

List of 2020-2021 intersessional working groups
established by the Plants Committee

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Identification of timber and other wood products

Membership: (22 Members and Parties; 8 Observers)

- Co-chairs: Rosemarie Gnam (representative for North America), César Augusto Beltetón Chacón (representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean), and Yan Zeng (alternate representative for Asia);
- Members: Ali Mahamane (representative for Africa) and Damian Wrigley (representative for Oceania);
- Parties: Argentina, Canada, China, Colombia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and
- Observers: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale (CSFI), Environmental Investigation Agency USA, Forest Based Solutions, Forest Trends, Species Survival Network (SSN), TRAFFIC and World Resources Institute.

Mandate:

- a) consider the progress reported by the Secretariat in document [PC25 Doc. 19](#) on the implementation of Decisions 18.140 to 18.143 and 16.58 (Rev. CoP18), and any other relevant documentation produced by the Secretariat or published on the CITES website;
- b) determine gaps and complementarities in various tools and knowledge sources for timber identification, such as existing field identification guidelines and keys, and on their availability and usefulness;
- c) develop standardized information templates and other tools that could be used by Parties to facilitate information sharing on the content and status of wood sample collections, and exchange with research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities;
- d) assist Parties in identifying existing laboratory services for the identification of timber and wood products and in strengthening screening and forensic capacity to identify CITES-listed tree species in trade;
- e) determine methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties; and
- f) prepare an update on progress in the implementation of Decision 18.140 for the Standing Committee and draft recommendations for CoP19, as appropriate, for consideration at the next meeting of the Plants Committee.

Rosewood tree species

Membership: (20 Members and Parties; 14 Observers)

Co-chairs: César Augusto Beltetón Chacón (representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean), Ursula Moser (representative for Europe), and Yan Zeng (alternate representative for Asia);

Members: Tika Dewi Atikah (representative for Asia), Hesiquio Benitez Díaz (alternate representative for North America) and Damian Wrigley (representative for Oceania);

Parties: Canada, China, Colombia, European Union, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Namibia, Republic of Korea, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Chambre Syndicale de la Facture Instrumentale (CSFI), Environmental Investigation Agency USA, Forest Based Solutions, Forest Trends, International Association of Violin and Bow Makers, League of American Orchestras, Species Survival Network, Taylor Guitars, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute and World Wildlife Fund.

Mandate:

- a) consider the progress reported in document [PC25 Doc. 26.1](#), the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2020/032 in information document [PC25 Inf. 6](#), and the compilation and analysis thereof in paragraphs 8 to 11 of document PC25 Doc. 26.1;
- b) consider the findings and recommendations contained in document [PC25 Doc. 26.2](#) on *International trade in the African Pterocarpus rosewood species*;
- c) provide recommendations in preparation for the study and international workshop referred to under Decision 18.234, including recommendations to organize it under the framework of the 2nd international workshop on guidance for making NDFs, as per Decision 18.134 on *Non-detriment findings*;
- d) should external resources become available for undertaking the study and organizing the international workshop, consider the final study and outcomes of the workshop as they become available, and draft recommendations as per paragraph b) of Decision 18.236; and
- e) report the outcomes of its work to the Plants Committee at its next meeting, including draft recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

African tree species

Membership: (15 Members and Parties; 11 Observers)

Co-chairs: Ali Mahamane (representative for Africa), Beatrice Khayota (alternate representative for Africa), and Daniel Wolf (alternate representative for Europe);

Parties: Cameroon, China, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Germany, Madagascar, Namibia, Netherlands, Singapore, Uganda and United States of America; and

Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale (CSFI), Environmental Investigation Agency USA, Forest Based Solutions, Forest Trends, League of American Orchestras, Taylor Guitars, TRAFFIC and World Wildlife Fund.

