

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



Seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 6–10 November 2023

Strategic matters

CITES AND FORESTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.32 to 19.34 on *CITES and forests* as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the Plants Committee

19.32 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *prepare a report for the consideration of the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee summarizing existing Resolutions and Decisions and supportive provisions relevant to the implementation of the Convention relevant to forests, focusing on CITES-listed tree-species, (a 'CITES forest compendium') and provide information on possible measures to enhance the implementation of the Convention to contribute more effectively to, global forest-relevant mandates and forest policies and initiatives, while avoiding duplication and supporting joint action; and,*
- b) *subject to the availability of external resources, and following consultation with the Plants Committee on the terms of reference, prepare an interdisciplinary study to assist decision-making processes on the future of any initiative relating to CITES and forests by:*
 - i) *defining the scope of such an initiative;*
 - ii) *furthering the understanding of the role of sustainable use and conservation in trade of CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species, in the conservation and sustainable use of forests;*
 - iii) *developing recommendations to enhance the timely and effective implementation of the CITES forest compendium, including exploring resource mobilization strategies.*

Directed to the Plants Committee

19.33 *The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *provide input to and consider any report from the Secretariat resulting from the implementation of Decision 19.32; and,*
- b) *advise the Secretariat on its implementation of Decision 19.32 and the Standing Committee on its implementation of Decision 19.34 to ensure that any initiative relating to CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species, is technically and scientifically coherent, and supportive of provisions relevant to the implementation of the Convention.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

19.34 *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider any report by the Secretariat and the Plants Committee resulting from the implementation of Decisions 19.32 and 19.33;*
- b) *based on the above, explore options aligned with the mandate and the CITES Strategic Vision to:*
 - i) *enhance the implementation of the Convention with respect to CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species, and CITES' contribution to global forest-relevant mandates and forest policies and initiatives, while avoiding duplication and supporting joint action; and,*
 - ii) *raise awareness of the importance of investing in the conservation, sustainable management and legal trade of CITES-listed forest species, with particular focus on tree species;*
- c) *assess the merits of proposing to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties any measures, including the development of a resolution on CITES and forests, aimed at enhancing the implementation of CITES mandates, that would improve visibility, funding opportunities and contributions to global forest policies and initiatives, while avoiding duplication and supporting joint action; and,*
- d) *prepare a report on its implementation of the present Decision and submit any resulting recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.*

Discussions during the previous intersessional period

3. The Secretariat recalls that, at the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC25; online, June 2021), it had provided a rationale for the development of a resolution on *CITES and forests* and its proposed structure in document [PC25 Doc. 12](#) and its [Addendum](#). At PC25, the Plants Committee retained two options for progressing the development of a resolution on CITES and forests and recommended that the Secretariat submit both to the Standing Committee for consideration. As a first option, it recommended that the Secretariat develop and submit a draft resolution on CITES and forests (Annex 1A to document [SC74 Doc. 15](#)); and as a second option, it offered two draft decisions on the subject (Annex 2 to document [SC74 Doc. 15](#)).
4. The proposed resolution as envisioned by the Secretariat would serve a strategic purpose and therefore did not intend to replace more technical Resolutions. Rather, the goal was to represent a strategic point of reference to highlight the importance of the Convention in the conservation of forest ecosystems more effectively and contribute to the timely implementation of CITES provisions relevant to forests, including by building upon the collective knowledge, resources, mechanisms and networks of the existing global governance framework on forests.
5. Following consideration of the recommendations contained in document SC74 Doc. 15 and the two options, the Standing Committee, while noting the importance of forests, advised that it was premature to submit a draft resolution on CITES and forests for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat submit draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties that would ensure that the Plants and Standing Committees are involved in the development of any resolution on CITES and forests.
6. In accordance with this recommendation, at CoP19, the Secretariat presented document [CoP19 Doc. 19](#) on *CITES and forests* and on this basis, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 19.32 to 19.34.

