

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

TRADE IN MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANT SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Plants Committee.*
2. At its 18th meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.300 to 18.303 on *Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species*:

Directed to the Secretariat

18.300 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *liaise with key players of medicinal and aromatic plant trade supply and value chains to raise awareness and understanding of CITES regulations for medicinal and aromatic plant species and of the impact of the trade in medicinal and aromatic plants on the conservation of CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species in the wild;*
- b) *subject to available resources, analyse challenges and opportunities in matters related to trade in medicinal and aromatic plants, including by:*
 - i) *providing an updated overview of the international trade in CITES-listed plant species traded as medicinal products, and assessing whether existing databases with trade names of CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species can be linked to the CITES Checklist database;*
 - ii) *reviewing ongoing work on sustainable and traceable supply and value chains for medicinal and aromatic plant products, focusing on certification schemes, standards and guidelines;*
 - iii) *examining case studies involving local and traditional knowledge, and participatory assessments, monitoring and management of CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species; and*
 - iv) *Based on the findings of i) to iii), developing recommendations to inter alia complement existing tools relating to the implementation of the Convention for CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plants, and create synergies, as appropriate, with relevant intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders;*
- c) *report to the Plants Committee on the outcomes of the work outlined in paragraphs a) and b).*

* *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 Parties

18.301 Parties are invited to take actions to raise awareness and understanding of CITES regulations for conservation of medicinal and aromatic plant species amongst those trading in species used for this purpose.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.302 The Plants Committee shall inform and advise the process as per Decision 18.300, taking into account information document CoP18 Inf.11 and other relevant information, and review the Secretariat's report as per Decision 18.300 and make recommendations to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.303 The Standing Committee shall review any report from the Plants Committee as per Decision 18.302 and make recommendations to Parties, as appropriate, and to the Conference of the Parties.

3. The Secretariat and the co-Chairs of the Plants Committee working group on trade in medicinal aromatic plant species (MAPs) submitted documents [PC25 Doc. 30](#) and [PC25 Doc. 30 Add.](#) to the Plants Committee at its 25th meeting (PC25, online, June 2021). These documents outline the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.300 to 18.303. These documents also referred to the potential workplan on CITES-listed MAPs contained in information document [CoP18 Inf. 11](#), which outlines measures that could improve trade monitoring and reporting of CITES-listed MAPs.
4. In document [PC25 Doc. 30](#) the Secretariat provided a detailed overview on the implementation of Decision 18.300, including suggestions on:
 - a) how existing databases with trade names of CITES-listed MAPs could be linked to the CITES Checklist database in order to facilitate and strengthen the implementation of the Convention for these taxa;
 - b) possible benefits and challenges of supporting sustainable trade in CITES-listed MAPs, through the use and collaboration with certification schemes, standards and guidelines (also see information documents [PC24 Inf. 12](#) and [CoP18 Inf. 36](#)); and
 - c) elements of relevance for the integration of indigenous and traditional knowledge in the monitoring, management and NDF making for CITES-listed MAPs.
5. In document [PC25 Doc. 30 Add.](#), the co-Chairs of the Plants Committee working group on MAPs presented its recommendations including, *inter alia*, a set of draft decisions on this matter.
6. Based on the recommendations contained in documents [PC25 Doc. 30](#) and [PC25 Doc. 30 Add.](#), the Plants Committee established an in-session working group co-chaired by the representatives for Africa (Ms. Khayota and Mr. Mahamane) and the representative for North America (Ms. Gnam).
7. Based on the in-session working group outputs [[PC25 Com. 9](#)], the Plants Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to the present document.
8. The Plants Committee also noted the amendments to these decisions proposed by the alternate representative of Asia (Ms. Zeng) and by Germany and invited them to submit these amendments to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting [see summary record [PC25 SR](#)].

Recommendations

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

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

A. The Secretariat believes that a focus on the application of the Convention for medicinal and aromatic plant species is welcome and, with some revisions for editorial reasons and clarity, recommends that the draft decisions be adopted. The Secretariat further recommends the deletion of Decisions 18.300 to 18.303 as they have been implemented or carried forward in the new set of draft decisions.

B. The Secretariat proposes the following revisions to draft decisions 19.AA to 19.DD:

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

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA The Secretariat shall, ~~in close collaboration with the Plants Committee:~~

- a) subject to external funding, ~~develop~~ informational materials for raising awareness of CITES regulations for the medicinal and aromatic plant industry stakeholders and consumers;
- b) publish a notification ~~to ask~~ inviting Parties to:
 - i) liaise with key stakeholders along medicinal and aromatic plant trade value chains, including consumers, to enhance awareness of CITES regulations and to encourage sustainable use and legal trade CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plants; ~~and~~
 - ii) review their non-detriment findings (NDFs) for medicinal and aromatic plants and consider sharing such with the Secretariat to be included on the NDF page of the CITES website; and
 - iii) share any experience of using the Medicinal Plant Names Service (MPNS) database [transferred and revised from draft decision 19.BB subparagraph b)]
- c) subject to external funding, ~~commission~~ undertake an ~~in-depth~~ analysis of e-commerce value chains in products of CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species, including a stakeholder analysis of key producers, intermediate traders, manufacturers or distribution platforms to end consumers, and of institutions influencing the demand for CITES-regulated medicinal and aromatic plant products in biomedical, traditional and alternative medical systems, cosmetic and personal care, food industries (as appropriate), and including an assessment whether existing annotations focus on first products in trade or main products in trade;
- d) ~~assess the possibilities of using~~ use the Medicinal Plant Names Service (MPNS) database in the analysis as per Decision 19.AA, paragraph c), and invite Parties ~~representing different regions, cultures, and languages, through a notification,~~ to assess the utility of the MPNS database in their routine work to see if it can contribute to the expansion of the Species+ database; and
- e) ~~review the Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on Traditional medicines in relation to medicinal and aromatic plants and make suggestions as appropriate; and [duplicates draft decision 19.CC b]~~
- ef) report to the Plants Committee on the implementation of this Decision.

