

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



Joint sessions of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee and  
the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 17 July 2020

Species specific matters

Maintenance of the Appendices

ANNOTATIONS

1. This document has been submitted by Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee working group on annotations.\*

Background

2. At the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18) which directs the Standing Committee to re-establish the working group on annotations, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees.

Terms of Reference

3. At its 72nd meeting (SC72, 2019), the Standing Committee re-established the working group, with the following terms of reference:
  - a) *in close collaboration with ongoing efforts in the Plants Committee, to continue reviewing the appropriateness and practical challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations to the Appendices, including but not limited to those on the tree species, of the agarwood-producing taxa (Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.), Aniba rosaeodora, Bulnesia sarmientoi and orchids, and to identify options to streamline these annotations taking into account the guidance provided by Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on Use of annotations in Appendices I and II;*
  - b) *to develop or refine definitions of terms used in current annotations as appropriate, including but not limited to the terms “musical instruments” and “transformed wood”, and submit them for adoption by the Conference of the Parties and subsequent inclusion in the Interpretation section of the Appendices;*
  - c) *to conduct any work related to annotations directed to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee; and*
  - d) *to prepare reports on progress made in addressing the issues tasked to it and submit them for consideration at the 73rd and 74th meetings of the Standing Committee.*

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\* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

4. The composition of the working group, comprising Parties and Non-Party observers is as follows:

- Chair: Canada.
- SC Member: Chair of the Standing Committee (Ms. Caceres).
- AC Members: Europe (Ms Ziková), North America (Ms. Lougheed).
- PC Members: China (Ms Yan Zeng), Europe (Ms. Moser), North America (Ms. Gnam).
- Parties: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada (Chair), China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union, France, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe;
- IGOs and NGOs: The United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the International Union for Conservation of Nature; Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Forest-Based Solutions, International Association of Violin and Bow Makers, International Fragrance Association, International Wood Products Association, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Jonathan Barzdo, League of American Orchestras, Lewis and Clark – International Environmental Law Project, Madinter Trade, Pearle, Species Survival Network, Taylor Guitars, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute and the World Wildlife Fund.

#### Working Group Discussions

5. Following final confirmation by the Standing Committee of working group members in January 2020, the working group began discussions by email. To date, members of the working group have identified a range of challenges pertaining to the implementation and interpretation of current annotations, including annotations for which development of definitions or interpretive text is required to increase comprehension. For example, the working group has determined that refinement of the interpretation of the term “10 kg shipment” contained in paragraph 8 of the Interpretation section of the Appendices would facilitate interpretation and implementation of Annotation #15.
6. While the initial focus of the working group has been on annotations requiring clarification or amendment, some members of the working group have also suggested considering the consolidation of certain plant annotations with similar structure if it would add clarity and conservation value, clarifying paragraph 7 of the Interpretation section of the Appendices, and consolidating the definitions of terms used in annotations currently located in paragraph c) of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP.18) *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*, with those located in paragraph 8 of the Interpretation section of the Appendices.
7. Additional specific actions have been proposed by the working group to address, under subparagraph a) of its Terms of Reference, several practical challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations of the agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi* and orchids.
8. Working group members also noted that Parties face challenges with respect to annotations associated with listings of fauna in the Appendices. Acknowledging that specific direction from the Animals Committee is required to initiate such work, the working group agreed to await additional instruction.
9. The working group notes the several annotations-related actions ongoing following CoP18, in particular, the process to improve clarity and predictability in the presentation of the Appendices (Decisions 18.331 and 18.332 on *Guidance for the publication of the Appendices*), and implementation of Decisions 18.321 and 18.322 on Annotation #15. The working group will seek opportunities, consistent with the scope of its Terms of Reference, to share information and perspectives with these processes.

#### Recommendations

10. The Animals and Plants Committees are invited to take note of this interim report and to offer comments and guidance regarding the tasks included in the working group Terms of Reference as presented in paragraph 3 of the present document, and in particular, subparagraph c).