

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

EUROPE

1. This document has prepared and submitted by the regional representatives for Europe^{*}.

GENERAL INFORMATION

2. Representatives: Dr Margarita Clemente and Mr Maurizio Sajeve
Alternates: Dr David Kikodze and Mr Paulo J.L. Carmo
Number of Parties in the region: 49
Names of the other institutions and NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: IUCN, UNEPWCMC.

IX EUROPEAN REGIONAL CITES PLANTS MEETING

3. The meeting was held in Wageningen, the Netherlands, from 11 to 14 of November 2014. The European Region thanks the Netherlands for hosting and organising the meeting and facilitating open discussion between the Parties of the European region. It also thanks the CITES Secretariat, the European Commission, the United States of America and the Nomenclature Expert for Plants for their participation and contribution and Ms. Valentina Vaglica for rapporteuring the meeting

RESULTS

4. The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting notes that within the European Region, the Parties present, identified the following areas to be of high concern and:

Recommends

5. The urgent need for a revision of the CITES Cacti Checklist
6. The sharing of enforcement information with other European regional Parties outside the EU and not attending the EU Enforcement Meeting, to identify common wildlife crime trends and share experiences.

^{*} *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.*

7. Each participant to check and clarify their contacts in their SA, MA and enforcement agencies (particularly those attending the EU Enforcement Group meetings) to improve communication and intelligence on illegal trade in plants, especially cacti species
8. Illegal trade in plants be recognised as part of the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) issue and accorded sufficient resources and attention, recognising that this includes serious and organised crime.
9. That the Standing Committee Annotation Working Group (SC AWG) should review the current annotation for *Hoodia* spp., and make recommendations/proposals for its revision at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
10. That the Parties of the European region inform the AWG of any problems encountered with the interpretation of current annotations.
11. The Parties of the European region collaborate and send their inputs to the European Representative Ms. Margarita África Clemente Muñoz concerning the project “NDFs and CITES tree species: Programme ITTO-CITES”, within the next six months.
12. Further analysis of issues related to the potential listing of the genus *Dalbergia* in App.II and the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the 22nd PC for further discussion. This will be carried out by the alternate representative for Europe (Mr Carmo) with the assistance of the Parties.

Acknowledges

13. The increasing trend in the illegal trade in cacti
14. That illegal traffickers will modify specimens or their packaging to circumvent CITES regulations, in particular following seizures of products regulated under CITES. This is particularly true for timber species.
15. That it is important for enforcement officers to work closely with their scientific colleagues to have the most up-to-date taxonomic information when dealing with enforcement cases.
16. The importance of working with Plant Health officers in the detection of illegal wildlife trade in plants.
17. The problems associated with increasing trade in CITES material via postal shipments and by internet sales.
18. The fundamental importance of annotations which are clear, simple and practical and can be easily understood and applied in a standard and consistent manner by all European Parties.
19. The work being carried out by the SC AWG and encourages Parties and other bodies to seek funds to facilitate a meeting of this group in near future.
20. The negative impact of CITES listings which are annotated in a manner which results in excess regulation of non –detrimental trade.
21. The work of the “ITTO – CITES Programme” and urges that it be continued and expanded to additional species; the Parties of the European region are encouraged to participate and contribute technically and financially to this Programme.
22. The support of the EU on the development of a timber identification directory and encourages the continuation of this project, urging close collaboration with similar networks.
23. The fundamental importance of the NDF process, and encourages Parties to share experience on the process of making NDFs, capacity building, and the results of NDF workshops, building on the steps developed since the Cancun meeting.
24. The vital role of independent scientific research and its collaboration on CITES issues and encourages research projects at academic institutions on CITES-related issues and priorities identified by the Parties of the European region.

