

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



Thirteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 12-15 August 2003

Working programme for the Plants Committee
until the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS DIRECTED OR RELATED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Annex 1 to this document presents the list, compiled by the Secretariat, of all currently valid Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties directed to the Plants Committee or that may require consulting or informing it.
3. Annex 2 to this document presents the list, compiled by the Secretariat, of all currently valid Decisions of the Conference of the Parties directed to the Plants Committee or that may require its assistance.

VALID RESOLUTIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

No.	Title	Reference
9.24 (Rev. CoP12)	Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II	Fifth RESOLVES; and Annex 4, paragraph C
11.1 (Rev. CoP12)	Establishment of Committees	<i>Regarding the establishment of committees; and Regarding regional representation in the Animals and Plants Committees; and Annex 2</i>
12.8	Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	First DIRECTS

VALID RESOLUTIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE
CONSULTING OR INFORMING THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

No.	Title	Reference
9.19	Guidelines for the registration of nurseries exporting artificially propagated specimens of Appendix-I species	Annex 3, RESOLVES, paragraph d)
9.25 (Rev.)	Inclusion of species in Appendix III	First RECOMMENDS, paragraph c); REQUESTS; and URGES
11.11	Regulation of trade in plants	<i>Regarding education about plant conservation through CITES, RECOMMENDS, paragraph c)</i>
11.19	Identification Manual	DIRECTS, paragraph g)
12.2	Procedure for approval of externally funded projects	Annex 1, paragraph 2. c)

VALID DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

Work programme of the Plants Committee

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 12.9 a) The following topics shall continue to be given full attention and become high priorities for the Plants Committee:
- i) the periodic review of the Appendices (action point 2.1.2 of the Action Plan of the Strategic Vision);
 - ii) the Review of Significant Trade (action point 2.1.3); and
 - iii) the review of heavily traded non-CITES species (action point 2.1.4).
- b) For each of these priorities, specific activities shall be identified in order to determine the funding, resources and time-frame required to address them successfully. Furthermore, indicators should be identified to monitor the status and evolution of these activities closely.
- c) Annex 2 to these Decisions presents the status of the tasks addressed to the Plants Committee and the order of priorities to carry them out.
- 12.10 The Plants Committee shall, during the period between the 12th and 13th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, develop proposals to amend the Appendices on the basis of the *Contribution to an evaluation of tree species using the new CITES Listing Criteria*, published by the Management Authority of the Netherlands in 1998.
- 12.11 In the period between the 12th and 13th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Plants Committee shall:
- a) continue with the implementation of the Action Plan of the Plants Committee resulting from the adoption of the Strategic Plan for the Convention at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - b) apply the mechanisms established by the Standing Committee to review the Appendices. These mechanisms should clearly identify who would draft a proposal for presentation at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties once a review has been finalized and is supported by the Plants Committee. Ideally, one or more range States of the taxa in question would undertake to draft and submit proposals to amend the Appendices but, if this does not happen, the Depositary Government, with the support of the Plants Committee members, should be asked to accomplish this task;
 - c) continue the review of the Appendices with the following priorities: timbers, based on 'Contribution to an evaluation of tree species using the new CITES Listing Criteria', the review of tree species in trade by the Netherlands; and artificially propagated plants traded in large quantities;
 - d) participate in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.8 concerning the review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix-II species;
 - e) review the Resolutions concerning plants and the plant trade to improve their clarity and to facilitate their understanding through guides or other materials;
 - f) support the Secretariat in its work on the development of a programme to assist Scientific Authorities in making non-detriment findings in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Convention;

- g) take responsibility for the scientific analysis of problems related to the international trade in plants in order to provide scientifically-based findings for the drafting of proposals to be presented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
- h) collaborate, when requested, in the preparation of identification materials for plants for the identification manual;
- i) collaborate with the Nomenclature Committee, when requested, in the preparation of checklists and in addressing taxonomic questions concerning plants;
- j) strengthen the work of the regional representatives regarding the updating of regional directories;
- k) establish links with industry and traders to promote projects on sustainable use of plants and plant resources in collaboration with local communities of exporting countries;
- l) analyse the relationship between *in situ* conservation and *ex situ* production of plants;
- m) explain the role of Appendix II and identify good case studies for a better understanding of listing in this Appendix; and
- n) establish permanent relations with the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) and other issues of interest to the Plants Committee.

