

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

AFRICAN TREE SPECIES

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chairs: representative for Africa (Mr. Balama) and alternate representative for Africa (Mr. Lagarde);

Parties: Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Germany, Madagascar, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Tropical Timber Organization, Center for International Environmental Law, World Resources Institute, World Wide Fund for Nature.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall:

- a) review and, as appropriate, revise the list of African tree species and associated CITES processes contained in Annex 1 to document PC26 Doc. 32;
- b) based on Annexes 2 and 3 to document PC26 Doc. 32, and other relevant information, establish priorities to strengthen the implementation of the Convention for African tree species, including priorities and recommendations for the sustainable management and future work on *Prunus africana*, including linkages with the CITES Tree species programme, as per paragraph 7 of document PC26 Doc. 32; and
- c) report its recommendations to the Committee.

Recommendations

As general priorities for African tree species, the working group recommends to:

- a) prioritize *Azalia* spp. for non-detriment findings (NDFS);
- b) prioritize *Prunus africana* and *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and other *Pterocarpus* species; and
- c) prioritize *Khaya* spp. for aspects not affected by ongoing nomenclature work.

The working group notes that, with legal and illegal sandalwood trade from Africa increasing, this calls for capacity building for appropriate monitoring technologies across different entities. Capacity building for newly listed species and sharing data across countries for NDFS is needed for species identified as priorities.

Regarding the preliminary overview of African tree species listed in the Appendix II, the working group notes and agrees the table with minor amendments to be implemented by the Secretariat after the Committee meetings:

- amend *Pterocarpus* spp. row: Nigeria is subject to recommendation to suspend trade for *P. erinaceus*;
- add the Notification numbers on trade suspensions; and
- give more information about contributions of CTSP, specifically when NDFs were done.

Regarding the recommendations on the sustainable management of *Prunus africana*: The main issues are monitoring (resource assessment and trade), and governance. Some parts of the recommendations in Annex 2 of the document are extremely prescriptive, but specifics may vary between and within countries. Those specifics need to be determined at national or local level. The working group recommends inviting a case study on *Prunus africana* for the NDF workshop to discuss NDF methodologies.