25. The importance of forensic identification techniques, that are robust, reliable, transparent, and reproducible (including quality control standards) to support effective enforcement, particularly for timber species.
26. And commends Georgia on its progress in the implementation of effective NDFs for *Galanthus* and encourages it to continue work on development of a long term monitoring system and also commends Turkey on its comprehensive legal and technical framework for the management of the export of geophytes.
27. The large global trade in medicinal and aromatic plants recommending continued observation to avoid detrimental trade

Encourages

28. Engagement with industry stakeholders, in particular nurseries, on the illegal trade in cacti.
29. Engagement with stakeholders in the judiciary to ensure they are well informed and sufficiently briefed on illegal plant trade issues in order to secure successful prosecutions.
30. All Parties of the European region to consult enforcement officers during the preparation and analysis of proposals to amend the Appendices, to ensure that the annotations selected are appropriate for adequate implementation of the listings and facilitate effective enforcement.
31. Parties of the European region to collaborate with the GTS project on traceability systems.
32. Parties of the European region to collect data concerning import of non-CITES *Dalbergia* spp., (EU member states may use the implementation of EUTR through cooperation with the EUTR authorities).
33. The full report of the meeting is included in the Annex 1.



CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
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Report on the IX European Regional CITES Plants Meeting

Wageningen, The Netherlands 11-14 November 2014

Tuesday 11th November

09.00 - 9.30 **Registration**

9.30 – 10.30-**Welcome and Opening of the Meeting**

Participants were welcomed by Mr. Pieter Joop (the Netherlands CITES Scientific Authority) and Mr. Marcel van Nijnatten (the Netherlands CITES Management Authority), who explained the main objectives of the meeting: cooperation between countries, the importance of biodiversity and the role of science in CITES. Mr. Rudy Rabbinge then explained the important role of the Netherlands as a trader country, as the second largest global exporter of agricultural information.

Mr. Maurizio Sajeve and Ms. Margarita África Clemente Muñoz expressed their gratitude to the Netherlands Scientific Authority for organising the meeting, expressing the importance of the European Regional CITES Plants Meeting and its role in informing the Plants Committee (PC) and Conference of the Parties (CoP)

11.00 **Session 1:**

- **Outcomes of the 21st Meeting of the CITES Plants Committee**

Chair: Regional representatives

Speakers: Mr. Maurizio Sajeve and Ms. Margarita África Clemente Muñoz.

The speakers noted the main issues and results of PC21, circulating a report prepared by Ms Margarita África Clemente. However she expressed concern over the fact that the final summary of the meeting is yet to be posted on the CITES website.

- **Priorities for the European Region & Progress Reports on PC intersessional working groups.**

Speakers: Ms Margarita África Clemente-Muñoz (Spain), Mr. Maurizio Sajeve (Italy).

The speakers noted the priorities for the European region regarding the intersessional working groups established at PC21.

Regarding the Intersessional Working Groups established in the PC20 it was pointed out the European participants included as follow:

Intersessional Working Group on:	European participants
Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Resolution Conf. 16.5)	Alternate representative of Europe (Mr Carmo), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Capacity building (AC and PC)	PC Chair (Ms Clemente), Germany, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Review of identification and guidance material (Decision 16.59) (AC and PC)	PC Chair (Ms Clemente), Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Extinct or possibly extinct species (Decision 16.164) (AC and PC)	AC representative of Europe (Mr Fleming), AC representative of Europe (Mr Lörtscher), PC representative of Europe (Mr Sajeva), AC alternate representative of Europe (Ms Gaynor) and AC nomenclature specialist (Ms Grimm);Czech Republic and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade [Decision 13.67 (Rev. CoP14)] (AC-PC)	Mr Noel McGough, Norway (Ms. Sunniva Aagaard), Switzerland (Mr Mathias Lörtscher), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Ms Alison Littlewood) and European Commission (Mr Gael de Rotalier)
Intersessional working groups (IWGs): Agarwood glossary (Decision 16.155)	Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and European Commission
Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species in compliance with Decision 16.159	Germany, France, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and European Commission. (Only Germany and European Commission have designated persons, see Notification No. 2014/040 and to reply to Cesar Belteton, Chair of the WG)
Reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants [Decision 14.40 (Rev. CoP16)]	Switzerland, Germany, Italy
Plantations and artificial propagation of trees. Decision 16.156	PC Chair (Ms Clemente), Germany, Portugal, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and European Commission

Suggestions and discussions

Mr. Maurizio Sajeva noted that one of the main problems with the production of the European regional report is the lack of an up to date contact list and asked all participants to provide updated contact details and the starting point would be the list of participants of the meeting. Ms. Clemente encouraged the European participants in the Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species to attend the future meetings when they are held given that the last meeting of this WG (Peten, Guatemala) was only attended by the Management Authority of Spain. Ms. Clemente finally noted that the deadline to send documents for PC 22 is 15th August 2015.

