

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
MONDAY 5 JUNE 2023

Opening remarks of the Secretary-General *No document*

The Secretary-General gave an opening address.

1. Confirmation of the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair *No document*

The Committee confirmed the election of its Chair, the representative for Africa (Ms. Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo) and Vice-Chair, the representative for Oceania (Mr. Damian Wrigley).

Opening remarks of the Chair *No document*

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the Members of the Committee, Party Observers, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the meeting.

2. Declaration of conflict of interest *No document*

The Committee noted that no Member declared a financial interest that he or she considers calls into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the agenda for the meeting.

3. Rules of Procedure PC26 Doc. 3

The Committee noted that its Rules of Procedure, as amended at its 24th meeting (Geneva, July 2018) and set out in the Annex to document PC26 Doc. 3, remain valid for this meeting.

4. Agenda PC26 Doc. 4

The Committee adopted its agenda as set out in document PC26 Doc. 4.

5. Working programme PC26 Doc. 5 (Rev. 2)

The Committee adopted its working programme as set out in document PC26 Doc. 5 (Rev. 2).

6. Admission of observers PC26 Doc. 6 (Rev. 1)

The Committee noted the list of observer organizations that had been invited to participate in the meeting as set out in document PC26 Doc. 6 (Rev. 1).

8. Plants Committee strategic planning for 2023-2025 (CoP19-CoP20)

8.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Plants Committee PC26 Doc. 8.1

The Committee noted document PC26 Doc. 8.1.

8.2 Plants Committee workplan..... PC26 Doc. 8.2

The Committee noted the 2023-2025 workplan. The Chair indicated that the final list of leads and co-leads among the members of the Plants Committee will be presented at a later date after a final round of consultation with the members of the Plants Committee. The Committee agreed that, in the event of the Standing and Animals Committees establishing additional intersessional working groups, the lead or co-leads identified for the relevant Resolution or Decision in the current workplan would represent the Plants Committee on the working group concerned.

7. Emerging operational matters of the committees.....PC26 Doc. 7 / AC32 Doc. 7

The Committee agreed to support the general way forward described in document PC26 Doc. 7 / AC32 Doc. 7. The Committee requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees through their Chairs, to prepare a document for the Standing Committee that would also propose a way to capture the guiding principles and other recommendations in document PC26 Doc. 7 / AC32 Doc. 7 in CITES official documentation, for instance in Resolution Conf. 18.2 on *Establishment of committees*.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to organize meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees back-to-back and to ensure that the timing of any online or hybrid meeting be equitable for all regions.

9. CITES Strategic Vision.....PC26 Doc. 9 / AC32 Doc. 9

The Committee agreed the recommendations in paragraph 18 as follows.

The Committee invited Members and Parties to submit any comments they may have on the mapping of the *CITES Strategic Vision* and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework as contained in the Annex to document PC26 Doc. 9 / AC32 Doc. 9 directly to the Secretariat that would consider them in its report to the Standing Committee.

The Committee invited the Secretariat to continue working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on SDG indicator 15.7.1 and to inform the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity of the outcome of this work.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to follow the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and any work related to the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and to provide data from relevant Strategic Vision indicators (such as indicator 1.1.1 on the National Legislation Project) and possible indicators for objective 1.4 to the CBD Secretariat, if requested.

The Committee noted the comments made on the possible indicators for objective 1.4 of the Strategic Vision proposed in paragraph 13 of document PC26 Doc. 9 / AC32 Doc. 9 and invited Members and Parties to submit any further comments directly to the Secretariat that would consider them in its report to the Standing Committee.

The Committee agreed that the Chair of the Plants Committee will coordinate the Committee's input on the partnership strategy called for in Decision 19.20.

11. Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant ConservationPC26 Doc. 11

The Committee agreed to postpone consideration of a revision to Resolution Conf. 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity* until its 27th meeting.

12. IPBES Report on the Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species PC26 Doc. 12 / AC32 Doc. 12

The Committee agreed to establish an intersessional working group jointly with the Animals Committee on the IPBES assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species that will work through electronic means to:

- a) review the scientific aspects of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) relevant to CITES implementation as highlighted in the Annexes to document PC26 Doc. 12 / AC32 Doc. 12 and other aspects as agreed by the two Committees and the members of the working group;

- b) identify aspects relevant to CITES implementation that are not adequately covered in existing Resolutions and Decisions and may require further consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees or the Standing Committee;
- c) prepare a draft report of the results of the review and possible recommendations for consideration by the joint sessions of the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee and the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee scheduled to take place in 2024; and
- d) prepare a document for consideration of the Animals and Plants Committees containing the outcome of the review and recommendations to be submitted for consideration by the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair for PC: alternate representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Diaz);

Parties: Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Malaysia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGO: International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Wood Products Association, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, World Wide Fund for Nature.

The Committee noted that the final membership of the joint intersessional working group would be published in a Notification to the Parties after the meeting of the Animals Committee.

10. Role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade..... PC26 Doc. 10 / AC32 Doc. 10

The Committee agreed to nominate the representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) and the representative for North America (Mr. Boles), to participate in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade, taking into account the comments made on paragraph 13 of document PC26 Doc. 10 / AC32 Doc. 10.

13. CITES and forests PC26 Doc. 13

The Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on CITES and forests with the mandate to:

- 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.

The membership was decided as follows:

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, 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.

15. CITES Tree Species Programme PC26 Doc. 15

The Committee noted the scientific results produced under the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP) and their contribution to relevant processes of the Convention.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to bring to the attention of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) the CITES Non-Detriment Finding's Project the outputs produced under the CTSP, and their linkages and contributions to the project's relevant workstreams.

