

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



Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee
Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement

NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS / SPECIES MANAGEMENT REPORTS
(Agenda items 12.1, 12.2 and 13)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Co-chairs: Guatemala (Mr. Beltetón) and European Union (Ms. Perier);
- PC members: Representatives of Africa (Ms. Khayota and Mr. Luke), of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rivera) and of Oceania (Mr. Leach), and Alternate Representative of Europe, (Mr. Carmo);
- Parties: Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Madagascar, Malaysia, Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom of North Ireland and Great Britain, and United States of America
- IGOs and NGOs: ITC, UNEP-WCMC, ITTO, IUCN, Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency, FTS Botanics, INDENA, Società Botanica Italiana, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, WWF International

Mandate

Review and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the non-detriment findings / species management reports as presented in documents PC22 Doc. 12.1, PC22 Doc. 12.2, and PC22 Doc. 13.

Recommendations:

The working group proposes the adoption of the following conclusions by the Plants Committee:

Report on NDF for *Pericopsis elata* in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (PC22 Doc. 12.1)

The Plants Committee:

- a) commends the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the progress made with regard to the development of a Non-Detriment Finding for *Pericopsis elata*. In particular, the fact that the national export quota

established by DRC is based on management inventories submitted to the forestry administration, is a positive step to ensure the sustainability of exports of the species.

- b) encourages DRC to implement the measures presented in their NDF report (PC22 Doc. 12.1 and Annex). In particular, the Committee encourages DRC to develop and make use of the database mentioned in the NDF report, which would allow for:
- the monitoring and management of volumes of *Pericopsis elata* harvested and exported by the country, and
 - the systematic conversion of volumes of processed products into round wood equivalent volumes, based on an appropriate conversion rate.
- c) also encourages DRC to provide clarifications with regard to the use of recovery rates in their Non-Detriment Finding, noting that concerns were raised regarding the use of this parameter to demonstrate the sustainability of logging.
- d) encourages DRC to report progress on their Non Detriment Finding and the measures referred to under paragraph b) at the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee.
- e) notes that DRC drew the Committee's attention to the existence of stockpiles of *Pericopsis elata* harvested in 2014 and before, and to difficulties faced regarding compliance with Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on the Management of nationally established export quotas (paragraphs 20 and 21). The Committee encourages DRC to bring the matter to the attention of the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee. Should the latter not be possible, the Committee advises that the Chair of the Plants Committee should raise this specific question at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee.
- f) Invites the Secretariat to consider whether the two following issues would require changes to relevant Resolutions, possibly through the preparation of draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on the *Implementation of the Convention for timber species* and Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas*:
- certain exporting countries establish annual export quotas based on volumes corresponding to Annual Allowable Cutting permits (valid for more than one year), which may not be consistent with Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on the Management of nationally established export quotas (paragraphs 20 and 21), which states that "*the level of an export quota reflects the number or quantity of specimens of a species (...) having been removed from the wild (...) in that year*";
 - the appropriate management of export quotas for timber species could preferably be based on the use of adequate conversion factors allowing for the calculation of the round wood equivalent volume of specimens to be exported, which would allow for a better monitoring of export quotas.

Report on NDF for *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in Paraguay (PC22 Doc. 12.2)

The Plants Committee:

- a) commends Paraguay for the progress made with regard to the development of a Non-Detriment Finding for *Bulnesia sarmientoi*;
- b) encourages Parties and relevant organizations, such as ITTO, to provide financial support and technical assistance to Paraguay regarding the implementation of the necessary measures to complete the analysis to improve their Non-Detriment Finding;
- c) encourages Paraguay to apply the recommendations included in document PC22 Doc. 12.2, in particular regarding the completion of population studies and analysis of existing forest inventories, as well as the development of forest management plans conducted on the properties where the use of *Bulnesia sarmientoi* is made and the development of a national management plan for the species;

- d) recommends that the Secretariat and Paraguay address the question of export quota for *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in order to resolve the technical issues mentioned during the meeting.

Harvesting of and trade in *Prunus africana* (PC22 Doc. 13)

The Plants Committee:

- a) commends exporting countries and ITTO for their efforts in making Non Detriment Findings for *Prunus africana*.
- b) advises that, for range States retained in the Review of Significant Trade during PC22, the compilation of information to be done by the Secretariat should include, as appropriate, an assessment of the management of the species against the principles referred to under paragraphs 8 and 9 of PC22 Doc. 13.
- c) recognizes that, in light of the experience gained over recent years in relation to the management of the species and harvesting of its bark, a number of management guidelines might need to be reconsidered to ensure that international trade in *Prunus africana* is sustainable, in particular regarding the need to monitor the impact of debarking on the survival rate of trees exploited.
- d) recognizes the potential that the development of plantations or agroforestry systems might represent as a means of production, which can be complementary to the sustainable production of *Prunus africana* bark from wild sources, recalling that the management of natural forests should remain a priority to ensure the survival of the species in the wild.
- e) recognizes the merits of organizing an international workshop on the sustainable use and the control of international trade in *Prunus africana* which could gather exporting countries, importing countries as well as interested stakeholders, if possible before PC23. The Committee advises that this workshop should focus in particular on the various issues identified in PC22 Doc. 13, including the standardized monitoring of the impact of debarking on the survival rate of exploited trees.
- f) endorses the draft decisions presented in the Annex to PC22 Doc. 13, and agrees that the Committee should submit these draft Decisions for adoption by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- g) advises that it is premature to envisage the preparation of a draft Resolution on the sustainable use and the control of international trade in *Prunus africana* for submission to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- h) notes that there may be concerns relating to harvesting of *Prunus africana* in protected areas, and that such practices should be treated with caution.
- i) suggests considering the creation of an intersessional working group on African tree species. At its 17th meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall review the outcomes of the work undertaken by the working group and evaluate the need for continuing such a working group.