Directed to Parties

19.BB Parties are invited to:

- ~~_____~~ a) ~~liaise with key stakeholders along medicinal and aromatic plant trade value chains, including consumers as per Decision 19.AA, paragraph b), to enhance awareness of CITES regulations and to encourage sustainable use and legal trade in medicinal and aromatic plants; and~~
- ~~_____~~ b) ~~assess the utility of the Medicinal Plant Names Service database in their routine work to see if it can contribute to the expansion of the Species+ database, and to provide feedback to the Plants Committee regarding the Decision 19.AA, paragraph d).~~

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.CC The Plants Committee shall:

- a) ~~inform and~~ review the report of the Secretariat ~~as per Decision 19.AA~~, and the feedback from Parties as per Decision 19.AA, regarding the utility of the Medicinal Plant Names Service and determine if any changes are needed to the standard nomenclatural references or Checklist of CITES Species as per Decision 19.BB;
- b) taking into consideration the information in document PC25 Doc. 30, information document CoP18 Inf. 11, the report of the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA, and other relevant information, and in consultation with the Animals Committee, as appropriate, undertake a review of Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional medicines*, and prepare recommendations for a revised Resolution on traditional medicines or a new Resolution on plant-based medicinal products; and
- c) submit its recommendations to the Standing Committee ~~or the Conference of the Parties~~, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.DD The Standing Committee shall review ~~any~~ the report from the Plants Committee as per Decision 19.CC, ~~as appropriate~~, and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON
TRADE IN MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANT SPECIES (MAPS)

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA The Secretariat shall, in close collaboration with the Plants Committee:

- a) develop informational materials for raising awareness of CITES regulations for the medicinal and aromatic plant industry stakeholders and consumers;
- b) publish a notification to ask Parties to:
 - i) liaise with key stakeholders along medicinal and aromatic plant trade value chains, including consumers, to enhance awareness of CITES regulations and to encourage sustainable use and legal trade CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plants; and
 - ii) review their non-detriment findings (NDFs) for medicinal and aromatic plants and consider sharing such with the Secretariat to be included on the NDF page of the CITES website;
- c) subject to external funding, commission an in-depth analysis of e-commerce value chains in products of CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species, including a stakeholder analysis of key producers, intermediate traders, manufacturers or distribution platforms to end consumers, and of institutions influencing the demand for CITES-regulated medicinal and aromatic plant products in biomedical, traditional and alternative medical systems, cosmetic and personal care, food industries (as appropriate), and including an assessment whether existing annotations focus on first products in trade or main products in trade;
- d) assess the possibilities of using the Medicinal Plant Names Service (MPNS) database in the analysis as per Decision 19.AA, paragraph c), and invite Parties representing different regions, cultures, and languages, through a notification, to assess the utility of the MPNS database in their routine work to see if it can contribute to the expansion of the Species+ database;
- e) review the Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional medicines* in relation to medicinal and aromatic plants and make suggestions as appropriate; and
- f) report to the Plants Committee.

Directed to Parties

19.BB Parties are invited to:

- a) liaise with key stakeholders along medicinal and aromatic plant trade value chains, including consumers as per Decision 19.AA, paragraph b), to enhance awareness of CITES regulations and to encourage sustainable use and legal trade in medicinal and aromatic plants; and
- b) assess the utility of the Medicinal Plant Names Service database in their routine work to see if it can contribute to the expansion of the Species+ database, and to provide feedback to the Plants Committee regarding the Decision 19.AA, paragraph d).

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.CC The Plants Committee shall:

- a) inform and review the report of the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA, and the feedback from Parties regarding the utility of the Medicinal Plant Names Service as per Decision 19.BB;

- b) taking into consideration the information in document PC25 Doc. 30, information document CoP18 Inf. 11, the report of the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA, and other relevant information, and in consultation with the Animals Committee, as appropriate, undertake a review of Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional medicines*, and prepare recommendations for a revised Resolution on traditional medicines or a new Resolution on plant-based medicinal products; and
- c) submit its recommendations to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.DD The Standing Committee shall review any report from the Plants Committee as per Decision 19.CC, as appropriate, and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties.

**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.

Draft decision	Activity	Indicative costs (USD) (excludes Programme Support Costs)	Source of funding
19.AA paragraph a)	Developing information materials on CITES regulations for MAPs	50,000	External funding
19.AA paragraph c)	Analysis of e-commerce value chains in products of CITES-listed MAPs	100,000	External funding