Progress in the implementation of Decisions 19.32 and 19.33

7. At the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26; Geneva, June 2023), the Secretariat presented in document PC26 Doc. 13 updates on the implementation of Decision 19.32, including:

- a) a draft report on the 'CITES forest compendium' in accordance with paragraph a) of Decision 19.32 (Annex 1 to document PC26 Doc. 13);
 - b) updates on the dedicated webpage on [CITES and forests](#), which was launched on 21 March 2023 in celebration of the International Day on Forests; and
 - c) draft terms of reference for the multidisciplinary study on CITES and forests called for in paragraph b) of Decision 19.32 (Annex 2 to document PC26 Doc. 13).
8. In accordance with Decision 19.33 and on the basis of the recommendations contained in document PC26 Doc. 13, the Plants Committee:
- a) agreed with the report on the 'CITES and forests compendium: CoP19-CoP20' as contained in Annex 1 to the present document. At the time of writing, the Secretariat is preparing the publication of the compendium on the webpage [CITES and Forests](#) in a user-friendly format and will provide an oral update at the present meeting.
 - b) invited the Secretariat to use the revised draft terms of reference contained in Annex 2 to the present document for the study called for in paragraph b) of Decision 19.32.
 - c) invited the Secretariat to incorporate in its report to the Standing Committee the challenges and opportunities associated with any future initiative relating to CITES-listed forest species, with a particular focus on tree species, and to take into account the discussions at PC25, SC74, CoP19 and PC26.
 - d) Concerning the scope of any new initiative on forests and the compendium on CITES and forests, the Plants Committee agreed to continue focusing on CITES-listed tree species for this intersessional period recalling that it was agreed during CoP19 that the initial focus should be on tree species, although eventually the scope could include all forest species of fauna and flora.
9. As acknowledged in the agreed CITES and forests compendium (Annex 1), the Secretariat notes that the CTSP could contribute to both the implementation (section 2 of the compendium) and crosscutting processes of the Convention (section 3 of the compendium) under a potential CITES and forests programmatic approach, particularly where it relates to capacity-building. These complementarities are also acknowledged in document SC77 Doc. 25 on the *CITES Tree Species Programme*.
10. With regards to the challenges and opportunities associated with any future initiative concerning CITES-listed forest species, and in line with the Plants Committee's invitation as per paragraph 8 c) *supra*, the Secretariat draws the Standing Committee's attention to Annex 3 to the present document, which consists of an excerpt of relevant sections of PC25, SC74, CoP19 and PC26 summary records, where they are relevant to *CITES and forests*.
11. With regards to progress on carrying out the interdisciplinary study called for in paragraph b) of Decision 19.32 (see Annex 2 to the present document), the funding has been secured thanks to the European Union. The Secretariat is engaging members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) on the terms of reference for the study, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). An oral update relating to the progress made will be provided at the present meeting.

Updates in support of the implementation of Decision 19.34, paragraph b)

- 12. With regards to enhancing and raising awareness on CITES contributions to global forest-relevant mandates and forest policies and initiatives, the Secretariat attended the 18th session of the United Forum on Forests (UNFF18; 8 to 12 May 2023, New York).
- 13. UNFF18 provided an excellent platform to raise visibility of CITES contributions to the global framework on forests amongst UNFF member States and provided the CITES Secretariat with valuable insights for the implementation of Decision 19.32. Bilateral engagements with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) also allowed the Secretariat to identify new avenues of financial and in-kind collaboration in

matters relating to the timely implementation of the CITES and forests compendium, and to pave the way in preparation for its contributions to the midterm review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)¹.

14. Further, the Secretariat has been in close communication with the CPF Chair (FAO) to coordinate CITES contributions in preparation for the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit, which will take place from 18 to 19 September in New York (USA).
15. From 25 to 27 July 2023 (Rome), the Secretariat attended a high-level meeting with FAO to *inter alia* explore complementarities and avenues of collaboration for the implementation of the 'CITES and forests compendium: CoP19 to CoP20'. In the course of the discussions, FAO welcomed the CITES and forests compendium as a useful reference point to tailor future partnerships with the Secretariat.

Recommendations

16. The Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) in accordance with Decision 19.34 paragraph a), consider progress made in the implementation of Decisions 19.32 and 19.33 as reported in the present document;
 - b) based on the above, explore options for the implementation of Decision 19.34 paragraph b); and
 - c) delay implementation of Decision 19.34, paragraphs c) and d), until the outcomes of the interdisciplinary study on CITES and forests are available.

¹ See also: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/preparations-for-iaf-midterm-review/index.html>

THE 'CITES FOREST COMPENDIUM: COP19-COP20'
REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH A) OF DECISION 19.32²

Introduction

Decisions 19.32 and 19.33 request that any new initiative on CITES and forests focuses on or prioritizes 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 and forest policies and initiatives 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;

² Compendium as agreed by the Plants Committee at its 26th meeting (i.e., Annex 1 to summary record PC26 SR).

