

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 8 – 13 July 2024

Species conservation and trade

Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; 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.*

3. At its 26th meeting (PC26; Geneva, June 2023), the Plants Committee considered document [PC26 Doc. 34 / AC32 Doc. 31](#) on *Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species*, which reported on progress in implementing Decisions 19.261 and 19.262. The [Addendum to the document](#) specifically reported on progress in implementing Decision 19.261, paragraph a), and presented the responses to [Notification to the Parties No. 2023/045](#).
4. Based on these documents, the Committee:
- a) made comments on the terms of reference of the study under Decision 19.261, paragraph b);
- b) agreed to implement a cross-reference from CITES databases to the MPNS database with appropriate guidance, including a disclaimer that the MPNS database should be considered indicative for the need to verify CITES-listing status of specimens in trade using appropriate CITES standard nomenclature references and identification materials;
- c) noted that [Resolution Conf. 10.19 \(Rev. CoP14\)](#) is on traditional medicines, but MAP materials are traded in quite different products (cosmetics, pharmaceutical products, aromatic products, etc.) and that there is preference for a new Resolution to be developed in an intersessional working group; and
- d) established an intersessional working group to draft a new resolution on MAP products (see the report of the working group in document PC27 Doc. 32.2)
- e) agreed to 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.

For further details, see summary record [PC26 SR](#) .

Information materials, non-detriment findings (NDFs), MAP study and options for MPNS database

5. Information materials that were submitted in response to [Notification to the Parties No. 2023/045](#) are available on the [CITES webpage on medicinal and aromatic plants](#).
6. NDFs submitted in response to [Notification to the Parties No. 2023/045](#) are available in the [NDF database](#).
7. External funding for the study under Decision 19.261, paragraph c), was made available to the Secretariat from the European Union. The Secretariat appreciates the support provided in this regard. At the time of writing, the Secretariat is working with TRAFFIC and the MPNS at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew) to complete the study in accordance with revised terms of references taking into account the comments made at PC26. The steps of the study are the following:
 - a) preliminary deliverables compared the nomenclature for CITES-listed flora used in the CITES Checklist and Species+ with the nomenclature used in the Plants of the World Online (POWO) database. This comparison was, to the knowledge of the Secretariat, the first such exercise for all CITES-listed flora species and identified a number of potential oversights in the CITES Checklist, such as misspelled names or missing Authority identifiers. The Secretariat discussed these preliminary outputs with the nomenclature specialist who proposes to review these outputs in the framework of CITES work on nomenclature to correct potential oversights.
 - b) the Secretariat, in collaboration with TRAFFIC, organized a stakeholder [webinar](#) on 20 May 2024 to contribute to the stakeholder analysis called for in Decision 19.261, paragraph c) i), which was attended by over 90 participants.
 - c) final deliverables of the study are expected by 14 June 2024, and will be made available to the Committee by the end of June 2024 in an addendum to the present document, alongside any additional recommendations for the consideration of the Committee, as appropriate.
8. The Secretariat notes that, subject to available funding, it will implement a cross-reference from entries of MAP species in the Species+ database to the MPNS database with appropriate guidance and a disclaimer, as requested by the Plants Committee, based on the final results of the study that will include the CITES-listed species contained in the MPNS databases.
9. The report of the PC26 intersessional working group on MAPs is available in document PC27 Doc. 32.2.

Recommendations:

10. The Plants Committee is invited to:
 - a) consider the study mandated under Decision 19.261 available in PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add. and the recommendations contained therein;
 - b) if appropriate, agree that Decisions 19.261 to 19.263 have been completed and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
 - c) report its recommendations to the Standing Committee.