- **Reports on the Working Groups on Evaluation of the Significant Trade and Madagascar.**

Speaker: Mr. Noel McGough (Nomenclature specialist for the Plants Committee).

The speaker gave a brief overview of the working group's mandate and noted that after starting the work in 2004 a meeting in Vilm, Germany (2012) started the work towards making the process timely, proportional and easier. The next WG meeting will take place in Shepherdstown, USA (May 2015).

Madagascar and the Secretariat provided an update on the Action Plan associated with the CoP16 listing of Madagascan ebonies and rosewoods to the 65th Standing Committee (SC65, July 2014) and a zero export quota for Malagasy rosewoods and ebonies will be maintained until SC66 due to concerns about identification, population status and the difficulty in making a non-detriment finding (NDF).

Suggestions and discussions

To address issues related to the trade in Madagascan rosewoods and ebonies the World Bank will put out a tender for an inventory of the stockpiles of *Dalbergia* and UK Border Force announced that they will be involved in a Interpol mission to Madagascar (January 2015) to review customs procedures.

UK SA reminded participants that there are timber identification techniques that require smaller, less destructive samples (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20457458>) for *Dalbergia* species. Noting the problems with *Dalbergia* identification, taxonomy and annotation the UK SA noted that the preparation of a timber directory, which would identify labs that could be helpful in identifying timber using various methods, had been partially compiled by TRAFFIC in response to EU member States request following CoP16 and is funded by the EU Commission. Slovakia suggested that the whole genus *Dalbergia* should be considered because there is a large amount of indirect trade involving Slovakia. Germany underlined the issue with musical instruments, as they are not covered. It also highlighted the CITES notification concerning the inclusion in Appendix III by Guatemala of four populations of *Dalbergia* species. Ms Vaglica noted that the EU, through its overseas territories, is a range state for some taxa of *Dalbergia*.

- **Report on the Working Group on trade in artificially propagated plants.**

Speaker: Ms. Ursula Moser (CITES SA Switzerland).

The speaker reported on the progress of the working group on trade in artificially propagated plants since it was formed at PC21 (Mexico, May 2014), stating that the final report will be due in May 2015. The USA noted difficulties in reporting all trade in artificially propagated plants and Italy and Portugal noted their schemes to register nurseries producing artificially propagated plants.

Open sessions and discussions.

There was a general comment that the whole of the genus *Dalbergia* should be listed in the Appendix II.

14.30 **Session 2:** Updates, EU Presentation and Country Reports Chair: Regional representatives

- **Implementation of CITES within the Netherlands**

Speaker: Mr. Marcel van Nijnatten (CITES MA Netherlands).

The speaker reported the situation in the country and the issues affecting enforcement officers. The speakers focused on one of the flowers markets (Aalsmeer auction site) as an example of the dimension of trade in which the country is involved. He has expressed concerns about the manageability of CITES regulations within this trade and how it fits within the line of work of the enforcement people involved. Mr. Van Nijnatten also emphasized the importance of an independent scientific viewpoint on CITES related imports and exports. European legislation has to be useful and workable from the aspect of both science and policy, which should be independent from each other. For that reason the NL SA is totally independent from the MA.

- **Role of the Scientific Review Group in the EU decision making process**

Speaker: Ms. Hélène Perier (European Commission).

The speaker gave an overview of CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulations (EUWTR), noting the three main committees (Management Committee, Scientific Review Group and Enforcement Group) and their main tasks (SRG opinions, consultation with third countries and support through capacity building on NDF). *Prunus africana* was chosen as a case study to explain how the SRG works.

Suggestions

Ms. Clemente suggested that the EU commission should support all range States of *P. africana*. Ms. Perier agreed that the ITTO-CITES Programme could be useful for the implementation of the listing and protection of the species.

