

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

Regional matters

Regional reports

AFRICA

This document has been submitted by Regional Representatives for Africa*.

1. General information

a) Regional representatives: Beatrice Khayota (Kenya), David Hafashimana (Uganda)

Alternate members: Koffi Akpagana (Togo), (Author) Quentin Luke (Kenya)

b) Number of parties in the region: 53.

c) Number of parties responding to the communication: 6 (Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa).

2. Communication with other Parties in the sub- region and region since AC26 and PC 20 in March 2012

A call for information for national reporting in the regional report was sent to all Parties in the region via email on 12 February 2014 to all Parties represented requesting for information by 25 February, on national activities relevant for reporting to the Committee.

Botswana communicated with Namibia and South Africa on the interpretation of the *Hoodia* annotation and came to an understanding that each range state would be registering its own Hoodia Companies. Only the CITES logo and the wording would be the same.

Botswana participated at a CITES COP16 Preparatory Meeting held on 28- 29 January 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa organized by SADC Secretariat for all SADC countries.

* 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.

Cameroon

In conjunction with the work of the 49^e session of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), (ITTO) International Council held in Libreville in November last year, the Delegation of Cameroon, the Management and Scientific Authorities of CITES combined, consulted with the Gabonese authorities on the inclusion of Bubinga (*Guibourtia tessmannii* and *G. demeuseii*) of Cameroon in Annex III.

Also, on 28 February, 2014 last, a Delegation of Cameroon, visited Belgium at the headquarters of the European Union in order to provide clarification on the forecast increase in quotas of *P. africana* in 2014 (600 to 1080 t).

Kenya

MA of Kenya sent communication to the Africa PC representatives regarding the Decision 16.153 and 16.154 on East African Sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*).

South Africa

The National CITES Management Authority is in regular contact with other CITES Management Authorities in the sub-region and region with regard to CITES issues.

Follow up on selected agenda items (recommendations) of previous AC meetings /PC meetings

Cameroon

- The increase in the export quotas of *Prunus africana* of Cameroon in 2014,
- The inclusion of the Bubinga (*Guibourtia* spp.) of Cameroon in Annex III of the CITES,
- The establishment of a platform under the regional consultation on the problems of management of flora species listed in the appendices of the CITES

Concerning the increase in quotas sought by Cameroon, we are still waiting for the reaction of the European Union. However, after this consultation, the traceability of the production of *Prunus africana* much concerned members of the EU (GHG) scientific review group.

Representatives of the scientific authorities of the European Union were keen to ensure that the production of *Prunus africana* in Cameroon has established trade with members of the (GHG) of the European Union.

With regard to the inclusion of Bubinga (*Guibourtia* spp.) in Annex III, Gabon has offered their support should Cameroon formulate its proposal to amend the appendices of the CITES.

Madagascar

Madagascar attended the CoP16 (Bangkok) and defended the listing of *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* populations of Madagascar's forests and 5 species of succulents, much traded, in Appendix II of the CITES (*Cyphostema laza*, *Senna meridionalis*, *Adenia firingalavensis*, *Adenia subsessifolia*, *Uncarina stellulifera*, *Uncarina grandidieri*). All these proposals have been accepted.

South Africa

Nurseries exporting *Pachypodium bispinosum* and *P. succulentum* were audited in accordance with the Standing Committee's instruction arising from its 59th meeting.

3. CITES activities in the country in respect to:

a) Review of Significant Trade

Burundi

Submitted a progress report regarding *Prunus africana* to the Secretariat.

Cameroon

We believe had hoped to hold consultations with the Management Authority of Flora of Cameroon (Ministry of Forests and Wildlife) to prepare a single document before the session of the Committee on plants in Mexico from 2nd to 8th May.

The management of flora species listed in Annex II of the CITES is intensifying in Cameroon (*Prunus africana*, *Pericopsis elata*).