12.12 The Plants Committee shall analyse the GSPC adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in detail and links with its activities and collaborations, especially regarding target xi 'No species of wild flora endangered by international trade'.

Regional meetings of the Plants Committee

Directed to the Plants Committee

12.13 If funding is not available for separate regional meetings, they should be organized in conjunction with seminars or other related meetings organized by the Secretariat. One day could be dedicated to deal with regional issues on plants. The regional representatives should prepare the agenda and chair the regional meeting.

Regional directories

Directed to the Plants Committee

12.14 The regional representatives should update the regional directories annually.

Technical implementation issues

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

12.24 The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) continue to work on technical implementation issues of a primarily scientific nature;
- b) develop recommendations on how the Committees could assist the Standing Committee in providing advice on technical implementation issues; and
- c) report to the Standing Committee by its 50th meeting.

***Aquilaria* species**

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 12.66 The DNA work currently being undertaken by the National Herbarium of the Netherlands under contract with the Secretariat should continue and should be aimed at investigating the options for the development of identification tools based on molecular analysis.
- 12.67 More detailed information on the distribution of species should be compiled and assessed as an aid to better trade reporting, using point-of-origin data.
- 12.68 As the trade is in the readily identifiable product of agarwood, studies should include all known agarwood-producing taxa and not only the CITES-listed species *A. malaccensis*.
- 12.69 IUCN should be invited to re-evaluate the threatened status of all agarwood-producing taxa according to the 2000 IUCN criteria.
- 12.70 A standard method for determining the population status of CITES-listed agarwood-producing taxa should be developed to assist Scientific Authorities in advising that exports will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV of the Convention. Such a standard method could be used to verify populations across all agarwood-producing areas, and allow not only the setting of appropriate quotas but also the verification of species being harvested.
- 12.71 Further field research should be conducted on trade dynamics, including in the major import and re-exporting States and territories (Japan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Taiwan, province of China, and the United Arab Emirates).

***Guaiacum* species**

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 11.114 (Rev. CoP12) The Plants Committee shall assess the status of *Guaiacum* species in the wild, the status in trade and threats to the species.

Review of Significant Trade

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 12.73 The review of plants in Madagascar shall be conducted by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (the Scientific Authority for plants of the United Kingdom). The Royal Botanic Gardens is recommended to undertake a workshop in Madagascar, if possible, to discuss the results of the review.
- 12.74 In the period following the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the following taxa shall be reviewed: *Prunus africana*, *Aquilaria malaccensis*, *Pericopsis elata* and *Aloe* species from East Africa used as extracts.

Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 12.75 The Animals and Plants Committees shall draft terms of reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, to be considered at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II

Directed to the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees

- 12.97 The Conference of the Parties adopted the following terms of reference for the review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II, to be completed by the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- a) The revised version of Annex 4 of document CoP12 Doc. 58 compiled by the Chairman of the Criteria Working Group (CWG) formed by Committee I during the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (the CWG12 Chairman's text) will form a basis for further discussion, in recognition of the substantial and constructive efforts contributed by the Parties, the intersessional Criteria Working Group set up at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, FAO, the Criteria Working Group formed during the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and others.
 - b) The Animals and Plants Committees shall coordinate an open, transparent and broadly consultative process involving all Parties to consider further revision of the CWG12 Chairman's text.
 - c) The process should include reviews of selected taxa, to ensure that the applicability of the criteria and guidelines to a broad array of taxa is assessed, and results of these reviews should be made widely available.
 - d) The Animals and Plants Committees shall report to the Standing Committee before a date to be established by the Standing Committee.