16.00 **Session 3:** CITES Enforcement in the European Region

Chair: Ms. Madeleine Groves (CITES SA United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

- **Enforcement in UK: Main initiatives and problems.**

Speaker: Mr. Guy Clarke (Border Force, CITES Team, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

The speaker gave an overview of the CITES priorities in the U.K. including issues concerning traditional medicines, health supplements, ivory and timber. One of the main tasks of the Border Force is to train others customs officers around the world on CITES issues. Mr Clarke highlighted new market trends and illegal trade in *Aloe capensis*, oils and finished products, *Cactaceae* spp. plants sent by post, supplement food pills with *Dendrobium* extracts, and confiscations of *Cedrela odorata* and red sandalwood logs. There is an ongoing misunderstanding of the plant annotations and their interpretations.

Suggestions

The UK Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAWC - <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/partnership-for-action-against-wildlife-crime>) was noted as an example of a working practice to tackle wildlife crime, setting wildlife crime priorities including taking into consideration conservation issues. Also suggested working with Plant Health inspectors as a means to identify illegal wildlife trade.

- **Trade of Cacti within the European Region**
 - **Problems with newly described Mexican Cacti**

Speakers: Mr. Maurizio Sajeve and Mr. Andrea Cattabriga (Italy).

The speakers outlined some of the main problems of newly described Mexican cacti in trade and the implication of the annotations (such as Annotation #4). The role of internet trade is an ongoing problem because most species can be traded illegally without any permits or bypassing controls. Recently newly described taxa of Mexican cacti can be found on the internet within months of their discovery, with increasing numbers of collectors looking for the newest species.

Suggestions

Mr. Sajeve suggested it was necessary to find a common approach within the European Region and that the SAs and MAs should consider the date of discovery/description of the new cacti species when issuing certificates of artificial propagation. The collectors should be informed that newly described species that are offered for sale will need CITES permits. Speaker noted that the CITES Cacti Checklist requires updating. The sharing of information is vital in the fight against wildlife crime.

- **Seizures and confiscation of Cacti in Italy.**

Speaker: Ms. Luisa Corbetta (CITES MA Italy).

The speaker gave an overview of a police operation called "Attila" concerning live plants confiscated in airports and postal shipments. There were illegal shipments from Chile to Italy via postal shipments and personal luggage involving Italian and other European traders. Most of the species were wild collected and dealers were intercepted. People were denounced for illegal import of CITES listed species, illicit trade and cultivation of drugs.

Suggestions

National legislation needs to be implemented, and cooperation between EA, MA and SA should be improved in relation to problems encountered with the discovery and identification of new species.

- **EU strategy on enforcement, cooperation against trafficking and capacity-building support.**

Speaker: Ms. Hélène Perier (European Commission).

The speaker outlined the requirements of the EU WTR (Wildlife Trade Regulations) and how cooperation, exchange of information and intelligence between MSs is crucial. The enforcement groups play an important role regarding the exchange of information and there is a need to share all data in an accessible database such as EU TWIX (Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange). There should be support for the adoption of National Action Plans, for a process of stakeholders' consultation and an overarching EU action plan or strategy against wildlife trafficking.

Suggestions:

Increased cooperation between the management, scientific and enforcement authorities of Member States; work towards commitments in multilateral agreements and focus on their implementation; support new initiatives from the UN; better integrated wildlife conservation. Some capacity building projects are involved: initiatives combating wildlife crime, ITTO-CITES projects (International Tropical Timber Organization), twinning projects between EU MSs and neighbouring countries and B4LIFE flagship initiatives.

- **Illegal trade of Cacti in Sweden.**

Speakers: Mr. Patrick Flank (Detective inspector. National Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Intelligence Section, Sweden) and Ms. Andrea Ljung (CITES MA Sweden).

The speakers outlined a problematic case regarding the illegal trade of cacti in Sweden, which had involved regular imports over a long period of time. The plants, of wild origin, arrived in postal shipments from South America, but on arrival the addressee claimed no knowledge of the parcels. There is a SRG decision in place to refuse imports of Cactaceae spp. from a certain facility. All postal shipments from this facility contained wild collected cacti. There is a lack of legislation about cacti used for medical purposes and the drug unit of the country was not interested as the plants were not classified as drugs by law.

