

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

Strategic matters

CITES AND FORESTS

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Chair: Committee Chair (Ms. Koumba Pambo);
- Members: representative for Africa (Mr. Balama), representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Belteton Chacon), representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley);
- Parties: Australia, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and
- IGOs and NGO: Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); International Tropical Timber Organization, Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, Center for International Environmental Law, Chambre Syndicale de la Factice Instrumentale, ForestBased Solutions, International Wood Products Association, IPCI France Europe, Species Survival Network, World Resources Institute, World Wide Fund for Nature.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall:

- a) provide input to the Secretariat's report in Annex 1 to document PC26 Doc. 13, in accordance with paragraph a) of Decision 19.33;
- b) in accordance with paragraph b) of Decision 19.33, advise the Secretariat on the draft terms of reference contained in Annex 2 to document PC26 Doc. 13, to ensure that any future initiative on CITES and forests is technically and scientifically coherent, and supportive of provisions relevant to the implementation of the Convention; and
- c) draft recommendations for the Plants Committee to consider in preparation of the Secretariats' report to the Standing Committee as per Decision 19.34.

Recommendations

- a) concerning paragraph a) of the mandate, the working group recommends that the Plants Committee agrees with the report on the 'CITES and forests compendium: CoP19-CoP20' as contained in Annex 1 to the present document;

- b) concerning paragraph b) of the mandate, the working group recommends that the Plants Committee invites the Secretariat to use the revised draft terms of reference contained in Annex 2 to the present document in the process of commissioning the study called for in paragraph b) of Decision 19.32; and,
- c) concerning paragraph c) of the mandate, the working group recommends the Plants Committee to invite the Secretariat to incorporate in its report to the Standing Committee the challenges and opportunities associated with any future initiative on CITES and forests, and to take into account the discussions at PC25, SC74, CoP19 and PC26.

THE 'CITES FOREST COMPENDIUM: COP19-COP20'  
REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH A) OF DECISION 19.32

Introduction

Decisions 19.32 and 19.33 request that any new initiative on CITES and forests focuses on or prioritizes, as a first step, CITES-listed tree species. In congruence, the compendium is focused at this stage on CITES provisions relevant to tree-species.

The compendium is structured in three sections, as follows:

- Section 1: Resolutions that may provide a technical (operational and scientific) or strategic policy framework for any new initiative on *CITES and forests* with a focus on tree-species.
- Section 2: Decisions relevant to tree-species with potential for implementation via a programmatic approach for any new initiative on *CITES and forests*.
- Section 3: Examples of cross-cutting processes of the Convention that contribute to global forest relevant mandates under a *CITES and forests* programmatic approach and a list of projects for the period between CoP19 (2022) and CoP20 (2025)

Section 1: Resolutions that may provide a technical (operational and scientific) or strategic policy framework for any new initiative on *CITES and forests* with a focus on tree-species

The approach for this section is adapted from the rationale contained in the Annex 1 to document [PC25 Doc. 12](#), and updated on the basis of the Resolutions in effect following CoP19.

Resolution	Title	Technical (operational and scientific) and/or strategic
Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15)	Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes	Technical  Guidance on the process and requirements to register nurseries including the role of the commercial nursery, the Management Authority and the Secretariat.
Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18)	Implementation of the Convention for tree species	Technical  Guidance on consultation with international organizations on amendment proposals; definitions to be applied with respect to annotations relating to tree species and 'artificially propagated'; the establishment of export quotas; identification and forensics for tree species; and improving public understanding of the role of the Convention in the conservation of tree species.
Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18)	Regulation of trade in plants	Technical  Guidance on the definition of 'artificially propagated'; grafted plants; hybrids;