		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	Technical 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.
Resolution Conf. 14.4	Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber	Strategic 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.
Resolution Conf. 16.10	Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa	Technical Guidance on artificially propagated specimens for agar-wood producing taxa, non-detriment findings and management and trade controls.
Resolution Conf. 16.4	Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions	Strategic Guidance on strengthening the cooperation, coordination and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions at all relevant levels.
Resolution Conf. 16.5	Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Strategic 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.
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. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)	Non-detriment findings	Technical The Resolution includes guidance relating to the concepts and non-binding principles to be taken into account by Scientific Authorities in considering whether trade would be detrimental to the survival of a species.
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. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19)	Legal acquisition findings	Technical The Resolution includes Guiding principles to be used by Parties for verifying the legal acquisition of specimens to be exported.
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.

Decision No.	Title	Baseline for implementation via a programmatic framework on <i>CITES and forests</i> (relevant documents including studies and projects)
Strategic matters		
19.32 to 19.34	CITES and forests	PC26 Doc. 13 PC26 SR
<u>Capacity-building</u>		
19.49 and 19.50	CITES Tree Species Programme	PC26 Doc. 15 (see also section 3 of the Annex) PC26 SR
Compliance		
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).
Regulation of trade		
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>Exemptions and special trade provisions</u>		
19.182 to 19.183	Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated'	PC26 Doc. 24 PC26 SR
Species conservation and trade		
<u>Flora</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 (Orchidaceae 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
Appendices of the Convention		
<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
<i>Nomenclature matters</i>		
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 and forest policies and initiatives under a potential *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 FORESTS³

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 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](#).

³ As revised by the Plants Committee at its 26th meeting (PC26), and contained in Annex 2 to summary record P26 SR.

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, 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.

BACKGROUND ON DISCUSSIONS ON *CITES AND FORESTS*

EXCERPT OF RELEVANT SECTIONS OF PC25, SC74, COP19 AND PC26 SUMMARY RECORDS

25th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC25, online, June 2021): Excerpt of summary record PC25 SR

12. Towards a resolution on *CITES and forests* PC25 Doc. 12 and Addendum

The Secretariat introduced document PC25 Doc. 12 and its addendum that propose the development of a new resolution on *CITES and forests*. The resolution would provide strategic guidance on: a) ensuring coherence between CITES and the international governance framework on forests; and b) increasing visibility and resource mobilization in support of the Convention's role in ensuring the long-term conservation of species of wild fauna and flora occurring in, and dependent upon, forests. The addendum provides some preliminary feedback received from the Plants Committee.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez Neyra), echoed by Algeria, Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Malaysia and Peru, welcomed the Secretariat's proposal and suggested that the resolution focus on cooperation on forests and synergies with other Conventions and on resource mobilization. Colombia further suggested including the issue of non-detriment findings in the resolution, while Peru suggested that the role of forests as an ecosystem source of biodiversity should be considered in the draft resolution. Malaysia noted that the draft resolution should not duplicate existing resolutions.

The representatives for Europe (Mr. Carmo) and for North America (Ms. Gnam), Germany and the United States of America stated that they were uncertain that the objectives of a resolution on forests have been fully considered and suggested drafting a decision directing the Plants Committee to assess the value and implication of such a resolution for submission to CoP19.

The Committee established an in-session working group on a resolution on *CITES and forests* with the mandate to:

- a) consider document PC25 Doc. 12 and its addendum;
- b) consider the value of developing a new resolution on CITES and forests;
- c) explore the pertinence of developing draft decisions that could be put forward by the Secretariat for consideration of the CoP;
- d) provide any additional recommendation, for the Secretariat to consider should it bring forward a draft resolution on CITES and forests.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo) (Chair), representatives for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón and Ms. Núñez Neyra), representative for Europe (Mr. Carmo), representative for North America (Ms. Gnam);

Parties: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

Observers: Animal Welfare International, Center for International Environmental Law, Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale, Confédération des Industries Musicales Européennes, ForestBased Solutions, Forest Trends, Humane Society International, International Wood Products Association, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later in the meeting, the PC Chair introduced document PC25 Com. 6 and noted that there was general agreement to further consider the need for a resolution but disagreement on the process, with several options outlined in the document.

Concerning the working group options recommended in document PC25 Com. 6, the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Nunez Neyra), Brazil, China and Chile supported option 1. The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam), Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Mexico and the United States of America supported option 2. The representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo) suggested to not consider option 3 due to inherent procedural problems.

