secretariat and the gaps in knowledge identified in document PC25 Doc. 25 on Boswellia trees (*Boswellia* spp.) to inform possible listing proposals for Boswellia species, including consideration of appropriate annotations consistent with the guidance in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*.

***Directed to the Parties***

**19.CC** Range States and Parties are encouraged to provide information to the Secretariat, as mentioned in Decision 19.AA, and are encouraged to consider including Boswellia species to which they are range States in Appendix III, if these species meet the provisions in Article XVI of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III*.

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 Secretariat is of the view that the implementation of draft decisions 19.AA to 19.CC can be accommodated within the core budget of the Secretariat.