

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

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, Representative for Africa, in collaboration with the Kenyan Management Authority.

Background

2. At its 16th meeting (CoP 16, 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.*

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\* *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.

3. At the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (PC21, Veracruz, May 2014), an oral report ([PC21 Inf. 10](#)) on East African Sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*) was presented by the Representative for Africa and noted.

### Progress achieved

#### Regarding Decision 16.253

4. A number of seizures of *Osyris* have been reported in various parts of Kenya, based on CITES listing compliance measures. In July 2015, some consignments of the species harvested illegally were destroyed.
5. In Rwanda, Police destroyed 14 tonnes of illegally harvested sandalwood, locally known as Kabaruka, seized from various illegal dealers from different entry points into Kigali, as they attempted to smuggle them out of the country. The suspects are currently facing prosecution. Article 416 of the penal code states that felling trees or causing others to do so from gazetted forests, protected areas and national parks makes one liable to an imprisonment term ranging from six months to two years or a fine ranging between Rwf300,000 to Rwf2 million, or both.
6. Regulations on sandalwood utilization in Kenya are being developed under the Wildlife Act 2013 (i.e. endangered and threatened species regulations).
7. Kenya Wildlife Service is supporting local communities and investors engagement, to explore possibility of NDF in selected sites. That is interest from commercial investors in the species key distribution areas in the country
8. Guidelines on how to grow Sandalwood have been developed by Kenya, through Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI). The government is working with farmers and county governments to aid in increasing the current forest cover and domesticate sandalwood which is threatened with unsustainable harvesting.
9. *Osyris lanceolata* was listed as a priority species for the Google Award funded 'Barcode of wildlife Project Kenya (BWPK)'. Samples from various parts of the country have been sequenced and barcodes submitted into GenBank. This will contribute to improved prosecution and law enforcement. Other partner African countries include South Africa and Nigeria.

#### Regarding Decision 16.154

10. An NDF for *Osyris lanceolata* in Kenya and Tanzania will be undertaken, as part of the USAID Funded PEER project 'Use of DNA Technology in Combating Illegal Trade and Promoting Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plants in Kenya and Tanzania'. The scope will be subject to funds allocated for the exercise.
11. Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda Management Authorities are in discussion about carrying out population assessments and resources are being mobilized towards this objective.
12. There is an urgent need to convene an East African sandalwood range States consultative meeting, to review progress to date and develop an action plan for the implementation of Decision 16.153. The government of Kenya requests the Secretariat to assist in planning and resource mobilisation for this activity, including support for ongoing initiatives in range States, to undertake NDF assessments

### Recommendations

13. The Plants Committee is invited to:
  - a) Take note of this report and progress achieved
  - b) Take into account the request made in paragraph 12.