

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

Species conservation and trade

Flora

TRADE IN MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANT SPECIES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.261 to 19.264 on *Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species*, as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Plants Committee

19.261 *The Secretariat shall, in close collaboration with the Plants Committee:*

- a) *publish a notification inviting Parties to:*
 - i) *share information materials that have been developed to enhance awareness of CITES regulations and to encourage sustainable use and legal trade in CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plants and, as far as possible, liaise with key stakeholders of medicinal and aromatic plant trade supply chains for this purpose,*
 - 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 section of the CITES website;*
 - iii) *assess the utility of the Medicinal Plant Names Service (MPNS) database in their routine work to see if it can contribute to the expansion of the Species+ database; and share any experience of using the MPNS database;*
- b) *make information materials for raising awareness of CITES regulations for the medicinal and aromatic plant industry stakeholders and consumers available to Parties on the CITES website;*
- c) *subject to external funding, undertake an analysis of e-commerce supply chains in products of CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species, exploring the applicability of using the Medicinal Plant Names Service (MPNS) database in the analysis, and including*
 - i) *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

- ii) *an assessment whether existing annotations are adequate with respect to the principles and principles recommended in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on Use of annotations in Appendices I and II; and*
- d) *report to the Plants Committee on the implementation of this Decision, including suggestions, as appropriate, regarding Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on Traditional medicines or a new Resolution in relation to medicinal and aromatic plant products.*

Directed to Parties

19.262 *Parties are invited to support the implementation of Decision 19.261.*

Directed to the Plants Committee, in consultation with the Animals Committee, as appropriate

19.263 *The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *be informed and review the report of the Secretariat, and the feedback from Parties as per Decision 19.261, regarding the utility of the Medicinal Plant Names Service, with advice from the nomenclature specialist, as appropriate;*
- b) *taking into consideration the information in document PC25 Doc. 30, information document CoP18 Inf. 11, the report of the Secretariat as per Decision 19.261, 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 medicinal and aromatic plant products; and*
- c) *submit its recommendations to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.264 *The Standing Committee shall review the report from the Plants Committee as per Decision 19.263, as appropriate, and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties.*

Progress in the implementation of Decision 19.261 and Decision 19.262

- 3. The Secretariat published Notification to the Parties No. 2023/045 on 6 April 2023 in accordance with paragraph a) of Decision 19.261. The Secretariat will collate and review the responses from Parties to said notification and make them available in the relevant sections of the website in accordance with paragraphs a) and b) of Decision 19.261.
- 4. Regarding the study called for in paragraph c) of Decision 19.261, the Secretariat estimates its cost at USD 150,000 (see Notification to the Parties No. 2023/024). External funds for the study have not been secured at the time of writing. The Secretariat has prepared draft terms of reference for the study, contained in Annex 1 to the present document.

Progress achieved in the implementation of Decision 19.263

- 5. Decision 19.263 requires the Plants Committee to consult with the Animals Committee, as appropriate. This is because Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional medicines* recognizes that wild fauna and flora are used in many forms of traditional medicine. Thus, any proposed revision to the said Resolution would warrant consultation with both Committees. If the Plants Committee decides to revise the Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional medicines*, it is recommended that the Animals Committee nominates a representative to participate in any intersessional Plants Committee working group on this matter. A new Resolution in relation to medicinal and aromatic plant products would not require the involvement of the Animals Committee.

6. Regarding paragraph b) of Decision 19.263, the Secretariat notes that the Plants Committee will also consider relevant information for the implementation of mandates on trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species in addition to document [PC25 Doc. 30](#) and its [addendum](#), information document [CoP18 Inf. 11](#), the Secretariat's report as per Decision 19.261, including the outcomes of any study undertaken under paragraph c) of the Decision. Thus, pending the report of the Secretariat including the outcomes of the study, and mindful of avoiding duplication of provisions contained in other Resolutions, the Secretariat suggests that the following matters could provisionally be considered in either a review of Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) or a new resolution in relation to medicinal and aromatic plant (MAP) products. The revised or new resolution should:
- a) acknowledge the complexity of international trade in MAPs, which often is regional, informal, and increasingly taking place on online platforms and encourage Parties to use the information on local, traditional, and trade names of MAP specimens available through the Medicinal Plants Names Service Database when monitoring trade in MAPs to enhance the understanding of this complexity;
 - b) recognize the cultural values of MAPs that go beyond utilitarian or economic benefits and encourage the use of CITES guidance on livelihoods [see Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods*];
 - c) recognize the comprehensive understanding local practitioners and communities have of MAP populations, habitats and ecology, often developed by managing MAP populations [see also Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-Detriment Findings* and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*] and encourage the consultation with local practitioners and communities on the use of this knowledge in the making of NDFs and for participatory species monitoring and management;
 - d) encourage the use of source code Y for the regulation of trade in MAPs, where appropriate; and
 - e) invite the submission of case studies relevant to a) to d) *supra* to the Secretariat for the publication on the CITES website and for consideration of the Plants Committee for further use and incorporation into CITES guidance and capacity building materials to support best practices in the regulation of international trade in CITES-listed MAPs.

Recommendations to the Plants Committee

7. The Plants Committee is invited to:
- a) consider the draft terms of reference for the study referred to in Decision 19.261 paragraph c) contained in Annex 1 and propose amendments, as appropriate;
 - b) in accordance with Decision 19.263 paragraph b), take into consideration the information in document PC25 Doc. 30 and its addendum, information document CoP18 Inf. 11, the present document, and other relevant information and initiate the process to inform recommendations for a revised Resolution on traditional medicines or a new Resolution on medicinal and aromatic plant products;
 - c) consider the establishment of an intersessional working group with representation of the Animals Committee, as appropriate, taking into consideration the potential terms of reference contained in Annex 2 to this document; and
 - d) based on the above, draft recommendations to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Recommendations to the Animals Committee

8. The Animals Committee is invited to:
- a) in accordance with Decision 19.263, consider the outcomes of the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee regarding progress made with the implementation of these Decisions;
 - b) identify Member(s) to participate in any intersessional Plants Committee working group; and

- c) coordinate with the Plants Committee any reporting to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCES:
ANALYSIS OF E-COMMERCE SUPPLY CHAINS IN PRODUCTS
OF CITES-LISTED MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANT SPECIES

Activities:

1. *List of CITES-listed MAP species* – Compile a full list of CITES-listed taxa identified in the Medicinal Plant Names Service (MPNS) database as of medicinal or aromatic use.
2. *Analysis of CITES trade data* – Analyse the CITES Trade Database to determine which of the species identified under 1) are traded, and identify:
 - a) levels and trends in trade in wild harvested and artificially propagated specimens in trade;
 - b) any potential fluctuations / shifts in trade patterns; and
 - c) potential implementation challenges that could be reflected in trade data.
3. *Analysis of online e-commerce and utility of using the MPNS database* – For MAP species identified under 2. as in trade, use scientific names and synonyms, alongside trade names and other non-scientific names compiled in the MPNS database to identify:
 - a) levels and trends of e-commerce in products containing specimens of CITES-listed MAP species that should be regulated under CITES provisions;
 - b) any potential indications of whether the observed e-commerce appears in line with CITES regulations;
 - c) the added value of using the MPNS database in assessing and monitoring trade in CITES-listed species, as compared to using only scientific names; and
 - d) challenges arising from such an approach.
4. *Stakeholder analysis* – using information identified under 3., as well as other information, identify 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).
5. *Assessment of annotations* – based on information compiled under 2. to 4., assess whether existing annotations are adequate with respect to the principles and principles recommended in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*.

POTENTIAL TERMS OF REFERENCES FOR AN INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP

The intersessional working group shall:

- a) in accordance with Decision 19.263 paragraph b), take into consideration the information in document PC25 Doc. 30 and its addendum, information document CoP18 Inf. 11; document PC26 Doc. 34 / AC32 Doc. 41, and other relevant information, and initiate the review of Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional medicines* or a new Resolution on medicinal and aromatic plant products;
- b) consider the report of the Secretariat as per Decision 19.261, when it becomes available to further inform the review;
- c) based on the review, prepare recommendations for a revised Resolution on traditional medicines or a new Resolution on medicinal and aromatic plant products; and
- d) report its findings to the Plants Committee or both Committees, as appropriate.