Madagascar

In December 2012, the export quota for wild specimens has voluntarily been set to zero for many succulents and palms of Madagascar (Decision SC62). It includes 27 species of Euphorbias selected for this study: *E. ankarensis*, *E. bongolavensis*, *E. guillauminiana*, *E. kondoi*, *E. labatii*, *E. mahabobokensis*, *E. neohumbertii*, *E. pachypodioides*, *E. primulifolia*, *E. primulifolia* var. *begardii*, and *E. waringae*, *E. capmanmbatoensis*, *E. postérieur*, *E. didieroides*, *E. fianarantsoae*, *E. hofstaetteri*, *E. robivelonae*, *E. razafindratsirae*, *E. magokyensis*, *E. millotii* and *E. neobosseri*, *E. bulbispina*, *E. iharanae*, *E. leuconeura*, *E. lophogona*, *E. denisiana* and *E. ellioti* ;

7 species of Palm: *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis*, *Lemurophoenix halleuxii* Marojejya *darianii*, *Ravenea rivularis*, *Satranala decussilvae* and *Voanioala gerardii* ;

3 species of Pachypodium: *P. inopinatum*, *P. rosulatum* and *P. softense*;

7 species of Aloe: *A. deltoideodonta*, *A. imalotensis*, *A. erythrophylla*, *A. guillaumetii*, *A. humbertii*, *A. conifera* and *A. capitata* ;

and 5 other species of succulent plants: *Operculicarya decaryi* (Anacardiaceae), *Senna meridionalis* (Fabaceae), *Adenia firingalavensis*, *Adenia subssessilifolia* (Passifloraceae) and *Cyphostemma laza* (Vitaceae).

Two projects were funded by the European Union via the CITES Geneva Secretariat in order to obtain reliable information to establish a NDF for all these species. These studies have been completed and Madagascar can propose quotas of annual export for species subject to significant trade.

b) Periodic Review of the Appendices

Cameroon contacted the Secretariat to register Bubinga (*Guibourtia* spp.) in Annex III. It is desirable that this proposal be subject to discussion at the next session of the Plants Committee in Mexico. Cameroon is seeking participation in these discussions to explain the merits of its approach with regard to this species of flora in Cameroon.

Madagascar

The species *Pachypodium brevicaule* has been selected to undergo a periodic review of species in annex. Madagascar conducted a full review of this species.

c) CITES projects

South Africa

Non-detriment findings have been conducted for 12 Critically Endangered cycad species (*Encephalartos*) in accordance with the CITES checklist and have been published for public comment.

Research and development is underway on stable isotope and radiocarbon dating techniques for testing for wild origin of *ex situ* cycads.

Cameroon

As part of the Regional ITTO/CITES program, three CITES projects are running in Cameroon. All of these projects concern only Assamla (*Pericopsis elata*):

1. "Implementation of a system for monitoring the operation and the transformation of the Assamela and training of control officials on the use of tools and procedures cited in Cameroon"
2. Application of the legislation and management of *Pericopsis elata* in forest production in Cameroon
3. Sustainable management of *Pericopsis elata* in the context of implementing the simple management plan the planting of Bidou II, in the Forest Reserve of Kienke South to Cameroon.
4. A final project is being started. It will be implemented by IUCN/Traffic and concern Cameroon tree species, threatened by international trade and potentially writable in Appendix II of the CITES. This project is funded by the German cooperation and executed by TRAFFIC.

Madagascar

ITTO, under the ITTO-CITES program, collaborates with the OG of Madagascar for the implementation of the plan of action for " *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp.. ", according to decision 16.152 and Annex 3 of the outcome of CoP16.

The mission lasted 15 months from the month of July, 2012 and focuses on two aspects:

1. Provision of taxonomic data on the precious wood from Madagascar
2. Validation and development of methods for quantifying for their sustainable management.

d) Registration of operations breeding/Artificial propagation Appendix-I animal/plant species for commercial purposes

Botswana does not have any operation on artificial propagation of Appendix I, but have both government and private nurseries propagating other CITES listed species such as *Aloe* spp.

South Africa has scheduled a specific training session to ensure compliance with registration requirements.

e) Plans for celebrations of the first World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2014 on creation of awareness on status of CITES listed species in the country

Botswana

Celebrated WWD in Kang on the 3 March 2014. It was mainly biased towards wildlife and not plants.

