

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 April 2008

DEFINITION OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 14th meeting (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 14.142 on *Agarwood-producing taxa*, directed to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat as follows:

In consultation with relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Plants Committee in consultation with the Secretariat should draft a definition of non-timber forest products to be considered at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. This Decision arose from the Experts Group Meeting on Agarwood: Capacity-building Workshop for improving implementation and enforcement of the listing of *Aquilaria malaccensis* and other Agarwood-producing species, held in November 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A detailed report and list of participants are available from the CITES Secretariat upon request. At the same meeting, participants identified the need to define non-timber forest products (NTFP) in order to ensure that the agarwood produced from plantations could be considered an NTFP artificially produced and thus expedite the process of issuing export permits by the Management Authorities concerned.
4. This workshop recommended the amendment of the CITES definition of 'artificially propagated' in the context of plantations and the recommendation was put forward at CoP14 in document CoP14 Doc. 8.3 (Rev. 1) on *Report of the Chairman of the Plants Committee to the Conference of the Parties*.
5. At CoP14, the Conference of the Parties amended Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP13) [now Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP14)] on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species* and recommended that:

Regarding the definition of 'artificially propagated'

- g) *timber and non-timber products derived from trees grown in monospecific plantations be considered as being artificially propagated in accordance with the definition contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP14);*
6. In order to draft the definition required in Decision 14.142, the Committee should determine why and how agarwood can be classified as a NTFP.
7. It is worth noting that while Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP14) refers now to 'non-timber products', Decision 14.142 refers to a definition of 'non-timber forest products'. The workshop held in Kuala Lumpur recognised the need to separate plantation products from products of wild origin. When drafting a definition of NTFP that would cover agarwood, the Committee should also consider whether a plantation can be considered a forest.

8. The Secretariat invites the Committee to study information document PC17 Inf. 1 on *What isn't an NTFP?*. This paper presents useful background information for the work of the Committee. It introduces the terminology and what should and what should not be included in the definition of NTFP.¹
9. The Global Network for Forest Science Cooperation has stressed that a variety of terms have been used to describe the multitude of products that come from forests that are from plants, but not from timber. The FAO describes them as “non-wood forest products” and includes bush meat within this term. In many cases, FAO continues to explain, these terms do not accurately or adequately describe these products. They often lead to confusion and impede efforts to incorporate the resources into forest management. The Committee is invited to bear this in mind while drafting the definition.
10. The Committee can also consider the list of definitions of NTFP in the Annex to this document. Note that a representative of FAO participated in the experts meeting held in Malaysia in 2006. During the meeting he mentioned the FAO definition of NTFP (first of the list in the Annex) and participants agreed that this could be an appropriate definition to be used in CITES.
11. The Committee is invited to consult with relevant IGOs such as FAO and CBD, in drafting this definition and decide on how it should do this consultation. The Secretariat invited FAO and ITTO to participate at the 17th meeting of the Plants Committee and both organizations are therefore invited to share with the Committee any experiences on the matter under discussion. Furthermore, IUCN and ITTO have informed the Secretariat that they have not adopted a formal definition of NTFP even though the matter has been discussed in their forums.
12. Once the Committee agrees on a definition of NTFP it should decide on the best way to proceed to submit it for consideration at CoP15.

¹ *This paragraph was amended by the Secretariat in November 2010 to remove the reference to an unpublished article that was later denounced as a plagiarism by the author of the original article.*

SOME DEFINITIONS OF "NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCT"²

1. FAO: definition of NTFP revised in 1995 based on a series of regional and global consultations:

Non-wood forest products consist of goods of biological origin other than wood, derived from forest, other wooded land and trees outside forests.

2. De Beer and Mcdermott (1989):

The term "Non Timber Forest Products" (NTFPs) encompasses all biological materials other than timber, which are extracted from forests for human use.

3. Chandresekharan (1992):

Non-wood forest products included all goods of biological origin, as well as services, derived from forest or any land under similar use, and exclude wood in all its forms.

4. Definition by Mathur and Shiva (1996):

All products obtained from plants of forest origin and host plant species yielding products in association with insects and animals or their parts and items of mineral origin except timber, may be defined as Minor Forest Products (MFP) or Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP) or Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP).

5. M. P. Shiva (1998):

All usufructs/utility products of plant, animal and mineral origins except timber obtainable from forests or afforested / domesticated land areas are termed as Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) or Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP)/Minor Forest Products (MFP). Services for tourism & recreation including wildlife watching are also attributed to MFP resources in the modern concept.

6. FAO: Forestry Topic Report No. 4

NTFP/NWFP/MFPs have been defined by FAO as all goods for commercial, industrial or subsistence use derived from forests and their biomass, which can be sustainably extracted from a forest ecosystem in quantities and ways that do not downgrade the plant community basic reproductive functions.

² *This Annex was amended by the Secretariat in November 2010 to remove the reference to an unpublished article that was later denounced as a plagiarism by the author of the original article.*