Suggestions:

Continuous and sustained efforts, consensus and cooperation within the Parties. Better interaction between the SAs and the Plant Health officers.

- **Enforcement in the Netherlands**

Speaker: Ms. Meriam Wortel (Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, Team of Enforcement, NVWA).

The speaker noted how information is formally shared between customs and NVWA based on a memorandum of understanding with number of annexes. The majority of the Dutch plant trade is in non-CITES species; should the species be CITES-listed it is ensured that the plants are artificially propagated. Some cases of note include 7,500 plants of *Echinocereous* spp. packed in containers and sent via Rotterdam, *Dendrobium* in body building and food supplement products, timber and wild-taken *Galanthus* bulbs. Expert advice is needed on whether the plants are wild-taken or artificially propagated, and postal shipment controls need to be improved.

Wednesday 12th November

09.00 **Session 4**: Annotations

Chair: Mr. Noel McGough (Nomenclature specialist for the Plants Committee).

- **Progress report on the work done by the Standing Committee Annotation Working Group (AWG)**

Speakers: Ms. Anne St. John (CITES Management Authority USA) and Ms. Madeleine Groves (CITES Scientific Authority United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

The speakers gave an overview of the history of plant annotations and the formation and work of the AWG. The presentation centred around annotation issues raised in two documents (SC65 Doc. 49.1 http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/65/E-SC65-49-01_0.pdf and CoP16 Doc 75 (Rev.1) <http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/16/doc/E-CoP16-75.pdf>) with work being carried out by the intersessional WG up to CoP17 with urgent, intermediate and long-term goals requiring attention. Membership of the AWG includes Parties (including EU member States), NGOs, industry and a representative from all regional Representatives of the Plants Committee. A timber trade study will inform the future assessment by the AWG of tree annotations), see Notification No. 2014/053 <http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/notif/E-Notif-2014-053.pdf>) and the participants were encouraged to supply the information.

Discussions

The speakers encouraged the participants to read the two CITES documents and engage with the work through the relevant members of the WG, involve organisations such as the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) and the International Fragrance Association (IFRA) to ensure industry is involved in challenges and solutions. Ms. Clemente proposed the preparation of amendment proposals for the annotations to deal with immediate annotation problems including the implementation of the *Hoodia* annotation and listing. Sweden requested an Annotation Manual to assist MAs to interpret annotations. DE is involved in the preparation of such a manual. The Secretariat encouraged the Parties to respond to a questionnaire that will be distributed in a notification to aid amendments to the timber proposals.

10.30 **Session 5:** CITES Timber Trade

Chair: Mr. Jos van der Maesen (CITES SA Netherlands).

- **Tree species in CITES**

Speaker: Ms. Milena Sosa Schmidt (CITES Secretariat).

The speaker gave an overview of tree species listings. There are currently 400 timber producing species listed on the Appendices, with 290 high value species listed in the last two years. Thailand, Laos and Cambodia have requested the Secretariat work for *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*. Trade routes of *Dalbergia* species correspond to those of ivory, with similar shifts in routes following enforcement successes. Hong Kong (China province) has not implemented CoP16 timber listings in the legislation and has become a black hole for laundering Malagasy palisander and rosewood. Madagascar has stated that they will sell off their stockpiles of rosewood by 15th April 2015, in spite of the SC's enforcement of an export embargo. The speaker noted Brazil's intention to submit a proposal to list the American *Dalbergia* spp. on the Appendix II at CoP17.

Challenges and suggestions

Without accurate taxonomic identification of species, it is not possible to apply the Convention. There is a need to improve the identification of the species and their products, with an urgent call for project funding.

13.30 **Session 6:** CITES Timber Trade (cont.)

Chair: Mr. Noel McGough (Nomenclature specialist for the Plants Committee).

- **Tree species in CITES: links between CITES, EU Wildlife, FLEGT and Timber Regulations. Development of a directory of timber identification institutes.**

Speaker: Ms. Hélène Perier (European Commission).

