

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 17-21 March 2009

STRATEGIC PLANNING: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK PROGRAMME
OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been submitted by the Chairman of the Plants Committee^{*}.
2. During the 17th meeting of the Plants Committee a document was adopted on the establishment of Plants Committee priorities by CoP15.
3. The various Resolutions and Decisions that require Plants Committee attention were assigned to either a High, Medium or Low priority and activities were allocated to PC members to act as a contact point for that activity.
4. The Plants Committee members will report at this meeting on the progress made with the matters allocated to them as shown in the annexed table.
5. Their reports will be compiled at the same meeting in order to draft the Chairman's report for CoP15 under agenda item 17.

^{*} *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.*

PLANTS COMMITTEE PLANNING ADOPTED AT PC17

Resolution Conf.	Title	Priority High	Priority Medium	Priority Low	In charge
9.24 (Rev. CoP14)	Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II	X			Chair
11.1 (Rev. CoP14)	Establishment of committees	X			Chair
12.8 (Rev. CoP13)	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	X			Nomenclature
14.1 Para a) & b)	Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2009-2011			X	Chair
14.1 Para c)	Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2009-2011	X			Chair
14.2 Annex	CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013	X			Chair
14.3 Annex	CITES compliance procedures		X		Chair
14.4	Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber	X			North America
14.8	Periodic Review of the Appendices	X			Europe alternate (JL)
INSTRUCTIONS IN RESOLUTIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE CONSULTING OR INFORMING THE PLANTS COMMITTEE					
9.19 (Rev. CoP13) Annex 3	Guidelines for the registration of nurseries exporting artificially propagated specimens of Appendix-I species			X	Europe (MS)
9.25 (Rev. CoP14)	Inclusion of species in Appendix III	X			CSA&C (DR)
10.21 (Rev. CoP14)	Transport of live specimens			X	Europe (MS)
11.11 (Rev. CoP14)	Regulation of trade in plants			X	Chair
11.19	Identification Manual	X			Nomenclature
12.2 Annex 1	Procedure for approval of externally funded projects	X			Vice Chair
12.8 (Rev. CoP13)	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	X			Nomenclature

DECISIONS DIRECTED ONLY TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE				
Directed to the PC	Priority High	Priority Medium	Priority Low	In charge
<p>14.15 The Plants Committee shall collaborate with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially regarding target xi "No species of wild flora endangered by international trade" and other issues related to flora species included in the CITES Appendices, and the Secretariat shall communicate the results of its work in the context of its Memorandum of Understanding with the CBD Secretariat.</p>	X			Chair (delegating to MX)
<p><i>Directed to the range States of Cistanche deserticola, Dioscorea deltoidea, Nardostachys grandiflora, Picrorhiza kurrooa, Pterocarpus santalinus, Rauvolfia serpentina and Taxus wallichiana, to the regional representatives for Asia on the Plants Committee and to the Secretariat</i></p> <p>14.20 The bodies to which this Decision is directed should ensure:</p> <p>a) implementation of regionally coordinated actions to improve the management of and prevent illegal trade in the seven species, including, <i>inter alia</i>, measures to combat illegal trade, regional capacity-building workshops and harmonization of regulations and legislation; and</p> <p>b) submission of progress reports at the 17th and 18th meetings of the Plants Committee.</p>		X		Asia
<p>14.40 The Plants Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and assess the usefulness to its programme of work of reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II. It shall report its findings to the Standing Committee at its 58th meeting.</p>	X			Europe alternate (JL)
<p>14.130 The Plants Committee shall:</p> <p>a) analyse the amendments of annotations #1, #4 and #8 of proposal CoP14 Prop. 26 in order to decide whether there is merit in further developing and refining them; and</p> <p>b) if appropriate, prepare a proposal on annotations for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	X			North America
<p>14.131 The Plants Committee shall:</p> <p>a) analyse trade data and conservation status of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species (except those species currently included in Appendix I);</p> <p>b) prepare a revised list of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) for inclusion in Appendix II;</p> <p>c) prepare proposals for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that provide for the deletion of <i>Euphorbia</i> species from Appendix II that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists; and</p> <p>d) determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II.</p>	X			Europe alternate (JL)
<p>14.133 Countries of export and import should make recommendations and prepare identification material on further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of</p>	X			Asia (WT)

