

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

TRADE IN MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANT SPECIES

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Chair: representative for Europe (Ms. Moser);
- Members: representative for Africa (Mr. Balama), representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), representative for North America (Mr. Boles);
- Parties: Austria, China, European Union, Germany, India, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; and
- IGOs and NGO: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre, American Herbal Products Association, Industria Derivati Naturali, TRAFFIC.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall:

- 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) consider the responses to Notification No. 2023/045 as presented in the present Addendum to document PC26 Doc. 34 / AC32 Doc. 41 and advise on the options provided by the Secretariat in paragraph 8;
- c) in accordance with Decision 19.263 paragraph b), taking 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, initiate the process to inform recommendations for a revised Resolution on traditional medicines or a new Resolution on medicinal and aromatic plant products;
- d) 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 document PC26 Doc. 34 / AC32 Doc. 41; and
- e) based on the above, draft recommendations for the Plants Committee to consider and submit to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate and report its recommendations to the Committee.

## Recommendations

The working group recommends the Plants Committee to:

### Regarding paragraph a) of the mandate (comments on the TOR):

- a) clarify the timescale of the analysis for activity 2;
- b) clarify the languages of the analysis for activity 3;
- c) select a subset of medicinal plants for activities 3 and 4 (such as those in demand, those endangered, those in compliance processes, or other criteria); and
- d) consider additional comments contained in Annex 1 to the present working group report;

### Regarding paragraph b) of the mandate (options for the MPNS database):

- e) propose to implement option b) in paragraph 8) of addendum PC26 Doc. 34 Add.;
- f) request the Secretariat to consider concerns voiced by Parties regarding a disclaimer to be published alongside the reference to the Medicinal Plant Names Service (MPNS) database;

### Regarding paragraph c) of the mandate (choice of revision or new resolution):

- g) note that the Resolution on traditional medicines is on traditional medicines, but MAP materials are traded in quite different products (cosmetics, pharmaceutical products, aromatic products, etc.);
- h) note that there is preference for a new Resolution to be developed in an intersessional working group;

### Regarding paragraph d) of the mandate (establishment of an intersessional working group):

- i) establish an intersessional working group with the mandate to:
  - i) 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;
  - ii) consider paragraph 6 of document PC26 Doc. 34 / AC32 Doc. 41, the comments on those contained in Annex 2 of the present working group report, and any report of the Secretariat as per Decision 19.261, that may become available to further inform the review;
  - iii) draft a new Resolution on medicinal and aromatic plant products; and
  - iv) report its findings to the Plants Committee.

### Regarding paragraph e) of the mandate:

- j) submit the draft of the new Resolution, or draft decisions for the consideration of CoP20 to continue this work during the next intersessional cycle, as needed, to the Standing Committee.

**Additional changes to Annex 1 of document PC26 Doc. 34 / AC32 Doc. 41 (Terms of Reference)**

Paragraph 1:

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, including those parts and derivatives of each CITES-listed MAP that are currently included under CITES control, updated distribution (countries of origin).

Paragraph 2:

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, artificially propagated and assisted production specimens in trade, including distribution (countries of origin) and countries identified where the species is commonly used;
  - b) any potential fluctuations / shifts in trade patterns;
  - c) potential implementation challenges that could be reflected in trade data, including the trade terms used; and
  - d) main exporting and importing countries of wild, artificially propagated specimens and assisted production of medicinal and aromatic plants that are subject to trade.

Paragraph 3:

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~~ are currently regulated under CITES provisions;

Paragraph 5:

5. *Assessment of annotations* – based on information compiled under 2. to 4., and in close collaboration with the working group on annotations, assess provide to the Plants Committee preliminary views on 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.

**Proposed changes to paragraph 6 of document PC26 Doc. 34 / AC32 Doc. 41 provided by the North American Region to be considered by the intersessional working group**

Additionally, propose the following (in orange) to the Secretariat's list of suggestions in paragraph 6 in the document concerning the Plants Committee's review of Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional medicines* or the development of a new resolution for MAPs.

Propose two new paragraphs and a few words are underlined, as follows:

- a) recall that trade in CITES species, including CITES-listed MAP species, must meet the requirements of the Convention and urge compliance with CITES requirements;
- a)b) 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;
- c) recognize the need to encourage the biologically sustainable use of wild species and include recommendations toward achieving that need, including with regard to trade in MAPs;
- b)d) recognize the cultural and ecological 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*];
- e)e) recognize the ~~comprehensive understanding~~ knowledge 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) f) encourage the use of source code Y for the regulation of trade in MAPs, where appropriate; and
- e) g) 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.