South Africa

WWD was celebrated on 3 March 2014 in Kruger National Park with communities and school children in attendance. The focus was on the conservation of rhino and anti-poaching.

5. Promotion of CITES in the country. Capacity building activities, awareness campaigns

Botswana held awareness campaigns on general conservation and this includes CITES species through its Districts Conservation Committee meetings.

Cameroon

Two forestry administrations and customs officers training workshops were held in Cameroon in last June. These agents have been trained in the procedures and mechanisms of species follow-up by the CITES flora of Cameroon, has set up a Scientific Committee comprising academics and researchers working on the flora. This Committee helped to draft 03 opinion of non-detriment (ACNP) on *Prunus africana* in the Prunua Allocation Unit (PAU), seeking the export quotas for the year 2014. All these documents have been transmitted to the European Union and the secretariat of the CITES to support the proposals of the quotas of Cameroon. Missions awareness of economic operators involved in the exploitation of species of Flora CITES were realized in the entire area of distribution of the Assamela and prunus in Cameroon in 2012.

Kenya

The Africa Representative Beatrice Khayota

- has been participating in the National Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) process.
- participated in the 5th International Orchid Conservation Congress, held in December 2013 in La Reunion.

Madagascar A workshop of capacity building on the advice of trade not detrimental for the species in the CITES appendices was organized from 5 to 9 August 2013 in Antananarivo. The workshop brought together 50 experts of the fauna and the flora of Madagascar and was followed by fieldwork for the two groups.

- ACE provides training on the identification of the most traded plants at the border and customs police officers each year.

South Africa

A species ID Tool has been developed to assist customs officials, law enforcement officers, border police and environmental management inspectors with the identification of South African CITES-listed species. A specially designed application will enable the use of the tool on tablets.

A basic CITES training course will be held for provincial CITES Management Authorities from 11 to 14 March 2014. The CITES Management Authorities of Angola and Mozambique have also been invited to the training.

a) The scientific community in the country and CITES agenda

Madagascar

ACE consulted the Group of specialists of the plants of Madagascar (authorised by the IUCN) for the determination of the status of conservation of species subject to significant trade.

b) Collaboration with other MEAs

Botswana collaborates with other MEAs through project implementation as follows:

UNFCCC

SADC REDD+ Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Forest Carbon Project aimed to verify the methodology for estimating forest carbon emissions for purposes of carbon trading in preparation to implement the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) programme

Botswana participated in CoP 19 which was held from the 11- 22 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland. A delegation of 11 people represented the country under the leadership of the Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Mr Tshekedi Khama.

CBD

Botswana is implementing a project titled: “Enhancing National Forest Monitoring System for the Promotion of Sustainable Natural Resources Management” with assistance from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) which started in July 2013. The project also aims to:

- Establish national forest monitoring system
- Establish methodology for national forest inventory
- Produce a nationwide forest distribution map
- Develop a national forest monitoring plan

Botswana participated in CBD CoP 11 that was held from 8-19 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India, where a delegation of five people was sent from both government and the private sector.

UNCCD

The Department is the focal point and the National Secretariat of the UNCCD. The Department commemorated the World Day to Combat Desertification in Mosu village on the 17 June 2013. During 2013 the Department facilitated participation of stakeholders during COP11 which was held in Namibia in September 2013. A national report was produced.

Cameroon

Consultations with other MEAs have courses in Cameroon mainly with the focal point for the Convention on biological diversity (CBD). The focal point of the body of CITES wildlife management and scientific authority CITES flora have been involved in the preparation of the NBSAP of the CBD. Axes of priority actions for species follow-up CITES were retained in the national NBSAP. These consultations were held in accordance with directives from the MOU signed between the secretariats of the two Conventions on the management of biodiversity and the mobilization of financial resources for the monitoring of species listed in the appendices of the CITES. It is also expected that the focal point of the scientific authority CITES flora of Cameroon and the CBD are developing a joint project for the monitoring of CITES species at the National level. The focal points of the cities also participated in the drafting of the national report 2013 of the CBD.

