

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

Regional Matters

Regional Reports

AFRICA

1. This document has been submitted by Regional Representatives for Africa (Beatrice Khayota and Quentin Luke)¹.
2. General Information
 - a) Regional representatives: Beatrice Khayota (Kenya), David Hafashimana (Uganda)
Alternate members: Koffi Akpagana (Togo), Quentin Luke (Kenya)
 - b) Number of Parties in the Region: 53
 - c) Number of Parties Responding to the communication: 7 (Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi).

3. Communication with other Parties in the sub-region and region since PC 21 in May 2014

A call for information for National reporting in the region was sent to all Parties via email on 11th June 2015, requesting for information by 10th of August 2015

4. CITES activities in the country in respect to:

a) Review of Significant Trade

Burundi

An inventory to establish the standing tree stock of *Prunus africana* was undertaken. A report was submitted to the CITES Secretariat.

South Africa investigated the significant trade of *Euphorbia globosa* and found that the 526 exports without source codes was an error in reporting.

¹ 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.

Uganda is undertaking tracking and traceability through inventories, to provide the basis for quota adjustment by the Scientific Authority for *Prunus africana*. Only farmers covered by the inventory are cleared to sell bark.

b) Non-detriment Findings (NDF)

DRC Congo

CITES Management Authority submitted a report to the Secretariat on the NDF for *Pericopsis elata* in DRC

The Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency, Global Witness, and Greenpeace submitted PC 22 Inf. 2, 'Analysis of the Non-Detriment Findings for *Pericopsis elata* from Democratic Republic of the Congo and subsequent related violations of CITES rules by DRC', has been submitted for consideration by PC22.

Kenya

The Management and Scientific Authorities of Kenya held meetings with Anthony Cunningham to discuss the increasing threat on timber species through international trade, in particular, *Dalbergia melanoxylon*. Possibilities for Appendix II listing were considered.

A publication on 'Power, profits and Policy: A reality check on the *Prunus africana* bark trade" by Cunningham *et al* was shared.

There was communication between the Kenya MA and SA with the Craig Hoover, Chief Wildlife Trade and Conservation Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding the recent dramatic increase in production and export of charcoal from East Africa. Of concern were *Acacia* and *Terminalia* species. Suggestions for Appendix II or III listing were considered.

South Africa has prioritized *Hoodia gordonii* for a national level NDF assessment along with another 54 plant species. So far 11 NDF assessments have been completed and published for public input, while another 26 NDF assessments are currently underway.

c) Periodic Review of the Appendices

Senegal submitted PC22 Inf.13 Document of the draft proposal to include *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Appendix II, for consideration by the committee.

d) CITES Projects

Madagascar is implementing the Action Plan for *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* population of Madagascar

e) Registration of operations of propagation of Appendix I plant species for commercial purposes

f) Plans for celebrations of World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2015

South Africa celebrated WWD in Kruger National Park. The theme for World Wildlife Day 2015: *Wildlife Crime is serious: let's get serious about wildlife crime*" was aimed at highlighting the positive role that local communities can play in helping to curb illegal wildlife trade.

5. Promotion of CITES in the country, capacity building activities, awareness campaign

a) Capacity building activities, awareness campaigns

Madagascar trained students, scientists, customs and border officers (police) on wood identification

They have also trained Forest Services, loggers and the Scientific Authority, in making Non-detriment findings.

South Africa held a CITES basic training session in the Gauteng Province from 26 to 29 August 2015 in an effort to improve the interpretation of the CITES Regulations.

Uganda Scientific Authority is working with other stakeholders in implementing ABS Capacity Development Initiative which also covers some of Uganda's CITES listed species including Sandalwood and *Prunus africana*. This is in cooperation with Bioversity International, the African Union Commission and the Secretariats of the CBD and the ITPGRFA.

b) The scientific community in the country and CITES agenda

Burundi and **Kenya** seized and destroyed illegal consignments of *Osyris lanceolata*.

Burundi, Kenya and **Rwanda** Management Authorities are in consultation to undertake population assessment and resource mobilisation for *Osyris lanceolata*.

