

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

Regional matters

Regional reports

AFRICA

1. This document has been submitted by the regional representatives for Africa.
2. General information:
 - a) Regional representatives: Dr. Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo (Gabon), Dr. Chelestino Peter Balama (United Republic of Tanzania)
 - b) Alternate members: Prof. Betti Jean Lagarde (Cameroon), Dr. Zannidouche Ouahid (Algeria)
 - c) Number of Parties in the Region: 53
 - d) Number of Parties responding to the communication: 8 (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya, Niger, United Republic of Tanzania, Morocco)
 - e) Period covered: May 2023 to June 2024
3. Overview of Major Developments in respect to:
 - a) Review of Significant Trade

Cameroon

The species/country combination *Pterocarpus erinaceus* has been retained within the framework of the application of Article XIII of the convention. Also the species/country combination *Guibourtia tesmanii* was retained as part of the study of significant trade. Cameroon declared a zero quota taken into account during the PC27th session of the plants committee.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Involved in the review of significant trade in the species *Pericopsis elata* and *Prunus africana*.

Kenya

Involved in the review of significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species - for *Osyris lanceolata* and *Dalbergia melanoxylon*.

United Republic of Tanzania

Involved in the review of significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species - for *Osyris lanceolata* and *Dalbergia melanoxylon*.

b) Periodic Review

Cameroon

COP 19 in Panama in 2022, listed new species into Appendix II of CITES, including: *Khaya* spp (Mahogany), *Azélia* spp (Doussié) and *Pterocarpus* spp (Padouk). Faced with this situation and with a view to enabling the CITES management body for commercial timber to guarantee the sustainability, legality and traceability of flows of processed timber released for export, pre-convention certificates were issued to exporters, in view of the Legal Acquisition Certificate (AAL) of stocks of wood felled before February 23, 2023. These AALs were issued to exporters of the above-mentioned species on the basis of stock declarations from operators but also on the basis of stock verification and evaluation missions which were systematically carried out by the Forestry Departments.

Gabon

Issued pre-convention certificates to exporters, in view of Legal Acquisition Certificate (AAL) of stocks of wood felled before February 23, 2023, following listing of *Khaya* spp (Mahogany), *Azélia* spp (Doussié) and *Pterocarpus* spp (Padouk), into Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

c) Non-detriment findings:

Cameroon

Developed Non-Detrimental Findings (NDF) for the species; *Pterocarpus soyauxii*, *Khaya ivorensis*, *Khaya anthotheca*, *Azelia pachyloba*, *Azelia bipendensis*, *Periscopsis elata*, *Guibourtia tesmanii*.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Involved in the review of significant trade in the species '*Pericopsis elata* and *Prunus africana*.

Equatorial Guinea

Involved in development of Non-detriment findings (NDFs) for *Pterocarpus soyauxii* (Padouk), with a volume of 16,322,227 m³, *Khaya Ivorensis* (African Mahogany), with a volume of 584,779 m³, *Azelia bipidensis* (Doussie Bipendensis), with a volume of 1,293,451 m³, *Azelia pachyloba* (Doussie Pachyloba) with a volume of 237,301 m³ and *Guibourtia tessmannii* (Bubinga) with a volume of 2,895,430 m³.

Gabon

Developed Non-Detrimental Findings (NDF) for the species *Pterocarpus* spp (Padouk) with the national quota for the year 2024 being set as follows: (i) Harvest quota = 34,5027.601m³ and the Export quota = 158712.696m³.

Developing the Non-Detrimental Findings (NDF) species *Khaya* spp (Mahogany) and *Azélia* spp (Doussié).

d) Capacity-building:

Cameroon

Participated a training workshop on CITES Non-Detrimental Trade Findings (NDF) for species listed in Appendix II, held in Doula, Cameroon from April 23 to 24, 2024, focused on the use of the Nine (9) steps approach to develop an NDF.

Participated in the following training workshop that were organised by Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), with the technical and financial support of German Cooperation via the GIZ Project to Support COMIFAC (i) from February 23 to 25, 2023 in Douala, Cameroon: a workshop to discuss the decisions and resolutions of the 19th Conference of the Parties of the CITES; (ii) From March 12 to 15, 2024 in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo: a COMIFAC workshop that aimed at discussing the functioning of the CITES Convention, and taking stock of compliance with CITES obligations in COMIFAC member countries , to train participants on NDFs, to identify capacity building needs for the implementation of the CITES convention and to present the achievements of the AFRICA-TWIX platform.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Participated a training workshop on CITES Non-Detrimental Trade Findings (NDF) for species listed in Appendix II, held in Doula, Cameroon from April 23 to 24, 2024, focused on the use of the Nine (9) steps approach to develop an NDF.

Organised a training session for agents and executives of auxiliary services (among others the Border Police; the Congolese Control Office, Customs, etc.) supporting the CITES Management Body -DRC. This training focused on the problem of identifying species of flora that are subject to fraud and/or difficulties in identifying certain other species.

