

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



Twenty-first meeting of the Plants Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 2-8 May 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

AGARWOOD-PRODUCING TAXA (AQUILARIA SPP. AND GYRINOPS SPP.)
[RESOLUTION CONF. 16.10; DECISIONS 16.156, 16.157 AND 15.95 (REV. COP16)]

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on *Agarwood-producing taxa* (*Aquilaria spp.* and *Gyrinops spp.*):

Directed to exporting and importing countries of agarwood-producing taxa

16.155 *To facilitate the implementation of the annotation to agarwood-producing taxa, based on document CoP16 Inf. 3 and further information available, exporting and importing countries of agarwood-producing taxa should produce an identification manual for agarwood products and communicate it to the Secretariat.*

Directed to the Plants Committee

16.156 *The Plants Committee shall consider the current production systems of tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations, and assess the applicability of the current definitions of artificial propagation in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) respectively, and report back at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

16.157 *The Plants Committee shall monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 (Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa) to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, and shall report on these issues at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the Secretariat

15.95 (Rev. CoP16) *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in cooperation with the agarwood range States and the Plants Committee, organize a workshop to share experiences, discuss management of wild and plantation-source agarwood, identify and agree on strategies that balance the conservation and use of the wild populations, while relieving the pressure on these by using the planted material.*

16.158 *The Secretariat shall, upon receipt of the identification manual mentioned in Decision 16.155, make it available to Parties via the CITES website.*

Implementation of Decisions 16.155 and 16.158

3. Decisions 16.155 and 16.158 mentioned in paragraph 2 above are in line with the objective of Decision 16.60, paragraph 1, on *Identification Manual*, where Parties are encouraged to "[provide] to the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance material that is used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspections officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention." On 16 August 2013, the Secretariat published Notification to the Parties No. 2013/036 where it drew attention to Decision 16.60 and invited "Parties, organizations and experts to contribute information, in paper or electronic format, on available identification and guidance materials". Parties have made considerable progress with the production of identification materials for agarwood and Notification No. 2013/036 is a good opportunity to share these materials.

Implementation of Decision 16.156

4. Although Decision 16.156 has been formulated in the context of agarwood-producing species, it targets all tree species included in the CITES Appendices. The Committee could consider establishing a working group at the present meeting to undertake the work described in this Decision.

Implementation of Decision 16.157

5. The Secretariat believes that information to provide a basis for implementation of Decision 16.157 could be sought through a Notification to the Parties. The Secretariat therefore proposes that the Committee considers the draft notification contained in Annex 1 below. This draft is based on the approach the Committee followed when drafting Notification to the Parties No. 2008/045 in July 2008 to assess the implementation of the annotation for Orchidaceae. If the Committee agrees, the Secretariat will undertake to publish the proposed notification shortly after the present meeting.

Implementation of Decisions 15.95 (Rev. CoP16)

6. The Secretariat has informed the Committee's regional representatives for Asia about possibilities for organizing the workshop called for in Decision 15.95 (Rev. CoP16). More information about the organization of this workshop is presented in Annex 2 below.

Recommendations

7. The Committee is invited to:
 - a) take note of the present document;
 - b) take into account the suggestions made in paragraphs 3 and 4 above; and
 - c) endorse the proposal in Annex 2 in relation to the workshop on the management of wild and plantation-source agarwood foreseen in Decision 15.95 (Rev. CoP16).

DRAFT NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES TO MONITOR
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 16.10 (DECISION 16.157)

No. 2014/XXX

Geneva, XX XXX 2014

CONCERNING:

Agarwood: implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on
Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa

1. At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013) the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decision on *Agarwood-producing taxa* (*Aquilaria spp.* and *Gyrinops spp.*):

Directed to the Plants Committee

16.157 The Plants Committee shall monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 (Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa) to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, and shall report on these issues at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. At its 21th meeting (Vera Cruz, May 2014), the Plants Committee considered how to implement this Decision and agreed on the following recommendations:
 - a) To monitor and assess any potential conservation impacts arising from the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*, Parties are invited to respond to the following questions **by 31 October 2014** and submit their responses to the Secretariat:
 - i) Have you encountered any problems concerning the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* as exporting or importing country or for both?
 - ii) Please describe the problems that have arisen.
 - iii) How have you or are you planning resolve these problems?
 - iv) Have you observe positive effects or do you have any other comments?
 - b) Any new or additional information Parties may wish to submit after the deadline of 31 October 2014 should be sent to the Chair of the Plants Committee at:

Ms. Margarita África Clemente Muñoz
Catedrática/Full Professor
Dpto. de Ciencias y Recursos Agrícolas y Forestales
Unidad de Botánica Agrícola y Forestal
Campus de Rabanales, Ctra Madrid, km 396
Edificio Celestino Mutis (C-4)
Universidad de Córdoba
E-14071 CORDOBA
Spain

T: +34 (957) 21 21 85; +34 (61) 900 51 95 (mobile/celular)
F: +34 (957) 21 21 85
E: cr1clmum@uco.es

DRAFT PLANNING FOR THE WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT OF WILD
AND PLANTATION-SOURCE AGARWOOD [DECISION 15.95 (REV. COP16)]

Proposed venue: India.

Proposed timing: first half of 2015.

Goal of the workshop:

Identify and agree on strategies that balance the conservation and use of the wild populations [of agarwood-producing taxa], while relieving the pressure on these by using the planted material.

Specific objectives:

- 1) Share experiences;
- 2) Discuss management of wild and plantation-source agarwood; and
- 3) Prepare a report for PC22 [NB: this last specific objective is not specified in the text of Decision 15.95 (Rev. CoP16)].

Target Parties:

Agarwood-producing species range States. Around 12 Parties are concerned and each one of them will be represented by delegates from their Scientific and Management Authorities. Participants from Indian authorities will probably be more numerous than those from other Parties; however, the total number of Indian representatives should not exceed the number of participants from other Parties in order to ensure a balanced participation between represented range States.

Draft working programme:

The workshop is expected to take three days and will be conducted in English. The agenda will be made available later in 2014, but we can already currently consider the following outline:

Day 1

All range States will be invited to follow the objectives of the event and contribute two presentations on:

- 1) Management of agarwood of wild origin on their territory; and
- 2) Management of plantation-source agarwood.

Other presentations may also contribute to the agenda on general matters and on new techniques that participating countries may wish to share and that are relevant to Decision 15.95 (Rev. CoP16).

Day 2

Three working groups will be organized at the end of Day 1. One working group will discuss the management of wild-source agarwood. Another working group will focus on the management of plantation-source agarwood. Finally, the third working group will be organized with representatives of Management Authorities to discuss possible strategies to better balance the production of agarwood products using the two possible sources: the wild populations and the plantations. The three working groups will prepare recommendations.

Day 3

The last day will start with a briefing on the work done during Days 1 and 2. Then each working group will present its recommendations, followed by a session for discussion. In the afternoon, a set of recommendations will be drafted for the regional representatives to share with the Plants Committee at its 22nd meeting (PC22).