The speaker outlined the main EU legislation that applies to trade in tree species (EU WTR: wildlife trade regulations, FLEGT: Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, EU TR: Timber Regulation), their synergies and the links between them. Synergies between FLEGT and EUWTR: access to MAs and SAs for information on legality and sustainability; role of FLEGT facility and FLEGT facilitators in exporting countries. Synergies between ITTO/CITES programme (Regional coordinators) and FLEGT (e.g. *Pericopsis elata*/DRC). EUTR is based on 3 main obligations: due diligence, prohibition, traceability.

Synergies/differences between EUWTR (CITES) and EUTR: differences in terms of definition, control, legality definitions and scope. In practice, for CITES species, there is a greater focus on legality if the timber product is imported into the EU, and information exchange on legislation in place in exporting countries, seizures, cases of concern, identification. In terms of implementation, the Identification Directory compiled by TRAFFIC is underway. There is a need to work on the identification of tree species, their origin and to combine knowledge of the Parties (experts in wood anatomy, chemistry, DNA and isotopes).

Suggestions and possible recommendations

Share information, develop synergies between EU, FLEGT, ITTO programme and CITES particularly on how the regulations could work together. In 2015 synergies and any potential amendments will be shared for further recommendation.

- **Tree species in CITES: Initiatives and challenges in USA.**

Speaker: Ms. Anne St. John (CITES Management Authority USA).

The speaker outlined the 2008 update to the US Lacey Act. The amendment has established the definitions of “plant” and “tree” and introduced some exclusion from the Lacey Act: common cultivars, common food crops, scientific specimens for research, packing material used exclusively to support, protect or carry another item. If found in violation of the Act, there are civil and criminal penalties for failure to comply and the illegal plants or product are subject to seizure and forfeiture. An additional Declaration requirement has to be submitted at the time of importation, and must contain the following: scientific name, value of importation, quantity of plant, area of the country in which the plant was harvested and for paper and paperboard product with recycled content, state the average percentage of recycled content. Implementation challenges: quality and reliability of the data collected; pilot program for blanket declarations, enforcement at time of import; inaccurate/incomplete information on declaration forms, including scientific names, country of harvest, value and quantity.

- **NDFs and CITES tree species: Programme ITTO-CITES**

Speaker: Ms. Margarita África Clemente (University of Cordoba, Spain).

The speaker presented a project, funding by the CITES-ITTO programme, to develop a Manual on NDFs for trees species, in cooperation with several organisations. The speaker gave an overview of the history of NDFs and noted a clear disparity between methodologies and procedures which caused uncertainty. The general objective of the project is to provide guidance to CITES Authorities regarding the processes, methodologies and information necessary for making non-detriment findings for timber species, and other species of non-timber trees. Only the first part of the project has been done; the work is in progress and the results will be presented at the next PC.

Suggestions

Ms. Clemente encouraged the Parties of the European region collaborate and send their inputs to the project “NDFs and CITES tree species: Programme ITTO-CITES”, within the next six months.

Germany invited the participants to use and review the tool “CITES Non-detriment Findings: Guidance for Perennial Plants” available here: <http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDb/documents/service/skript358.pdf>

15.30 **Session 7:** CITES Timber Trade (cont.) Chair: Mr. Lars Chatrou (CITES SA Netherlands).

- **Identifying plant species by DNA barcoding**

Speaker: Mr. Lars Chatrou (CITES SA Netherlands).

The speaker focused on DNA barcoding techniques that has allowed a better understand of taxonomy and the discovery of new cryptic species, highlighting the relationship between DNA barcoding techniques and taxonomy, phylogeny and species divergences. The choices of the right markers and herbarium samples used for the extraction of DNA from confiscated material have been considered critical steps but these problems can now be easily resolved. The Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL) project has shown the use of DNA barcode evidences in investigations and enforcement. There are 4 phases: planning assessment, training, testing and implementation. Is it possible to do something similar in Europe? The speakers invited the people to gather a list of all the institutions involved in EU in order to collaborate and liaise with customs, MA, NGOs and funding bodies. UK expressed concerns about the use of this process in front of a court of law. There is a call for the standardisation of identification processes and data quality control.