		cultivars; flaked seedlings of Appendix-I orchids; the definition of 'plant obtained through assisted production'; plant specimens in international trade under exemptions; enforcement for plants; trade in salvaged plant specimens; and education about plant conservation through CITES.
Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19)	Standard nomenclature	<p>Technical</p> <p>Guidance on nomenclature matters including a list of standard references adopted by the Conference of the Parties. A common understanding of the scientific names of species is important to ensure a common body of knowledge is shared across CITES authorities to inform non-detriment findings, permitting processes and enforcement for CITES-listed tree species. Note that CITES standard references or checklists do not aim to keep pace with every new study or taxonomic treatment, except where it may impact CITES implementation.</p>
Resolution Conf. 14.4	Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber	<p>Strategic</p> <p>Guidance on consultation with ITTO on amendment proposals; and other matters relating to cooperation with ITTO related to tropical timber species threatened by international trade and sustainable management of tropical timber producing forests.</p>
Resolution Conf. 16.10	Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa	<p>Technical</p> <p>Guidance on artificially propagated specimens for agar-wood producing taxa, non-detriment findings and management and trade controls.</p>
Resolution Conf. 16.4	Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions	<p>Strategic</p> <p>Guidance on strengthening the cooperation, coordination and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels.</p>
Resolution Conf. 16.5	Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity	<p>Strategic</p> <p>Guidance on the potential contribution of CITES to the objectives and targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 through activities and products listed in an Annex to the Resolution.</p>

Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18)	CITES and livelihoods	Technical and/or strategic  Guidance on livelihood issues, including empowerment of rural communities; enabling policies; engagement of rural communities in combatting illegal trade in wildlife; and potential shift from <i>in situ</i> to <i>ex situ</i> production due to the inclusion of species in the CITES Appendices.
Resolution Conf. 18.3	CITES Strategic Vision : 2021-2030	Strategic  The Resolution sets out the CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030, including the vision statement, purpose, the five strategic goals and objectives agreed under each goal.
Resolution Conf. 19.4	Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species	Technical  The Resolution provides for the development of identification materials and the regular review and analysis of materials to ensure the needs of Parties in this regard are addressed. The ability of CITES Inspection officers and Customs officials to identify CITES-listed species and commodities in trade is critical to the implementation and enforcement of the protections afforded to CITES-listed species.

Section 2: Decisions relevant to tree-species with potential for implementation via a programmatic approach for any new initiative on *CITES and forests*

In addition to focusing the table below on CITES-listed tree species, special consideration was given to Decisions that call for the implementation of relevant projects or studies that are dependent on the availability of external financial resources. This is intended to give an idea of how any future CITES programme on forests could be tailored, and how future flagship initiatives under a *CITES and forests* 'label' could take shape.

Below are decisions directed to the Plants Committee that will inform work to improve implementation of CITES for regulated tree species. This breadth of activities demonstrates the wide-ranging role of the CITES Plants Committee in coordination with the Secretariat to provide technical expertise to improve sustainable use and conservation of CITES-listed tree species. The Plants Committee prioritizes efforts to address decisions as part of their workplan (PC26 Doc. 8.2 / PC26 SR) which is agreed following each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

<b>Decision No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Baseline for implementation via a programmatic framework on <i>CITES</i> and forests (relevant documents including studies and projects)</b>
<b>Strategic matters</b>		
19.32 to 19.34	CITES and forests	PC26 Doc. 13 PC26 SR
<u><i>Capacity-building</i></u>		
19.49 and 19.50	CITES Tree Species Programme	PC26 Doc. 15 (see also section 3 of the Annex) PC26 SR
<b>Compliance</b>		
19.71 to 19.73	Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods ( <i>Dalbergia</i> spp.) and ebonies ( <i>Diospyros</i> spp.)	To be discussed by the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting (SC77).
<b>Regulation of trade</b>		
19.145 to 19.148	Identification of timber and other wood products	PC26 Doc. 20 (see also section 3 of the Annex) PC26 SR
<u><i>Exemptions and special trade provisions</i></u>		
19.182 to 19.183	Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated'	PC26 Doc. 24 PC26 SR
<b>Species conservation and trade</b>		
<u><i>Flora</i></u>		
19.239 to 19.240	Agarwood-producing taxa ( <i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp.)	PC26 Doc. 27 PC26 SR
19.241 and 19.242	Boswellia trees ( <i>Boswellia</i> spp.)	PC26 Doc. 28.1 PC26 Doc. 28.2 PC26 SR
19.243 to 19.245	Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]	PC26 Doc. 29 (see also section 3 of the Annex) PC26 SR
19.246 to 19.248	Products containing specimens of Appendix II orchids ( <i>Orchidaceae</i> spp.)	PC26 Doc. 30 PC26 SR
19.249 to 19.253	Brazil wood ( <i>Paubrasilia echinata</i> )	PC26 Doc. 31 PC26 SR
19.254 to 19.256	African tree species	PC26 Doc. 32 PC26 SR
19.257 to 19.260	Neotropical tree species	PC26 Doc. 33 PC26 SR