Canada, echoed by the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), suggested submitting both options to the Standing Committee. To accommodate different concerns about the wording of the two options, China and Mexico proposed edits to options 1 and 2.

Based on document PC25 Com. 6 as amended by China and Mexico, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

The Committee recommended that the Secretariat submit a draft resolution (revised option 1 without the draft decisions included in Annex 1 to document PC25 Com. 6), as well as draft decisions (revised option 2, taking into account the proposals of China and Mexico) for consideration by the Standing Committee, as follows:

- Option 1: inviting the Secretariat to produce a draft strategic resolution on *CITES and forests* for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting (SC74).
- Option 2: inviting the Secretariat to submit the following draft decisions for consideration at SC74 to allow for drafting a strategic resolution on *CITES and forests* during the CoP19-CoP20 intersessional period, and to allow consideration of the benefit of pursuing a strategic resolution on *CITES and forests*.

19.AA Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall consider the value of developing a possible new strategic resolution on *CITES and forests*, as outlined in Document PC25 Doc. 12 and Document PC25 Doc. 12 Addendum; prepare an overview of the issue from a technical and scientific perspective; and provide its recommendations for consideration of the Standing Committee.

19.BB Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider the report and recommendations of the Plants Committee under Decision 19.AA and develop recommendations, including identifying existing Resolutions that would need to be revised or repealed, and provide its report for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74, Lyon, March 2022): Excerpt of summary record SC74 SR

- 15. Towards a resolution on CITES and forests SC74 Doc. 15

The Secretariat introduced document SC74 Doc. 15, which sets out the two options retained by the Plants Committee for progressing the development of a resolution on CITES and forests. The Secretariat noted its support for Option 1 (for the draft resolution on CITES and forests prepared by the Secretariat to be submitted for consideration at CoP19), which was considered to be most coherent with the need to urgently act upon the objectives set out in the draft resolution.

Parties underscored the importance of forests and work being done to ensure sustainable trade in tree species. While Peru (Committee Member for Central and South America and the Caribbean), Argentina, and the European Union expressed support for Option 1, China and Indonesia (Committee Members for Asia), Senegal and Congo (Committee Members for Africa), Brazil, Japan, Switzerland, and the United Republic of Tanzania expressed support for Option 2 (putting forward the two draft decisions agreed by the Plants

Committee at PC25 intended to further consider the benefits of pursuing a resolution on CITES and forests, and reviewing existing Resolutions in this regard between CoP19 and CoP20).

The United States of America supported CITES' involvement in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management but noted that they wished to better understand how a resolution on CITES and Forests would add strategic value to the way CITES addresses forest issues. The Party agreed that it was premature to submit the draft resolution contained in Annex 1 of the document to CoP19 and drew attention to the contents of document SC74 Inf. 21 submitted by Canada on behalf of the North American region, which sets out a third proposed way forward involving revised draft decisions which would replace those presented in Options 1 and 2 in document SC74 Doc. 15. It was explained that these Decisions would support work on issues that are central to CITES' core functions, while allowing time for the CITES Scientific Committees to further consider the value of a new resolution that may have important technical implications; however, should there be insufficient support for this new option, the United States of America noted its preference for Option 2. Echoed by Australia (Committee Member for Oceania), Israel (Committee Member for Europe), Senegal, Congo, and Switzerland, the United States of America emphasized the importance of allowing the Plants Committee the opportunity to review the draft text of the proposed resolution. Noting that forest loss was a pressing issue as referenced by the *Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forest and Land Use*, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed support for the suite of Decisions proposed by the North American region in document SC74 Inf. 21; this support was echoed by Australia and Argentina.

Nigeria noted that the West African region already had a number of Decisions regarding logging to implement, some of which they did not have the capacity to undertake; as such they questioned whether a resolution on CITES and forests would be the best way forward. Nigeria instead expressed a preference for the establishment of a Timber Task Force to strengthen implementation of timber listings in West Africa and reduce trafficking.

The Committee noted the importance of forests and of trade in tree species and agreed that it was premature to submit a resolution on CITES and forests. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat submit draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties that would ensure that the Plants and Standing Committees are involved in the development of any resolution on CITES and forests. The Committee further recommended that the Secretariat consider the points raised by Canada on behalf of the North American region in information document S74 Inf. 21, including activities it could implement during the intersessional period after CoP19 in working towards a resolution.