- **Timber anatomy**

Speaker: Mr. René Klaassen (Consultant Stichting Hout Research (SHR), Wood Research Foundation, The Netherlands).

The speaker focused on macroscopic and microscopic aspects of wood species and their practical use. The mission of the SHR is to stimulate the sustainable use of timber. The negative aspects concern harvesting, the fact that other materials are better than wood and environmental calculations. Colour, weight smell, ash colour, fluorescence, anatomy are the main features used for identification. Estimating the age of a tree through the study of the trunk's rings would allow CITES authorities to deal with pre-Convention material.

Suggestion

Wood anatomy is a strong tool for timber species identification but the authorities should be aware of some weaknesses of the technique.

- **Timber traceability systems**

Speaker: Mr. Ulrich Heindl (Consultant, GTS Global Traceability Solutions GmbH).

The speaker gave an overview of the company and where its expertise could be useful for CITES authorities (e.g. reducing illegal logging). The design of the solution approach must be done in cooperation with stakeholders. GTS currently focusses on EUTR in order to design technologies and solutions and to manage data. There is a need to trace and track functions through direct suppliers, back to source and chain of custody. The solution is called a community "platform", of which the main goals for the importer and competent authority are: legal status of imported product, operational efficiency, compliance. The platform already exists and just needs to be updated to CITES requirements, providing multi purposes functionalities within one technology with just one interface. The platform can be used and accessed by all CITES stakeholders and one tool serve all purpose: reduced implementation costs.

Suggestions

The speaker invited the participants to join the programme.

- **Trade of Malagasy species**

Speaker: Ms. Ursula Moser (CITES SA Switzerland).

The speaker outlined the main concerns for Madagascar (loss of biodiversity, overexploitation of tropical wood, uncontrolled logging of precious trees and species extinction). Case study: DNA-based identification of Malagasy rosewood by Sonia Hassold from the University of Zurich. The main goals of the project were to develop and validate molecular identification tools for *Dalbergia* species from Madagascar using DNA

barcoding. Problems: identification, DNA isolation, lack of comparison of DNA material for the tests, blocked material (herbarium specimens), etc. The chloroplast DNA can be used to identify different rosewood species; and samples need to validate the results.

Suggestions

Sweden suggested the unification and standardisation of methods to extract DNA from hardwood.

Thursday 13th November

9.00 **Session 8:** Trade in Bulbs. Trade in Medicinal Plants

Chair: Mr. David Kikodze (Tbilisi Botanical Garden and Institute of Botany, Georgia).

- **Trade in Bulbs: The Georgian case**

Speaker: Mr. Noel McGough.

The speakers reviewed the history of the Georgian bulb trade, outlining the project to date. There is now both a wild-collected and artificially propagated quota in place, linked to a rigorous management plan. There is still a need to implement further management procedures, and to move cultivation sites towards CITES standards of artificial propagation. In 2014 Georgia attended CITES PC and presented a paper on progress to date.

Suggestions

The Secretariat expressed concerns about the definition of artificial propagation in relation to bulbs and suggested possible further amendment. Italy suggested an amendment to the ranching definition in order to make it applicable to bulbs.

- **Trade in bulbs. The Georgian case**

Speakers: Mr. David Kikodze.

The speaker noted the establishment of a wild quota of *Galanthus woronowii* in 2014 and the main objectives of the 2014-2015 projects. New field survey methodologies have been used in order to produce extremely precautionary estimates based on projected total stock per site. Harvest should be banned from five wild sites of high conservation value to conserve the ecosystems. A quota of 15 million wild bulbs appears to be sustainable. A workshop was held in September 2014 with stakeholders, governmental agencies, traders, NGOs and academic representatives. All Parties agreed that reporting and a long-term monitoring system should be put in place to further improve implementation of CITES in the Georgian snowdrop trade.

- **Artificially propagated - definition in CITES and Bulbs.**

Speaker: Ms. Teona Karchava (CITES MA Georgia).