19.261 to 19.264	Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species	PC26 Doc. 34 PC26 SR
<b>Appendices of the Convention</b>		
<u>Annotations</u>		
18.321 (Rev. CoP19) to 18.322 (Rev. CoP19)	Annotation #15	PC26 Doc. 37 PC26 SR
18.317 (Rev. CoP19) and 19.265	Information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species	PC26 Doc. 38 PC26 SR
<u>Nomenclature matters</u>		
18.307 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.308 (Rev. CoP19)	Production of a CITES Checklist for rosewoods ( <i>Dalbergia</i> spp.)	PC26 Doc. 43.1 PC26 SR
19.281 and 19.282	Nomenclature for ebonies ( <i>Diospyros</i> spp.) (populations of Madagascar)	PC26 Doc. Doc. 43.4 PC26 SR
19.290 and 19.291	Nomenclature for yews ( <i>Taxus</i> spp.)	PC26 Doc. 43.9 PC26 SR

Section 3: Examples of cross-cutting processes of the Convention that contribute to global forest relevant mandates under a CITES and forests programmatic approach and a list of projects for the period between CoP19 and CoP20

This section of the compendium is devoted to a list of projects relevant for tree species, including projects that relate to the implementation of cross-cutting provisions and processes of the Convention.

3.1. Article XIII and resolutions Res. Conf. 14.3 on *CITES compliance procedures* and Res. Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings*

- a) Support in the implementation of applicable recommendations for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*/range States subject to a recommendation to suspend trade on the basis of compliance and enforcement (Article XIII) (see also <https://cites.org/eng/resources/ref/suspend.php>). This could include development of case studies on legal acquisition findings for *P. erinaceus* for range States subject to compliance recommendations under the Article XIII process (see [Notification to the Parties No. 2022/045](#)).
- b) Support in the implementation of applicable recommendations for *Dalbergia* spp. for the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as a follow up to the relevant outputs of the [CITES-FAO project on improved forest governance in the Lower Mekong Region](#).

3.2. Article IV and Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species* (RST)

- a) Support in the implementation of outstanding RST recommendations for selected current cases of tree species/country combinations (see document PC26 Doc. 16.2)
- b) Support in the implementation of recommendations of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*/country combinations selected as an exceptional case in stage 2 of the RST process (see also document PC26 Doc. 16.4).

3.3. Article IV and Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* (NDF)

- a) Implementation of Decisions 19.243 to 19.245 on *Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]* (see PC26 Doc. 29).

b) Implementation of the CITES NDF project's workstream on high-value timbers, including any progress in the testing of any new NDF guidance in the field (see document PC26 Doc. 17).

3.4. Article XII and Resolution Conf. 19.4 on *Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species*

Implementation of Decisions 19.145 to 19.148 on *Identification of timber and other wood products* (see also document PC26 Doc. 20)

3.5. Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity-building*

Implementation of projects and programmes relevant to CITES-listed tree species, such as the *CITES tree species programme* (CTSP; Decisions 19.49 and 19.50), the [CITES-FAO project on improved forest governance in the Lower Mekong Region](#), and other upcoming capacity-building projects on tree species managed by the Secretariat during the period CoP19 to CoP20.



