

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

Non-detriment findings

AGARWOOD-PRODUCING SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the regional representative of Oceania (Chairman of the working group PC17 WG7 on agarwood).
2. At its 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14, The Hague, 2007), the Parties adopted Decision 14.143, directed to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat on Agarwood-producing taxa as follows:

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.

3. At its 17th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC17, Geneva, 2008), a working group (PC17 WG7) was convened to implement this Decision. WG7 members: Kuwait, Malaysia, Thailand, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC and TRAFFIC. PC17 WG7 was asked to liaise with the Chairs of the timber and the medicinal plants NDF WG's in order to maintain a common understanding of the key issues – in particular the definitions of principles, criteria and indicators.
4. PC17 WG7 agreed that document PC17 Inf. 4 represented a considerable body of work on agarwood NDF methodology and that it was a good basis for moving towards the implementation of Decision 14.143.
5. As agarwood is primarily utilized as a medicinal and aromatic plant, the working group recommended that there should be an assessment of the possible relevance and contribution of the document, 'International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP)', for the development of an agarwood NDF methodology.
6. PC17 WG7 further agreed that the agarwood specific outputs from the forthcoming International NDF Workshop being hosted by Mexico should be assessed in terms of meeting the requirements of Decision 14.143.
7. Mexico organised an International Experts Workshop on NDF methodology which was held in Cancun from 17-22 November 2008. The Plants Committee was represented during the planning phase and through attendance at the workshop by Margarita Clemente, Greg Leach, Beatrice Khayota, Dora Rivera, Noel McGough, Mariana Mites, Tukirin Partomihardo and Adrienne Sinclair.

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8. The Workshop established four working groups (WG) on plants:
 - WG 1: Trees;
 - WG 2: Perennial plants;
 - WG 3: Succulents and cycads; and
 - WG 4: Geophytes and epiphytes.
9. The working group reports are provided in document PC18 Doc 14.2.
10. Two of the working group reports (Trees and Perennial plants) are relevant to the discussion on agarwood NDF. The trees working group had two specific case studies on agarwood prepared by Ms Lillian Swee Lian Chua (Malaysia) and Mr Tukirin Partomihardo (Indonesia). The Perennial plants WG had an emphasis on medicinal plants and also adopted a very generic approach which should be applicable to any CITES listed plant species.
11. The perennial plants WG has adopted those elements from the ISSC-MAP document that are relevant to the CITES NDF process.
12. Hence these two working group reports from the Cancun workshop should provide the basis for the agarwood NDF along with the information in the report "*Developing a Non-Detriment Finding Methodology for Agarwood-Producing Taxa*", compiled by TRAFFIC for the CITES Secretariat (Inf. PC17.4).
13. The Chairs of the PC17 NDF WGs have been liaising and developing a set of common principles that can apply generically to any plant NDF process. These will be presented at PC18.
14. The terms 'criteria' and 'indicator' were not used by any working group in Cancun. In the Perennial plants working group report, the term 'criteria', within the context of elaborating a NDF, best correlates with the term 'factors' used in the risk assessment or factors which constitute sustainability. It is suggested that the elements used in assessing the factors/criteria are the starting point for phrasing indicators for the fulfilment of the criterion.
15. PC17 WG7 will continue to work on the draft document in the time leading up to PC18. The WG will seek input from PC and endorsement of the document which will then be drafted for CoP15.