



## Side Event Programme – Plants Committee and Joint Session

Room 4 (level -1, CICG Geneva)

### PLANTS COMMITTEE

8 – 11 July 2024

#### Monday, 8 July

12:15-13:45

##### **Botanic Gardens Conservation International: Collaborations to tackle illegal plant trade**

*Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)*

The Internet has accelerated trade in plants and the scale of Internet purchases makes monitoring nearly impossible; it is made even more complicated as Internet trade spans multiple legal jurisdictions. The identification of plant species is problematic which further increases the difficulties in effectively managing illegal plant trade. Without real action, more species will be put at risk.

We will introduce BGCI, who we are and what we do that can support CITES Parties. Presenting our work on the conservation assessment of all tree species globally and our recent report on timber tree species. Showcasing the various tools that BGCI has available, such as PlantSearch, ThreatSearch and the GlobalTreePortal.

We will then focus on the BGCI Campaign on Illegal Plant Trade - a coming together of the world's botanic gardens to tackle illegal plant trade and our work with the IUCN Succulent Plant Illegal Trade Task Force. Preliminary results of stakeholder surveys will be presented. The Task Force targets will be presented and we will discuss how this work can help with the implementation of CITES regulations.

Presenters will be Dr Carly Cowell (BGCI), Ms Megan Barstow (BGCI) and Mr David Newton (TRAFFIC).

17:15-18:45

##### **Sustainable management in tropical rainforests: Practices and Principles**

*Association technique internationale des bois tropicaux (ATIBT)*

Sustainable management of tropical rainforests encompasses a preliminary study of the forest area to be managed, as well as a set of resulting practices and principles aimed at balancing ecological integrity, economic viability, and social equity. Key practices include selective logging, agroforestry, and the establishment of conservation areas. These practices are underpinned by principles that prioritize conservation of biodiversity and environmental forest services, carbon emission reduction, and development support for local communities. Successful management hinges on robust scientific data, strong governance, and international cooperation, ensuring the preservation of these vital ecosystems for future generations while providing economic benefits to local populations.

This side event will explore the principles and regulations that guide the implementation of sustainable management measures across various tropical regions, including Central Africa, West Africa, Amazonia, and Asia. The aim is to identify common principles and effective strategies that can be applied universally while respecting local contexts and needs. The discussion will also highlight the importance of adaptive management practices and continuous monitoring to respond to socio-economic evolution and environmental challenges.

## Tuesday, 9 July

**12:15-13:45**

### **CITES Rosewoods: The global picture**

*CITES Secretariat*

'Rosewood' is a commercial term encompassing a wide range of tropic hardwoods in the Fabaceae (Leguminosae) family, which are harvested and traded primarily for crafting traditional furniture and musical instruments. In response to a decision from the Conference of the Parties (Decision 19.243), the CITES Secretariat has partnered with TRAFFIC to produce the "Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]" (PC27 Doc. 27). The report has allowed to identify a list of rosewoods to prioritize for upcoming capacity building efforts and has also resulted in a set of regionally representative and illustrative case studies on the implementation of the Convention for rosewood tree species.

Building on the outcomes of the rosewood report, the Secretariat is also in the process of developing a study on the conservation effects of the exemptions for rosewood tree species in response to Decision 18.321 on Annotation #15, with a focus on finished musical instruments, parts, and accessories, and the conservation implications thereof.

This side event will provide a unique opportunity to have a global understanding of the upcoming priorities for CITES listed rosewoods. Join us in shaping the future of CITES-listed rosewood tree species!

**17:15-18:45**

### **Implementation of CITES in Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo: What tools for effective dialogue between stakeholders?**

*Cameroon, Association technique internationale des bois tropicaux (ATIBT)*

Effective implementation of CITES in Central Africa, particularly Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo relies on robust dialogue among stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, NGOs, and the private sector. Key tools to facilitate this dialogue include stakeholder forums, digital communication platforms, capacity-building workshops, and transparent reporting systems. These tools help ensure the exchange of information, build trust, and foster collaborative decision-making, ultimately enhancing efforts to protect endangered species and promote sustainable resource use.

## Wednesday, 10 July

**12:15-13:45**

### **CITES and forests: The interdisciplinary study**

*CITES Secretariat*

CITES regulates the international trade of over 800 tree species. These species, such as rosewoods, mahoganies, cedars, and ipe, have enriched our lives with music, medicine, and more.

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Through initiatives like the CITES Tree Species Project (CTSP) and its new phase, the CITES community continues to build capacity and ensure trade meets the legal acquisition findings (LAF) and non-detriment findings (NDF) requirements. The success of these initiatives stems from collaboration with range States, importing Parties, industry stakeholders, the academic community, donors, and partners of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), including CBD, FAO, ITTO and IUFRO.

By promoting legal and sustainable practices, we align sustainable trade in forest products with global goals for forests, biodiversity, and climate. However, there had not been a systematic way to map and document CITES' contributions to forests and global policy...until now.

Following a Conference of the Parties directive (Decision 19.32) the CITES Secretariat, in partnership with CONABIO, is conducting an interdisciplinary study on the Convention's contributions to forest conservation. Join us to explore initiatives on CITES-listed species and provide feedback on this ongoing study. Help us shape the future of CITES and forests!

**17:15-18:45**

**Evaluation of CITES-listed timber imports into the European Union – State of play and discussion of the evaluation criteria under the EU Wildlife trade regulations**

*EU and its Member States*

CITES is implemented in the EU through the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (EU WTRs). In line with Paragraph 1 of Article XIV of the Convention, the EU has adopted stricter domestic measures.

The EU and its MS has been discussing sustainability criteria relevant for the NDF-making process within the EU since 2018. A document has been drafted to guide evaluations of imports of timber into the EU taken from species that are listed on Annex B of EU regulation 338/97.

The guidance document is still in its drafting stage with some key questions and considerations still being discussed. The EU and its MS wishes to present its main considerations for this guidance to the CITES community and invite Parties, observers, and experts to contribute to give their views to the compilation of this guidance.

**Thursday, 11 July**

**12:15-13:45**

No side event scheduled.

**17:15-18:45**

No side event scheduled.

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**JOINT SESSION**  
**12 – 13 July 2024**

**Friday, 12 July**

**12:15-13:45**

**Launch of the CITES Export Quota Tool**

*CITES Secretariat*

The CITES Secretariat will present the new CITES Export Quota Tool before its upcoming launch. The new tool will allow Parties to upload their nationally managed export quotas directly on the CITES website. The side event will include a presentation of the tool by the CITES Secretariat, followed by a hands-on workshop allowing participating Parties to try the new tool to upload their export quotas.

**17:15-18:45**

No side event scheduled.

**Saturday, 13 July**

**12:15-13:45**

**IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Use and application in CITES**

*IUCN*

IUCN invites you to a side event showcasing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and its critical role in the implementation of CITES. This session will highlight how the Red List informs and enhances CITES processes and detail important updates to the Red List since CoP19, including the first global reptile assessment, first global tree assessment and the second global shark and ray reassessment. Furthermore, experts from IUCN, SSC Specialist Groups and Red List Partnership organisations will share insights on how the Red List is helping to guide and build capacity among CITES policy makers and stakeholders through innovative scientific methods, guidance documents and online tools.

Invited speakers:

Richard Jenkins/ Oliver Tallowin - IUCN

Megan Barstow - Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Dan Challender - University of Oxford

Rima Jabado – IUCN SSC Deputy Director and IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group Chair

**17:15-18:45**

No side event scheduled.

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