19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19, Panama City, November 2022): Excerpt of relevant summary records

- CoP19 Com. II Rec. 10 (Rev. 1):

19. CITES and Forests

The Secretariat introduced document CoP19 Doc. 19, which explored development of a resolution on CITES and forests and contained draft decisions in its Annex 1.

Argentina, Brazil, Canada and the United States of America opposed the draft decisions stating that the approach outlined, which focussed on an ecosystem approach, went beyond the scope of CITES which takes a species-level approach. Argentina considered there to be duplication with other agreements, including the United Nations Forum on Forests among others. Brazil noted that document CoP19 Doc. 19 lacked precision. Canada, supported by the United States, drew the attention of Parties to information document CoP19 Inf. 94 that contains proposed amendments to the draft decisions by the North America Region.

Australia, the European Union and its Member States, and Norway generally supported the draft decisions. Australia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the European Union and its Member States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island proposed various amendments to the draft decisions in Annex 1.

The Chair established a working group comprising Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, Gabon, Ghana, India, Mali, Peru, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Chair), United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Center for International Environmental Law, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Forest Based Solutions,

Humane Society International, International Primate Protection League, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, International Wood Products Association, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa (SUCCO-SA), International Fur Federation, TRAFFIC and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

- **CoP19 Com. II. Rec. 16 (Rev. 1)**

19. CITES and forests

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced document CoP19 Com. II. 11 containing draft decisions on CITES and forests.

Australia, Brazil, Chile, the European Union and its Member States, Guatemala, New Zealand, Senegal and the United States of America supported the document. Chile proposed an amendment to paragraph c) of draft decision 19.CC to read: "based on the above, explore options ~~aligned~~consistent with the mandate and the CITES Strategic Vision to:"

The draft decisions presented in CoP19 Com. II. 11 were accepted with the amendment from Chile.

- **CoP19 Plen. Rec. 2 (Rev. 1)**

19. CITES and forests

The draft decisions in document CoP19 Com. II.11, as accepted by Committee II, were adopted.

26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26, Geneva, June 2023): Excerpt of summary record PC26 SR

13. CITES and forests PC26 Doc. 13

The Secretariat introduced document PC26 Doc. 13, containing in Annex 1 the outline of a 'CITES forest compendium' that summarizes existing Resolutions and Decisions and supportive provisions relevant to the implementation of the Convention relevant to forests, focusing on CITES-listed tree-species and in Annex 2 draft terms of reference of an interdisciplinary study to assist decision-making processes on the future of any initiative relating to CITES and forests.

The acting representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Olave), Mexico and the United States of America, echoed by the Species Survival Network, highlighted that the initiative needed to be coherent with the CITES mandate and focus on species and international trade. Mexico indicated that some Resolutions and Decisions were missing from the compendium and that any future work should look at how a species-focus could help an ecosystem approach. Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland wished to propose amendments to the compendium and the terms of reference that they were willing to submit in an in-session working group as called for by the representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley). India raised issues related to nomenclature.

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. Belton 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.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document PC26 Com. 8. The representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) noted that Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* and Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings* were missing from the table in Annex 1 to the document. Canada proposed a new recommendation d) to replace the footnote in Annex 2 to the document. The representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley), Mexico and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland supported this additional recommendation by Canada. Mexico proposed additional language to better align the recommendations and the Annexes with the terminology used in Decisions 19.32 to 19.34.

The Committee agreed the recommendations in document PC26 Com. 8 amended as follows:

- a) The Committee agreed with the report on the 'CITES and forests compendium: CoP19-CoP20' as contained in Annex 1 to the present summary record.
- b) The Committee invited the Secretariat to use the revised draft terms of reference contained in Annex 2 to the present summary record in the process of commissioning the study called for in paragraph b) of Decision 19.32.
- c) The Committee invited the Secretariat to incorporate in its report to the Standing Committee the challenges and opportunities associated with any future initiative relating to CITES-listed forest species, with a particular focus on tree species, and to take into account the discussions at PC25, SC74, CoP19 and PC26.
- d) Concerning the scope of any new initiative on forests and the compendium on CITES and forests, the Committee agreed to continue focusing on CITES-listed tree species for this intersessional period recalling that during the CoP19, it was discussed that, although the scope could eventually necessitate consideration of all forest species, including both fauna and flora, the initial focus should be on tree species.