

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

IDENTIFICATION OF TIMBER AND OTHER WOOD PRODUCTS
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT DECISIONS

1. This document has been submitted by Canada, the United States of America and Mexico (the North American Region) in relation with document CoP19 Doc. 44.2 on Identification of timber and other wood products.*

Context:

At its 25th meeting, the Plants Committee requested the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Plants Committee and with relevant experts, to publish on the relevant section of its website relevant elements of the revised compendium of timber identification resources. The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the draft decisions in paragraph 39 c) of the addendum and requested the Secretariat to take note of the proposed edits by the representative for North America (Ms. Gnam), which were meant to include some parts of the CoP18 Decisions in order for the PC to continue the mandate of the working group on Timber identification.

The current draft decisions included in Doc. 44.2 do not include the edits proposed by the NAR. The Secretariat recommends to adopt the draft decisions in Annex 1 to the document with some minor edits as outlined in paragraph E. The Secretariat further recommends deleting Decisions 18.140 to 18.143 and Decision 16.58 (Rev. CoP18) as it believes they have been implemented or carried forward in the new set of draft decisions contained in Annex 1 to the document and paragraph E. There is no mention of the NAR proposed edits, which implied that the Decisions have not been fully implemented and require more work from the PC.

We recall [PC 25 Doc 19 Addendum](#) to Identification of timber and other wood products (page 3):

“10 g) Given the unusual circumstances and lack of in-person meetings during the present intersession, there was a general sense that opportunity for further discussion would greatly improve efforts to address the mandate of this working group. It was also suggested that the group might provide feedback to the revised Timber Identification webpage, should that be desired, prior to its launch.”

* *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.*

The North American Region strongly believes there is ample opportunity for more work on timber identification beyond the compendium on wood identification resources. We consider it important to the Convention to address the complex challenges of identification of tree species listed that it regulates.

Objectives of new proposed amendments:

- Renew a strong mandate of the Working group on Identification of timber and other wood products.
- Instead of suggesting to the CoP the NAR edits found in [PC25 SR](#) (p. 17) based on the previous mandate, we are considering a revised mandate.
- We think that the following additional areas of work would be important and very relevant for CITES to address:
 - Develop a plan to prioritize the CITES-listed tree species to focus global efforts on developing and sharing identification reference databases and tools, including sampling campaigns for vouchered reference samples.
 - develop a list of available techniques and tools that are useful to identify specific CITES-listed tree species and their look-alikes.
 - Discussion on models of how the Parties are setting up their timber ID capacity and expertise, sharing of lessons learned so it can be useful to others. Output could be a report. This could be done through a survey and interviews or during an online or in person workshop. Could be subject to external funding.
- A leadership of the PC to lead/inform the timber ID efforts rather than the Secretariat. We do not agree with the recommendation from the Secretariat to “update” the repository on timber ID, before reviewing it.
- Add the USA paragraph from discussions on Doc. 84.1 on the Dalbergia checklist.

Proposed amendments to Annex 1

Proposed new text is underlined, proposed deletions are indicated in ~~strike through~~. Text underlined: taken from edits suggested by the NAR at PC25. Text **underlined and in bold**: new proposed edits.

Directed to the Secretariat

19.AA The Secretariat shall, in close consultation with the Plants Committee, and subject to external resources:

a) review the utility and practicality of the online repository, and make recommendations on its development;

b) a) based on the outcomes of the review, liaise with relevant organizations and experts in the development of a depository of timber identification resources and a dedicated webpage, taking into account the progress and recommendations reported in document PC25 Doc. 19 and its addendum;

c) b) in undertaking the above, consideration should be given to tailor the compilation of timber identification resources for both frontline enforcement officers and to experts involved in identifying timber for forensic or legal purposes; and

d) e) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee at its first regular meeting after CoP19 and seek its advice and input.

Directed to Parties

19.BB Parties are encouraged to collaborate with the Secretariat in sharing relevant information in support of the implementation of Decision 19.AA **and 19.CC.**

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.CC The Plants Committee shall, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and building on information on existing initiatives, and progress to date:

- a) develop a plan to prioritize the CITES-listed tree species to focus global efforts on developing and sharing identification reference databases and tools, including sampling campaigns for vouchered reference samples.
- b) prioritize input to the development of identification material for Dalbergia species, taking into consideration progress made in document PC25 Doc. 34 and the Dalbergia checklist as included in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19), and giving attention to frontline identification materials to assist differentiating look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern;
- c) develop a list of available techniques and tools that are useful to identify specific CITES-listed tree species and their look-alikes.
- d) determine gaps and complementarities in various tools and knowledge sources for timber identification, such as existing field identification guidelines and keys, and on their availability and usefulness;
- e) develop standardized information templates and other tools that could be used by Parties to facilitate sharing information on the content and status of wood sample collections, and exchange with research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities;
- f) determine methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties, including lessons learned on how Parties have built their timber identification capacity and expertise; and
- g) a) review the utility and practicality of the online repository, and make recommendations on its development, consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA;
- b) ~~h)~~ h) consider the relevant outcomes of the online Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species presented in the Annex to the Addendum to document SC74 Doc. 33.2; and [sub-paragraph agreed by the Standing Committee]
- e) ~~make recommendations to the Secretariat, the Standing Committee, and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.~~
- i) update the Standing Committee, as appropriate, on progress made; and report its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.DD The Standing Committee shall consider any report by the Plants Committee relating to the implementation of Decision 19.CC and convey, as appropriate, any recommendations it may have to the Conference of the Parties.

Notes to keep track of changes:

- From the NAR edits and previous mandate, we do not suggest to keep the following, because it is partly done through the depository, through the Notification 2002/80, and would be done through the new decisions:
 - d) assist Parties to identify existing laboratory services for the identification of timber and wood products and to strengthen screening and forensic capacity to identify CITES- listed tree species in trade;