Mandate:

- a) work primarily via electronic means;
- b) seek to facilitate the circulation and exchange of experiences among the range States, importing countries and other stakeholders on the sustainable use and management of CITES-listed African tree species;
- c) consider the overview of African tree species presented in the Annex to document [PC25 Doc. 28](#);
- d) consider the Secretariat's recommendations on *Prunus africana*, contained in document [PC25 Doc. 27](#), and draft a report on the implementation of Decision 18.260, paragraph a);
- e) seek to identify gaps and weaknesses in the capacity of range States of African tree species to effectively implement CITES for these species;
- f) examine how the processes currently used by countries to develop annual export quotas compare with the processes recommended under CITES and develop recommendations for reconciling them;
- g) explore the conversion factors used for different commodities (e.g., logs, sawn wood, bark) and develop recommendations for improving such processes;
- h) seek to identify other African tree species that may benefit from inclusion in the CITES Appendices;
- i) bring any issues related to implementation and enforcement of CITES listings for African tree species to the attention of the Plants Committee; and
- j) report its findings and recommendations to the next meeting of the Plants Committee.

Neotropical tree species

Membership: (12 Members and Parties; 10 Observers)

Co-chairs: Fabiola Rocío Núñez Neyra (representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean), César Augusto Belletón Chacón (representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean), and Paulo J.L. Carmo (representative for Europe);

Members: Hesiquio Benitez Díaz (alternate representative for North America);

Parties: Argentina, China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Peru and United States of America; and

Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Chambre Syndicale de la Facture Instrumentale (CSFI), Forest Based Solutions, Forest Trends, League of American Orchestras, Species Survival Network, Taylor Guitars and World Wildlife Fund.

Mandate:

- a) agree on a priority list of CITES-listed neotropical tree species, and decide on associated activities that will most significantly contribute to the implementation of the mandates in Resolutions relating to neotropical tree species and that are addressed to the Plants Committee, taking into account the overview of neotropical tree species contained in the Annex to document [PC25 Doc. 29](#);
- b) in the process of developing the priority list referred to in paragraph a) above, special consideration shall be given to neotropical tree species-listings in effect since the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; to neotropical tree species that are currently under the Review of Significant Trade (or other compliance mechanisms of the Convention); as well as those that are known to represent implementation challenges particularly in matters related to the formulation of non-detriment findings and identification of specimens in trade;
- c) exchange experiences, information and skills between countries on the priority neotropical tree species;
- d) report on progress made in the management and conservation of, and trade in, priority neotropical tree species, as well as on lessons learned, including on the generation of studies on the status of their populations; implementation of traceability and chain of custody systems, which strengthen the transparency and sustainable trade in timber species; and creation of materials for identification and training in the different existing methods, with an emphasis on those that can be used easily by authorities; and
- e) report the outcomes of its work to the Plants Committee at its next meeting, including draft recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species

Membership: (26 Members and Parties; 6 Observers)

Co-chairs: Byoung Yoon Lee (representative for Asia), Yan Zeng (alternate representative for Asia), and Daniel Wolf (alternate representative for Europe);

Members: Ali Mahamane (representative for Africa), Ursula Moser (representative for Europe) and Rosemarie Gnam (representative for North America);

Parties: Argentina, Austria, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Forest Trends, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC and World Wildlife Fund.

Mandate:

- a) review the Secretariat's report on progress in the implementation of Decision 18.300, as contained in document [PC25 Doc. 30](#) and its Annexes;
- b) in line with Decision 18.302, take into account information document [CoP18 Inf. 11](#);
- c) draft recommendations for reporting to the Standing Committee or the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) report its findings and recommendation to the Plants Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

Identification materials (joint working group with the Animals Committee)

Membership: (20 Members and Parties; 11 Observers)

Co-chairs: Hugh Robertson (AC representative for Oceania); Rosemarie Gnam (PC representative for North America), Yan Zeng (PC alternate representative for Asia), and Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo (PC Chair);

Parties: Argentina, Botswana, China, Colombia, Georgia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Born Free USA, Chambre Syndicale de la Facture Instrumentale (CSFI), Forest Based Solutions, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Humane Society International (HSI), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), League of American Orchestras, TRAFFIC and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Mandate:

- a) review selected identification materials, including material compiled as per Decision 18.136, paragraph a), and assess the need for their revision and improvement, taking into account the materials that are being developed or have already been developed by Parties and materials requested in Decisions or Resolutions;
- b) review Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*, taking into account the proposals of the Secretariat in paragraphs 6 and 7 of document AC31 [Doc. 15/PC25](#) [Doc. 18](#), and the reviews outlined in paragraphs a) and c) of Decision 18.137;
- c) consider ways to improve the accuracy and availability of identification materials on CITES-listed species; and
- d) report on progress with these activities at the next meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees.