

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

Trees

EAST AFRICAN SANDALWOOD (*OSYRIS LANCEOLATA*) (DECISIONS 16.153 AND 16.154)

1. This document has been submitted by Beatrice Khayota the representative for Africa in collaboration with the Kenyan Management Authority*.

Background

2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 16.153 and 16.154 on East African Sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*):

Directed to the Plants Committee and the Eastern African range States of *Osyris* species

16.153 The Plants Committee and Eastern African range States of *Osyris* species shall:

- a) review and gather further information on the conservation status of, trade in and use of *Osyris* species within the region and internationally;
- b) assess the impact of such trade on the conservation status of *Osyris* species in Eastern Africa;
- c) assess the impact of such trade extending to populations not covered by the Appendix-II listings;
- d) assess the data required to make non-detriment findings following the existing guidance;
- e) identify mechanisms to help build capacity to carry out non-detriment findings for currently-listed populations; and
- f) report on their work at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, if necessary, prepare proposals to amend the Appendices for submission at that meeting.

* 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.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.154 The Secretariat shall work with the Plants Committee to seek the external funding required for the implementation of Decision 16.153.

Progress achieved

Regarding Decision 16.153:

3. Illegal trade in Specimen of *Osyris lanceolata* from Burundi. Burundi issued a notification (No. 2014/005) to CITES parties concerning the illegal trade of the *Osyris* specimen in the country and requested help from states in controlling the illegal trade.
4. Various countries issued advisories regarding the coming into force on the listing of the species in CITES appendix II and its implication in trade. These include Singapore, India, and Australia.
5. Kenya government has now listed the East African Sandalwood species under its domestic laws, the "Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013". This is a major step towards sustainable utilization of the species and trade controls under clear enforceable legislation. It is illegal to trade in the East African Sandalwood in Kenya without a valid CITES permit.
6. Kenya government through the wildlife management authority has undertaken various in country awareness campaigns on the listing of the species on Appendix II and its implications and is in the process of developing outreach materials and programs of community and livelihoods in this regard.
7. *Osyris lanceolata* has been included in the list of priority species for the Barcode of Wildlife Project (BWP), a two-year initiative to implement DNA barcoding as a tool for species identification for the enforcement of wildlife protection laws. Countries participating in the project include Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Mexico.

Regarding Decision 16.154

8. The Kenya government through the Wildlife Management Authority is developing a proposal for resource mobilization to implement decisions 16.153 and 16.154. This include bringing together East African Sandalwood range states to develop an action plan for the implementation of decision 16.153 and requests the Secretariat to assist in the planning and resource mobilization for bringing the range states together for a shared vision.

Recommendations

9. The Plants Committee is invited to :
 - a) take note of this report and the progress achieved.
 - b) take into account the request made in paragraph 8 above.