Gabon

The National Agency for National Parks, Gabon CITES Scientific Authority reported on the establishment of the National CITES authorities. In accordance with Article 9 of the CITES convention, the Legal act no 194 by the Ministry of Forests, Environment and the Natural Resources Protection dated 17 September 2014 mandated:

- National Directorate of Protection of Fauna and Animals- as the Management Authority
- National Parks Agency – as the Scientific Authority
- The Director of management of fauna and Hunting- as the focal point

Amended the law 016/2001 of 31 Dec 2001 coded as Forestry in the Gabon republic to include the CITES Convention resolutions.

Kenya

Kenya and **Tanzania** recently received Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) grant, from USAID, for a project 'Use of DNA Technology in Combating Illegal Trade and Promoting Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plants in Kenya and Tanzania'. A baseline NDF for *Osyris lanceolata* will be undertaken.

Kenya undertook an Inventory of stockpiles of elephant Ivory and rhino horn

Through the Google Global Award funded Barcode of Wildlife Project Kenya (PWPK), over 69 CITES listed Plants, mainly orchids, have been barcoded and submitted in GenBank. These constitute a Barcode Reference library that could provide DNA evidence in prosecution of wildlife crime. Other countries include **Nigeria** and **South Africa**

South Africa is currently participating in the Google funded Barcode of Wildlife Project. The collection and analysis of DNA samples are underway for 123 priority traded South African plant taxa and 1140 look-alikes in accordance with forensic standards. To date 85% of the priority taxa and 25% of the look-alike taxa have been barcoded.

South Africa is currently drafting guidelines for distinguishing wild specimens of *Encephalartos* species and has also developed an electronic cycad identification tool for smart phones and tablets.

South Africa has initiated preparations for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) that will take place in Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 5 October 2016. This will be the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES held on the African continent since CITES came into force on 1 July 1975, but the first on the continent since 2000.

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 such as the import and re-export of plants species and other CITES issues of concern in the region.

The SADC secretariat hosted a meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from 21 to 22 May 2015 in preparation for the CITES CoP 17.

Uganda is undertaking regeneration activities with over 200,000 seedlings distributed to private farmers for planting under different agroforestry systems as of June 2015. *Prunus africana* now being promoted as a domestic crop and the national target is to achieve at least 75% bark from private plantations by 2018.

c) Collaboration with other MEAs

Representatives from **Kenya** MA and SA have been participating in the IPBES process, including the Authors meeting of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service for Africa region, in South Africa.

d) Cooperation with stakeholders and NGOs

Representatives from Scientific Authority in Kenya participated in the meeting where National forest agencies of **Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Madagascar and Mozambique**, signed the Zanzibar Declaration on Illegal Trade in Timber and Other Forest Products. The event was facilitated by WWF, TRAFFIC and SADC

South Africa continues to collaborate and cooperate with stakeholders and NGOs in the fight against poaching. South Africa is in the process of developing a MoU with WWF to improve cooperation between the Department of Environmental Affairs and WWF.

Uganda implementing a 5-year (2015 – 2020) sustainable *Prunus africana* development programme funded through an MOU between government and Cudwell Industries Ltd a licensed private company. The programme will support aspects of regeneration, research, traceability as well as capacity building and awareness campaigns at different levels.

The **Ugandan** Management Authority on invitation of the EU interfaced with its Scientific Review Group at the 72nd Scientific Review Group meeting on CITES regarding sustainability of *Prunus africana* harvest and trade in Uganda.

e) Challenges

Uganda is being used as a transit route for illicit trade in *Osyris species* from neighbouring countries claimed to be originating from within Uganda. It is important to note that Uganda is only involved in processing of sandalwood and the only exports are in form of sandalwood oil and spent dust. Any raw sandalwood materials alleged to be originating from Uganda should be treated as illegal. This has been officially communicated to Uganda customs authorities, Uganda Police and Interpol.

Enforcement gaps especially at border points still exist and there is need to build more capacity in this area.