DECISIONS DIRECTED ONLY TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE				
Directed to the PC	Priority High	Priority Medium	Priority Low	In charge
Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively. The results shall be sent to the Plants Committee, which shall evaluate them and adopt the appropriate measures.				
14.134 The Plants Committee shall monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and shall report on the issue at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.	X			Asia (WT) & North America
14.135 The Plants Committee shall: a) develop principles, criteria and indicators for the making of non-detriment findings for wild specimens of high-priority taxa such as timber species, <i>Prunus africana</i> and other medicinal plants; and b) before the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, support the organization of a workshop on non-detriment findings for tree species.	X			Chair, Vice Chair, Africa (BK). Noting that para b) depend son completion of a)
14.142 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.		X		Vice Chair
14.143 On the basis of the work on non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species, that has been developed by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and the Secretariat, the Plants Committee, in consultation with range States and the Secretariat, shall develop principles, criteria and indicators for the formulation of non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species.	X			Vice Chair
14.145 The Conference of the Parties adopted the 'Action plan for the control of international trade in bigleaf mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>)', attached as Annex 3 to these Decisions.	X			CSA&C (DR)
14.146 The Conference of the Parties adopted the Action Plan attached as Annex 4 to these Decisions, to complete knowledge on the status of conservation of, trade in and sustainable use of <i>Cedrela odorata</i> , <i>Dalbergia retusa</i> , <i>Dalbergia granadillo</i> and <i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i> .	X			CSA&C (DR)

DECISIONS DIRECTED ONLY TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE				
Directed to the PC	Priority High	Priority Medium	Priority Low	In charge
14.147 The Plants Committee shall discuss hybrids and cultivars, and other entities recognized in horticulture (e.g. forms and varieties), and provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting regarding their treatment under the Convention, particularly with regard to Article I, paragraph (b).	X			North America
14.148 a) The Plants Committee shall review and, if appropriate, draft amendments to the annotations to the tree species listed in Appendices II and III and/or shall prepare clear definitions for the terms used in those annotations in order to facilitate their use and understanding by CITES authorities, enforcement officers, exporters and importers. b) The amended annotations shall focus on the articles that initially appear in international trade as exports from the range States and on those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource. c) The Plants Committee shall draft, if necessary, proposals to amend Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP14) and/or to amend the Appendices accordingly so that the Depositary Government may submit them on its behalf for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.	X			North America
14.150 The Plants Committee shall, during the period between the 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, consider the opportunity to develop proposals to amend the Appendices on the basis of the <i>Contribution to an Evaluation of Tree Species</i> using the new CITES-listing criteria, and the results of regional workshops on sustainable management of timber species in 2007 and 2008.	X			Europe (MS)

DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS COMMITTEE				
Directed to the AC and PC	Priority High	Priority Medium	Priority Low	In charge
<p>13.67 (Rev. CoP14) The Conference of the Parties has adopted the <i>Terms of reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade</i> contained in Annex 1 to these Decisions.</p>	X			Nomenclature
<p>14.7The Animals and Plants Committees should evaluate the need to further review and revise the terms of reference in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) and as necessary revise the terms of reference for presentation at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>			X	Vice Chair
<p>14.8The Animals and Plants Committees shall carry out internal monitoring through the regional reports and the reports of the chairmen of the scientific committees to the Conference of the Parties, and Table 3 of document SC54 Inf. 5 can be appended to the format for the preparation of regional members regional reports.</p>		X		Vice Chair
<p>14.50 The Animals and Plants Committees shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the proceedings resulting from the expert workshop on non-detriment findings under the terms set out in Decision 14.49; and b) prepare, for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a discussion paper and, if considered appropriate, a draft resolution on the making of non-detriment findings. 	X			Chair, Vice Chair
<p>14.52 The Animals and Plants Committees shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the CITES trade data maintained by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre to determine the species for which source code R has been used for trade, and the countries where this has occurred; b) survey countries applying source code R to species other than crocodylians transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to ranching, and obtain information on the management programme for the species to which this source code is applied; c) review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching (i.e. primarily focused on the harvest of specimens representing early life stages for rearing in captivity) and identify common elements in these programmes; d) based on this review, propose a definition of ranching and the use of source code R for CITES purposes; and e) report at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this decision. 			X	North America

DECISIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE THE PC ASSISTANCE				
Directed to the Secretariat	Priority High	Priority Medium	Priority Low	In charge
<p>13.15 (Rev. CoP14) The Secretariat shall publish on the CITES website forthcoming deadlines relevant to the work of the Animals and Plants Committees.</p>	X			Chair
<p>13.16 (Rev. CoP14) The Secretariat shall explore funding options to ensure that the regional representatives and the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees from developing countries and countries with economies in transition can attend the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and fully participate in the committee work.</p>	X			Chair
<p>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:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>	X			Chair
<p>14.18 In close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Secretariat shall, in the implementation of its memoranda of understanding or cooperation, or programmes of work with other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, continue to consider ways of harmonizing the taxonomy and nomenclature of species included in their respective provisions. The Secretariat shall report and make recommendations on this matter at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	X			Nomenclature
<p>14.60 The Secretariat shall establish an electronic working group, which, in consultation with the Plants Committee and relevant intergovernmental organizations, shall:</p> <p>a) solicit and compile existing procedures adopted by the Parties for:</p> <p>i) identification of CITES-listed and look-alike timber species; and</p> <p>ii) physical inspection of shipments of CITES-listed timber species; and</p> <p>b) indicate how those procedures can be accessed by CITES authorities.</p> <p>On that basis, the working group should identify possible elements for further work and report at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee.</p>	X			Europe (MS)