REVISED DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE  
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY ON CITES AND FORESTS

**Outcome 1: Interdisciplinary study**

Activity 1\*

\*Baseline: documents [PC25 Doc. 12](#) and its [Addendum](#); [SC74 Doc. 15](#); [CoP19 Doc. 19](#); the webpage on [CITES and forests](#); document [PC26 Doc. 13](#) and its report in [Annex 1](#); the outcomes of PC26; and any other relevant information.

- 1.1. Map the intersections and complementarities between the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030* (Resolution Conf. 18.3) and that of the global forest commitments and develop recommendations to enhance the timely and effective implementation of the CITES forest compendium. As a starting point to this exercise, special consideration shall be given to the preamble to the background and global framework on forests described in the draft resolution contained in Annex 3 to document PC26 Doc 13, and in particular the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the *United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030*, the *United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)* and relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).
- 1.2. Assess the contribution of the Convention in the conservation and sustainable use of forests, with particular focus on tree species<sup>1</sup> during the period from CoP16 to CoP20. In doing so, special consideration shall be given to:
  - a) Evaluating outcomes of the implementation of processes of the Convention such as non-detriment findings [Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)], the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)], and CITES compliance procedures [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19)] as examples of the potential positive outcomes for CITES listed tree species.
  - b) The contributions of the inclusion of tree species in the Appendices to the conservation of forest ecosystems and livelihoods.
  - c) Materials and guidance developed to support the implementation of the Convention as it relates to forests, and in particular tree species.
  - d) Trade in forest species listed in the Appendices (changes in levels and trends in trade – select species to be included in consultation with the PC), with a particular focus on tree species.
  - e) Task Force processes and other enforcement related matters.
  - f) Resource mobilization for implementation of Decisions and Resolutions as well as support to Parties to implement the Convention where it relates to tree species.
  - g) Reports and documents of previous Plants Committee Working Groups on CITES Tree species implementation and specimen production systems.
- 1.3. Assess the contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of forests by projects managed by the Secretariat, using as a starting point a representative selection of projects under the *CITES Tree Species Programme*, and any available findings and outcomes of its external evaluation (see also document PC26 Doc. 15), and the [CITES-FAO project on improved forest governance in the Lower Mekong Region](#).

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<sup>1</sup> *The Plants Committee agreed that while a possible resolution on CITES and forests would eventually necessitate consideration of all forests species, including both fauna and flora, the initial focus would be on tree species.*

## **Outcome 2: Report on the scope of a new initiative on CITES and forests**

### Activity 2

- 2.1. Define the potential scope of an initiative on CITES and forests that will enhance the implementation of the Convention as it relates to forests (tree species) while contributing to the achievement of other international commitments.
- 2.2. In undertaking the above, special give special consideration to:
  - a) a possible programme on *CITES and forests* devoted to ensuring the timely implementation of current and future iterations of the 'CITES forest compendium', and to raising visibility to the outcomes of past current and future flagship initiatives on forests;
  - b) a strategic approach to continue or expand partnerships with like-minded organizations in benefit of the implementation of the 'CITES forest compendium', including but not limited to member organizations of the [Collaborative Partnership on Forests](#) (CPF);
  - c) enhancing resource mobilization strategies to secure the resources needed for the timely and effective implementation of the 'CITES forest compendium' to be published in the webpage on [CITES and forests](#);
  - d) take into account the discussions at PC25, CoP19 and PC26 on the role of CITES in tree-species conservation; and
  - e) the pertinence of the adoption of a resolution on CITES and forests, using as a starting point the text contained in Annex 3 to document PC26 Doc. 13.

## **Outcome 3: Consolidated report for consideration of CITES Committees in preparation for CoP20**

### Activity 3

Develop an executive summary and extended report on the findings of Outcomes 1 and 2. This shall be written with a view to serve as a basis for the Secretariat's reporting to the Plants and Standing Committees, in accordance with Decisions 19.33 and 19.34.