Annotations for medicinal plants in the Appendices

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 11.118 The Plants Committee shall consider the annotations in Appendices I and II relating to species of plants used for medicinal purposes and shall make recommendations to clarify the annotations, for consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
(Rev. CoP12)

Trade in alien species

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 10.86 Cooperation shall be established with the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group in the implementation of their document "IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss Due to Biological Invasion", of which parts are related to the trade in and transport of live specimens of species of wildlife.

Annex 2

ACTIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE
pursuant to the CITES Action Plan and Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP12)
concerning the establishment of Committees

Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP12) Annex 2	Action point number	Description	Status
CURRENT ACTIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE (PC) WITH HIGH PRIORITY AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PRIORITY ACTIONS <i>(indicated in bold and italics)</i>			
a)		Provide advice and guidance to the Conference of the Parties, the other committees, working groups and the Secretariat, on all matters relevant to international trade in plant species included in the Appendices, which may include proposals to amend the Appendices.	Ongoing work of the PC.
	<i>4.6.1</i>	<i>As part of Objective 4.6 to strengthen knowledge, promote awareness and facilitate enforcement on flora issues in CITES:</i> <i>Ensure that adequate attention is given to plant conservation in all activities related to the implementation of this Plan.</i>	<i>Identify the activities.</i>
f)	2.1.3	Continue the Review of Significant Trade as initiated by the Parties in Resolution Conf. 8.9. (Rev.) ¹ .	<u>Taxon based:</u> – Cycads – <i>Prunus africana</i> – <i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i> – <i>Aloe</i> spp. for extract from Eastern Africa – <i>Pericopsis alata</i> <u>Country based:</u> – Madagascar
h)	2.1.2	Regularly review the Appendices to ensure that listed taxa satisfy the relevant criteria.	<u>Done for:</u> – Orchidaceae <u>Ongoing for:</u> – Appendix-I Cactaceae

¹ Replaced by Resolution Conf. 12.8.

Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP12) Annex 2	Action point number	Description	Status
g)	2.1.4	Evaluate trade and biological information on currently unlisted species subject to significant international trade to determine whether they would qualify for and benefit from CITES listing.	Parties have started to look at the following unlisted taxa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Harpagophytum</i> spp. – <i>Guaiaacum</i> spp. – <i>Taxus</i> spp. other than <i>T. wallichiana</i> – Tree species
e)	1.7.2	Develop regional directories that list the botanists and zoologists in each region who are experts in CITES-listed species.	Done for all regions. Future activities: find mechanisms for coordinated update and improvement, and for dissemination on the CITES website of the Secretariat.
FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WITH LOWER PRIORITY, NO ORDER WAS SET (potential future actions indicated in bold and italics)			
b)		Assist the Nomenclature Committee in the development and maintenance of a standardized list of species names.	Lead with Nomenclature Committee. Ongoing work of the PC.
c)		Assist the Secretariat with the implementation of the Resolution on the Identification Manual and Decisions related to it and, upon request of the Secretariat, review proposals to amend the Appendices with regard to possible identification problems.	Lead with the Secretariat. Ongoing work of the PC.
d)	1.7.1	Develop a manual specifying the obligations and procedures of the Scientific Authorities in order to encourage the development of specific training courses for them.	Lead with the Secretariat. Cooperate with the Secretariat on the implementation of its programme of work to assist Scientific Authorities. Regional workshops organized by the Secretariat with participation of the regional representatives of the PC, when possible.
e)	1.7.3	Communicate to the Parties the importance and advisability of including plants experts within the structure of the Scientific Authorities.	To establish mechanisms with the SC.
i)		Make available advice on management techniques and procedures for range States requesting such assistance.	To establish mechanisms with the SC.

Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP12) Annex 2	Action point number	Description	Status
j)		Draft resolutions on matters related to animals or plants, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.	Ongoing work of the PC.
k)		Perform any other functions that may be entrusted to them by the CoP or the SC.	Chairman and/or members selected by Chairman of PC to attend technical meetings as experts such as in the Criteria Working Group.
l)		Report to the CoP and, if so requested, to the SC, on the activities they have carried out or supervised between meetings of the CoP.	PC Chairman report to SC meetings.
	1.1.6 (new for PC)	<i>Develop further regulations to prevent unnecessary loss during harvesting, storage and transportation of live [...] plants.</i>	<i>PC working group preparing guidelines to improve chances of survival of live specimens during transportation.</i>
	2.2.2	Encourage Parties to consult with the Animals Committee and Plants Committee as appropriate to assist in the preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices.	To establish mechanisms with the SC. Ongoing work of the PC.
	2.2.3	For identified commodities, develop standardized units of measure for permits, trade analysis and reporting.	Ongoing work of the PC.
	4.3.2	Participate actively at scientific meetings and conferences, and encourage participation in CITES issues by the scientific community.	PC members and observers at PC meetings attend scientific meetings and explain CITES issues.

Establishment of an Export Quota Working Group

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 12.17
- a) The Standing Committee shall establish an intersessional Export Quota Working Group with the goal of developing guidelines for Parties to establish, implement, monitor and report national export quotas for CITES-listed taxa. The Standing Committee shall consult extensively with the Animals and Plants Committees to fulfil the following Terms of Reference.
 - b) The Terms of Reference of the working group should include the following:
 - i) particular issues to be addressed should include the problems identified in Annex 2 of document CoP12 Doc. 50.2 and additional suggestions or submissions from the Parties;
 - ii) representatives with expertise in this issue, particularly from Parties with export quotas and from key importing countries, should be invited to participate. The Secretariat shall be invited to participate in discussions. The Chairman of the Working Group may invite representatives of non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations with particular expertise in this issue to participate in the Working Group;
 - iii) an interim report by the Working Group to the Standing Committee on its progress toward achievement of its goals should be completed by 31 March 2004; and
 - iv) a final report, which may include a draft resolution(s) or decision(s) of the Conference of the Parties, should be submitted by the Working Group to the Standing Committee for consideration at its last meeting before the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee shall submit it to the Conference for consideration at that meeting.

Harpagophytum species

Directed to Parties

- 12.63
- Range States of *Harpagophytum* species that authorize the export of specimens of these species should provide an update on implementation of the policies and management programmes mentioned in the reports submitted in fulfilment of Decision 11.63 (cf. document PC12 Doc. 8.1) for consideration by the Plants Committee at its 14th meeting. Reports on progress with the implementation of this decision should be provided to the Secretariat 90 days before the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee for inclusion by the Secretariat in a report to that meeting.
- 12.64
- Range States and importing States should negotiate with the devil's claw industry to obtain support for management programmes that promote sustainable use and the development of communities that are managing the resource. Assistance in this regard could, if necessary, be requested from the Plants Committee and the Secretariat. Reports on progress with the implementation of this decision should be provided to the Secretariat 90 days before the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee for inclusion by the Secretariat in a report to that meeting.

- 12.65 Range States should explore how processes and mechanisms in other international treaties can be used to provide support for sustainable resource use and fair trade, and should request the CITES Secretariat to provide assistance if required. Reports on progress with the implementation of this decision should be provided to the Secretariat 90 days before the 14th meeting of the Plants Committee for inclusion by the Secretariat in a report to that meeting.

Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species

Directed to the Secretariat

- 12.91 The Secretariat is encouraged to continue to develop and refine its capacity-building programme dealing with the scientific basis for development, establishment, and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species, and shall, as appropriate, consult with the Animals Committee and Plants Committee on this programme. This consultation may include:
- a) solicitation of input from the Committees regarding materials used in the capacity-building programme for voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species; and
 - b) a request for new information from the Committees on methods used for establishing quotas and for relevant case studies on the establishment of quotas.