South Africa

The International Expert Workshop on the Conceptual Framework for IPBES took place from 25 - 26 August 2013, in Cape Town. The workshop was convened by the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and co-hosted by the Governments of South Africa, the United Kingdom and with additional support from the Government of Japan. The objective of this workshop was to share amongst the experts and the stakeholders the work on the conceptual framework of IPBES and to provide inputs to the development of a draft conceptual framework for the Platform, that effectively addresses the objectives, functions and relevant operating principles of the Platform and the relationship among them, drawing on a range of sources and activities including the inputs received from the workshop and the work on the knowledge systems.

Madagascar

ACE supported the CBD focal point in the development of the 5th national report CBD.

ACE has helped Madagascar in all discussions on the implementation of the ADA.

c) Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

Botswana

As indicated under the UNCCD, the Task Force overseeing the implementation of the UNCCD comprises of stakeholders and NGOs e.g. University of Botswana, Department of Agricultural Research, and representatives of community bodies.

The Department is cooperating with IUCN on a project called Kalahari/Namib Project which is being implemented in Kgalagadi District. The project aims at ensuring that drylands are sustainably managed to protect biodiversity and contribute to local livelihoods and national economics.

Cameroon

The AS/CITES flora of Cameroon cooperated with IUCN/Traffic Cameroon as part of implementation of the project on species threatened by international trade but not listed in the Annexes of CITES. Consultations with Traffic officials at the international and national level took place so that, together, it is envisaged with ANAFOR a common platform for the implementation of this project.

Kenya. The regional representative for Africa, Beatrice Khayota is the co- Chair of the Barcode of Wildlife Project Kenya (BWPK) which is part of the Barcode of Wildlife Project, a two-year initiative to implement DNA barcoding as a tool for species identification for the enforcement of wildlife protection laws. The project is funded by a Google Global Impact Award to the Smithsonian Institution which has invited Kenya, South Africa and Nigeria to participate in the project as partner countries. Each country has formed a national steering committee composed of researchers and enforcement officials and they have each selected about 200 species (*see attachment*) that are endangered by trade as their priorities for the project. At least five specimens from each species will be sequenced and the resulting barcode reference records will be made public in GenBank. All are protected by national laws and of them, approximately half are listed by CITES. Another 800 species that are closely related to the priority endangered species will also be included in the public barcode reference library. The priority endangered species can be seen at http://www.barcodeofwildlife.org/species_viewer.html. Each major taxonomic group is a different color and plants are light green. You can hide the other groups by clicking on the filters on the right and then sort them in different ways.

South Africa continues to collaborate and cooperate with stakeholders and NGOs in the fight against poaching. Workshops were held with NGOs in July 2013 and October 2013. These engagements are aimed at create a comprehensive database of projects dealing with rhino anti-poaching, fundraising and conservation issues. Through this process priority areas that require additional assistance and gaps that must be addressed can be identified; opportunities to collaborate can be explored and projects could be consolidated to maximise impact. There's also a need to develop criteria to assist in determining whether NGOs or individuals involved in rhino related activities are making a positive contribution towards the fight against rhino poaching and the conservation of the species.

Madagascar The OG and AS collaborate with all organizations working for the conservation of the flora and fauna of Madagascar. These agencies have funded the studies to prepare for the inclusion of species in the CITES appendices during CoP16, but also supported a part of the travel expenses of the delegation of Madagascar. We quote Indian Ocean WWF, Conservation International, QMM - Rio Tinto and Sherrit.

d) Emerging issues

Cameroon

Traceability of national production destined for export of flora species listed in Annex is an emerging concern of the time. Solutions are planned under the global traceability system under development under the agreement signed with the European Union (FLEGT-VPA) voluntary partnership.

Ultimately, Cameroon wishes to strongly include Bubinga (*Guibourtia* spp.) in Annex III of the CITES. It is expected that a point on the agenda of the next session of the Plants Committee focuses on this concern.

e) Others