

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

TRADE IN MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANT SPECIES

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Chair: representative for Europe (Ms. Moser);
- Members: representatives for Africa (Mr. Balama and Mr. Lagarde), representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng);
- Parties: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and
- IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); American Herbal Products Association, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, TRAFFIC, World Wide Fund for Nature.

Mandate

- a) further improve the draft resolution on *Medicinal and aromatic plant species* in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 32.2 in line with Decision 19.263, paragraph b); and
- b) formulate recommendations for consideration of the Committee in line with Decision 19.263, paragraph c).

Recommendations

The working group recommends the Plants Committee to agree to:

- 1) in accordance with Decision 19.263 c), report to the Conference of the Parties;
- 2) propose draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting, as follows:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**20.AA** *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *finalize the study developed under Decision 19.261, paragraph c), and summarized in document PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add. for the consideration of the Plants Committee;*
- b) *work with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to consider the identified discrepancies listed in Annexes 2-4 of document PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add, and identify whether corrections or improvements to the nomenclature in CITES databases are necessary;*

- c) *subject to external funding, implement cross-references between CITES databases and the Medicinal Plant Names database for CITES-listed MAPs, taking into account the technical advice of the Plants Committee agreed at its 26th meeting (see summary record PC26 SR); and*
- d) *report to the Plants Committee.*

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

***20.BB The Plants Committee shall***

- a) *review the study and the report submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.AA;*
- b) *further improve the draft Resolution on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants contained in the Annex to document PC27 Com. 3, taking into account the report submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA; and*
- c) *report to the Standing Committee.*

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

***20.CC The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Plants Committee and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.***

- 3) agree that Decisions 19.261 to 19.264 have been mostly completed and should be recommended to be replaced at CoP20 by Decisions 20.AA to 20.CC.

## Conf. 20.XX Medicinal and aromatic plant species

RECALLING that trade in CITES-listed species, including CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species (MAPs), must meet the requirements specified in the Convention and may also be subject to other relevant multilateral agreements;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for trade in wild MAP species to be biologically sustainable to ensure their survival in the wild consistent with their roles in their ecosystems;

RECALLING Decision 15/4 of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2022 adopting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and, in particular, Goals A, B and C, and Targets 4, 5, and 9 and 13 thereof;

ALSO RECALLING the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation adopted by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2022;

RECOGNIZING the contribution of MAPs to human health, and the role of the sustainable management and trade of these species in a One Health approach<sup>1</sup>;

AWARE of World Health Organization reports that traditional medicine forms an integral resource for health in almost all countries, that a large share of pharmaceutical formulations is based on natural products and that landmark drugs, including aspirin and artemisinin, originated from traditional medicine<sup>2</sup>;

~~ALSO AWARE that trade in all plant specimens combined accounts for 90% of trade in CITES-listed species when estimated in whole organism equivalents<sup>3</sup>;~~

ACKNOWLEDGING the diversity of production systems that contribute to international trade in MAPs, including traditional forms of community management and assisted production as well as novel techniques to produce specimens through biotechnology and RECALLING provisions on source codes A, D, W and Y for plants as contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*, and Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*;

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING that international trade in MAPs involves manifold specimens from live plants to highly processed extracts, parts and derivatives, some of which subject to exemptions from CITES regulation through listing annotations, and that pose particular challenges to specimens identification, traceability and regulation; and FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of annotations of CITES-listed MAPs to align with the criteria specified in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*;

RECOGNIZING the requirement to make non-detriment findings (NDFs) and legal acquisition findings (LAF), as appropriate, and AWARE of the guidance contained in Annexes 1 to 3 of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings* to verify legal acquisition along the chain of custody;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of ensuring correct reporting, in their national reports, of source, quantity and units of MAPs, in line with the most recent version of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*;

RECOGNIZING the particular complexity of international trade in MAPs, which often is regional, informal, and increasingly taking place on online platforms; the high diversity of stakeholders and uses of medicinal and aromatic plant products; and the cultural and ecological values of MAPs that include but go beyond utilitarian or

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/2831701368>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/initiatives/who-global-centre-for-traditional-medicine/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac-pc/ac31-pc25/E-AC31-14-01-PC25-17.pdf>

economic benefits referred to in Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13) on *Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife*;

RECALLING that close collaboration with groups of traditional-medicine practitioners and consumers can improve public education and awareness programmes towards the elimination of illegal use, and the avoidance of overexploitation of MAPs, as recommended in Resolution Conf. 10.19 on *Traditional medicines*;

EMPHASIZING the knowledge local practitioners and communities have of MAP populations, habitats and ecology, often developed by managing MAP populations locally, as also referred to in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* and Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods*;

AWARE of Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity building*;

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines*, which focuses on local and national decision-making and governance structures and emphasizes benefits of systemic approaches, adaptive mechanisms and participation for managing biological resources sustainably; and