Trained Staff assigned to CITES Coordination consisted of familiarization with Access Software for encoding and monitoring the use of timber quotas according to species through the consolidation of a functional database in identifying timber exports made by identified economic operators.

Gabon

Participated a training workshop on CITES Non-Detrimental Trade Findings (NDF) for species listed in Appendix II, held in Doula, Cameroon from April 23 to 24, 2024, focused on the use of the Nine (9) steps approach to develop an NDF.

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Kenya

Participated in the International Expert workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs), held in Nairobi, from 4-8 December 2023

Coordinated a regional training (Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya), held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4th -11th February 2024) aimed at sharing experience and transfer of knowledge in: Plant Systematics, Barcoding and Informatics, and CITES and Non-Detriment Findings.

This training was part of the CTSP project titled “**Conservation and Sustainable Management of *Osyris lanceolata*, for Economic Development in East Africa.**”

We appreciate the financial support from EU for supporting the project through CTSP.

Morocco

Organised a regional workshop for capacity building of authorities involved in the implementation of the CITES Convention. This workshop was aimed at managers of the CITES Convention and Customs Authorities of countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, and led by trainers from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the CITES Secretariat. The workshop was organised by the National Agency for Water and Forests, in its capacity as CITES management body in Morocco, organized, from May 29 to 31, 2024 in Rabat, in partnership with the International Technical Assistance Program of the American Department of the Interior.

United Republic of Tanzania

Participated a regional training in Kenya, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4th -11th February 2024) aimed at sharing experience and transfer of knowledge in Plant Systematics, Barcoding and Informatics and CITES and Non-Detriment Findings. This training was part of the CTSP project titled “**Conservation and Sustainable Management of *Osyris lanceolata*, for Economic Development in East Africa.**”

Conducted National training workshop of enforcement officers on CITES and combating environmental crimes in Tanzania. The training workshop was held in Zanzibar, from 24 - 26 June, 2024.

e) Other

Kenya

Participated the Intersessional CITES Plants Committee Working Group on *Boswellia* trees (*Boswellia* spp.)

Participated a training workshop on CITES Non-Detrimental Trade Findings (NDF) for species listed in Appendix II, held in Doula, Cameroon from April 23 to 24, 2024, focused on the use of the Nine (9) steps approach to develop an NDF.

Morocco

Is in the process of finalizing a platform for the dematerialization, via the PortNet Single Window, of the procedure for requesting and granting CITES permits and certificates. A demonstration of the process was made during a regional workshop held in Rabat from May 29 to 31, 2024 and at which the CITES Secretariat was represented.

United Republic of Tanzania

Participated a training workshop on CITES Non-Detrimental Trade Findings (NDF) for species listed in Appendix II, held in Doula, Cameroon from April 23 to 24, 2024, focused on the use of the Nine (9) steps approach to develop an NDF.

4. Regional cooperation

Cameroon

Had interactions with CITES member states from Africa region including Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon. Also interacted with countries of the European Union, the United States and Asia.

Equatorial Guinea

Had interactions with CITES member states from Africa region with the aim of exchanging platform at the Central African level via WhatsApp, to exchange and discuss different subjects linked to the implementation of the convention in our countries.

Gabon

Several email exchanges took place with the management bodies of European Union countries, the United States and Asian countries such as China with the aim of verifying data on CITES permits and CITES transactions.

Morocco

Had interactions with CITES member states from the Middle East and North Africa region, and the United States of America (USA) and CITES Secretariat.

Niger

Bilateral cooperation exists between our states in the fight against illegal trade.

5. Meetings and Workshops

Cameroon

Participated in the International Expert Workshop on Nine (9) steps approach of Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs), held in Nairobi, from 4-8 December 2023.

In addition, Cameroon hosted and facilitated a regional case study workshop on NDFs from April 24 to 25, 2024 in Douala, Cameroon intended for CITES Scientific Authorities of Central African countries.

In addition, Cameroon held a meeting with the European Union component based in Yaoundé in the context of the difficulties encountered in the issuance of import permits by European Union countries.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Participated in the 16th meeting of the sub-working group on protected areas and wildlife with focus on CITES listed species, which was held in Kinshasa from 12 to 15 March, 2024.

Kenya

Was a speaker at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) side event: CITES and Forests – Linking Sustainable Forest Governance to Climate change mitigation and supporting livelihoods and a

brief on the results of the CTSP in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, on Friday 1 March 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Niger

Preparing to participate in the NDF workshop on *Pterocarpus erinaceus* planned by the CITES Secretariat.

United Republic of Tanzania

Conducted a workshop on decision makers and technical staffs to discuss and strategize on policy areas that need attention to the Government with regards to the implementation of CITES. The workshop was held in Zanzibar from 12 – 13 September, 2023.