The Committee requested the in-session working group on CITES and forests to consider the information provided in document PC26 Doc. 15 when it advises the Secretariat on the draft terms of reference contained in Annex 2 to document PC26 Doc. 13.

16. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

16.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade PC26 Doc. 16.1

The Committee noted document PC26 Doc. 16.1.

16.3 Implementation of the recommendations of the Plants Committee by Madagascar on *Prunus africana* PC26 Doc. 16.3

16.2 Ongoing cases selected between CoP11 and CoP17 PC26 Doc. 16.2

16.4 Ongoing cases of species selected following CoP18 (*Pterocarpus erinaceus* as an exceptional case)..... PC26 Doc. 16.4

and

16.5 Selection of new species/country combinations for review following CoP19 PC26 Doc. 16.5

The Committee established an in-session working group on the Review of Significant Trade with the mandate to:

- a) regarding document PC26 Doc. 16.2, support the Secretariat in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the RST recommendations for the three species/country combinations covered in document PC26 Doc. 16.2, by providing specific inputs on the progress achieved thus far, and draft any additional recommendations for the Secretariat to consider in preparation for its reporting to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC77);
- b) consider document PC26 Doc. 16.3 and make recommendations for consideration of the Plants Committee;
- c) regarding document PC26 Doc. 16.4:
 - i) provide feedback and advice to assist range States in the timely and effective implementation of the RST recommendations in Annex 1;
 - ii) support the Secretariat in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the RST recommendations by relevant *Pterocarpus erinaceus* range States by drafting specific inputs on the progress achieved thus far; and
 - iii) draft any additional recommendations in support of the Secretariat's reporting on this matter to the Standing Committee at SC77.

- d) regarding document PC26 Doc. 16.5, select a limited number of species/country combinations of greatest concern for inclusion in Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade;
- e) draft recommendations for the Plants Committee to consider in preparation for the Secretariat's report on these matters to SC77.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley);

Members: alternate representative for Asia (Mr. Chong), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Belteton Chacon), representatives for Europe (Ms. Smyth and Ms. Moser), acting representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Olave);

Parties: Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America,

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre, American Herbal Products Association, Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, Center for International Environmental Law, Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale, ICPI France Europe, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, World Wide Fund for Nature

20. Identification of timber and other wood products..... PC26 Doc. 20

The Committee agreed the draft terms of reference for the maintenance and expansion of the repository on timber identification contained in Annex 1 to document PC26 Doc. 20 as amended by Canada and the Republic of Korea as follows:

Output 3: Assessment of techniques and tools relevant to the identification of timber and other wood products to inform the Plants Committee related to its implementation of Decision 19.147

3.1 Undertake a desk review of available techniques and tools, including cutting-edge technology such as artificial intelligence, and evaluate their standards and usefulness to species-specific identification and enforcement for CITES-listed tree species and their look-alikes.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on timber identification with the mandate to discuss and agree on a way forward for the implementation of paragraphs a) to h) of Decision 19.147, including consideration of Annex 2 to document PC26 Doc. 20 and report back to the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: Canada;

Members: alternate representative for Asia (Mr. Chong), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Belteton Chacon), representative for North America (Mr. Boles);

Parties: Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Germany, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

IGOs and NGOs: International Tropical Timber Organization, Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, ForestBased Solutions, International Wood Products Association, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, World Wide Fund for Nature.

27. Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.) PC26 Doc. 27

The Committee established an in-session working group on agarwood with the mandate to review document CoP19 Doc. 62.2 and information documents CoP19 Inf. 5 (Rev. 1), CoP19 Inf. 12 and CoP19 Inf. 15 and to:

- a) in accordance with paragraph a) of Decision 19.239, consider potential revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*, taking into account other relevant resolutions, including Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*, and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, as appropriate;
- b) in accordance with paragraph b) of Decision 19.239, draft any appropriate recommendations regarding the Agarwood glossary and the Agarwood NDF guidance; and
- c) draft recommendations for the Committee to consider and submit to the Standing Committee and/or the Conference of the Parties.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) and alternate representative for Asia (Ms. Tongdonae);

Parties: Austria, China, European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Netherlands, Oman, Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Tropical Timber Organization, World Wide Fund for Nature.

28. Boswellia trees (*Boswellia* spp.)

28.1 Report of the Secretariat..... PC26 Doc. 28.1

and

28.2 Conservation status, trade and threats to the genus *Boswellia* (Frankincense) PC26 Doc. 28.2

The Committee established an intersessional working group on *Boswellia* with the mandate to:

- a) in accordance with Decision 19.242, paragraph a), and considering the information in document PC26 Doc. 28.2, identify meetings or other venues that might provide opportunities to collaborate or share information regarding harvest and management of *Boswellia* species, and consider to propose draft decisions regarding a possible range State meeting to be organized by the Secretariat, subject to available funding;
- b) in accordance with Decision 19.242, paragraph b), review document PC26 Doc. 28.1 and its Annexes and make recommendations to inform possible listing proposals for *Boswellia* species, including consideration of appropriate annotations consistent with the guidance in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*; and
- c) report its recommendations to the Committee at its 27th meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth);

Members: representative for Africa (Mr. Balama), representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng);

Parties: China, European Union, Germany, India, Oman, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United States of America;

IGOs and NGO: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre, American Herbal Products Association, Industria Derivati Naturali, Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh, TRAFFIC, World Wide Fund for Nature,