ALSO RECALLING that the sustainable management of MAPs benefits from synergies at the international level, as called for in Resolution Conf. 18.3 on the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030*, Resolution Conf. 18.4 on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, Resolution Conf. 18.5 on *Cooperation and synergy with the World Heritage Convention*, Resolution Conf. 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*, Resolution Conf. 16.4 on *Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions*, and Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity*;

## THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

### **Regarding a characterization of the scope of the term medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs)**

1. AGREES that medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) can be characterized as the group of plant species that are used for therapeutic, aromatic and/or culinary purposes, including as components of cosmetics, foods and beverages, medicinal products, other natural health products, oils and waxes;

### **Regarding general CITES implementation for CITES-listed MAPs**

- ~~2. REMINDS the requirements to comply with CITES obligations to ensure compliance with CITES requirements for trade in CITES-listed MAPs, including the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) as appropriate and legal acquisition findings (LAF);~~
- ~~3. URGES Parties to implement regulations on source codes A, D, W and Y for plants as contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*, and Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* that account for the diversity of production systems involved in the production of MAPs that may involve multiple steps and transactions of propagation material or seedlings before harvest of mature plants;~~
- ~~4. URGES the importance of Parties to ensure correct reporting, in their national reports, of source, quantity and units of MAPs, in line with the most recent version of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*;~~
- ~~5. URGES Parties to ensure annotations of CITES-listed MAPs align with the criteria specified in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*;~~

### **Regarding identification, traceability and legal acquisition findings for CITES-listed MAPs**

- ~~62. AWARE of the ENCOURAGES Parties to use guidance contained in Annexes 1 to 3 of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings* to verify legal acquisition along the chain of custody;~~
- ~~73. ENCOURAGES Parties to develop traceability systems for medicinal and aromatic plants and their products that take account of the complexity of MAP products in trade, including tools to improve the understanding of e-commerce in MAPs, and to improve the guidance to verify legal acquisition along the chain of custody~~

to verify legal acquisition along the chain of custody, whilst acknowledging the complexity of trade in MAPs, including large-scale e-commerce;

**Regarding species monitoring and management and non-detriment findings**

84. ENCOURAGES Parties to use the information available through the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's Medicinal Plants Names Services<sup>4</sup> on local, traditional, and trade names of MAP specimens when monitoring trade in MAPs and INVITES Parties to provide feedback to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's Medicinal Plant Names Services by submitting MAPs names in various languages from referenced sources to expand and update the portal;
95. ENCOURAGES Parties to consult with local practitioners and communities to use local and traditional knowledge in the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) and for participatory species monitoring and management in line with guidance contained in the CITES guidance on livelihoods<sup>5</sup> and relevant sections of the CITES NDF guidance<sup>6</sup>;
106. INVITES Parties to share non-detriment findings for CITES-listed MAPs with the Secretariat for publication on the CITES website, including ~~any case studies NDFs that use voluntary certification standards information~~ or apply relevant sections of the CITES NDF guidance<sup>7</sup> for CITES-listed MAPs;

**Regarding capacity-building to improve CITES implementation for MAPs**

117. URGES Parties to develop and share adequate knowledge and tools, to raise awareness, and to build capacities at national level to support regulation of trade in CITES-listed MAPs in line with the recommendations contained in the present Resolution, ~~in particular paragraphs 7 and 9,~~ and to contribute financially to international capacity-building programmes such as the CITES Tree Species Programme or specific initiatives focused on MAPs, as appropriate;
128. ENCOURAGES Parties to share any relevant guidances to aid with the interpretation and understanding of annotations for MAPs;
129. ENCOURAGES Parties to engage with all CITES MAPs trade stakeholders to create, support and strengthen collaborative platforms, including e-commerce platforms, to prevent illegal trade and to define best practices and share experiences towards sustainable and legal use and trade in CITES-listed MAPs;
130. INVITES the submission of ~~national protection plans on CITES-listed MAPs and case studies relevant to paragraphs 2 to 12 of the present Resolution, including CITES livelihoods case studies<sup>8</sup>, to the Secretariat for the publication on the CITES website and for consideration of the Plants Committee, to support the further development of best practices (case studies, conservation action plans, guidance, etc.) in the management of CITES-listed MAPs, and of CITES guidance,~~ as appropriate for the publication on the CITES website and for consideration of the Plants Committee;
14. ~~INVITES Parties to provide feedback to Kew Gardens to collate names in various languages, expand its database and update the Medicinal Plant Names Service; and~~
151. DIRECTS the Secretariat to maintain a section on MAPs on the CITES website to publish relevant information, as appropriate.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/science-services/medicinal-plant-names-services>

<sup>5</sup> Part I: [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Livelihoods/Guia\\_Parte1\\_CITES\\_eng\\_final.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Livelihoods/Guia_Parte1_CITES_eng_final.pdf);  
Part II: [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Livelihoods/Guia\\_PART2\\_CITES\\_ENG\\_FINAL.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Livelihoods/Guia_PART2_CITES_ENG_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php>

<sup>7</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php>

<sup>8</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/livelihoods>