The speaker outlined the difficulty in applying the CITES criteria for artificial propagation to bulbs. Legislative changes in 2012 introduced new registration processes, and a practical application of artificial propagation with regard to bulbs was outlined. In 2014 Georgia adopted a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and began a GIZ funded project, "Establishment of sustainable export quota for *Galanthus woronowii*".

- **Trade in bulbs.**

Speakers: Mr. David Kikodze.

The speaker showed a 2014 case study explaining how a quota was established for artificially propagated *Galanthus woronowii*. The study showed that there is a need to allow stock to regenerate between harvests.

Sweden asked if there were any cases of illegal harvest. Georgia replied that there was no illegal harvest of *Galanthus* but outlined problems regarding tubers of *Cyclamen*. Germany expressed approval of the Georgian sustainable trade in bulbs as a real example of the successful implementation of the Convention.

- **Strengthening of Institutional Capacity on CITES Implementation in Turkey.**

Speakers: Ms. Serap Yilmaz and Ms. Asli Onay

The speakers focused on the Project “Strengthening of Institutional Capacity on CITES Implementation in Turkey” which was a joint programme developed with Spain. The main aims of the project were training programmes in Turkey, the organisation of study visit programs to EU member States to share experience on CITES implementation; exchange programmes, internship programmes, ID manuals, CITES trainer brochures and posters, CITES database programme and a CITES web-page was designed and established.

The speakers focused on the situation of bulbs in Turkey and outlined the legislation regarding flower bulbs and the technical committees that had been put in place. A quota has been put in place to allow export of flower bulbs from Turkey for species such as *Sternbergia* and *Galanthus*.

Suggestions: Spain expressed their gratitude to Turkey for the joint programme, also thanking the Portugal and UK SAs and Mas for their collaboration and reinforced the importance of sharing information and of collaboration with European Parties.

- **Trade in Bulbs. Trade in Medicinal Plant species from the Himalayan region.**

Speaker: Mr. Daniel Wolf (CITES SA Germany).

The speaker gave an overview of the Himalayan environment, adding that it has been declared as biodiversity hot spot. Himalayan medicinal plants have been used for their properties in cosmetic industries and trade, along with overgrazing and habitat loss, has led to an overexploitation of these species. China and India are the main exporters of these plants, with Pakistan and Nepal also playing an important role. There is regulation and legislation in India and Nepal, such as forest legislation, but two regulations on the exports of certain species have excluded 29 species from trade in crude material and extract form.

The trade is relevant to the EU as it imports more than 25% of the global imports of pharmaceutical plants. For some of the species listed in the Appendices Germany has applied the 9 steps NDF Guidance for Perennial Plants and there are several queries regarding management measures and trade impacts. There is essential to continue to observe the status and international trade in medicinal plants from the Himalayas along with monitoring measures and if necessary review the SRG decision.

Suggestions

Latvia expressed concern from an enforcement point of view about companies and products; perhaps EU Twix could help in order to share information. UK expressed concerns about the introduction of the species and the problems with annotations. Swiss offered to share a report on the commerce of 125 orchid species traded in Europe, which gives information about products and stakeholders involved in this trade.

12.30 **Session 9:** Preparation for the 22nd Meeting of the Plants Committee & COP17 Chair: Regional representatives group discussion including;

Document preparation for PC22 and deadlines

Potential proposals and documents for CoP17

Georgia informed participants that the next PC will be held October 19th 2015 in Tbilisi.

The Chair expressed concerns about the next PC given the quantity of work to be done and she encouraged all Parties to prepare and send the documents to the Secretariat before the deadline, 90 days before the PC (August 15th). A draft agenda will be produced shortly. Mr. Sajeva encouraged the Parties to share information about their activities and issues for the Regional report, and to outline any support they could give regarding identification, implementation and enforcement issues. The Parties are invited to send their reports to the Regional Representative when they receive the questionnaire during the first trimester of 2015.

- ***Dalbergia* spp. A case for CITES listing?**

Speaker: Ms. Valentina Vaglica (Italy).

The speaker focused on *Dalbergia* genus outlining a revision of the Latin American species; it represents a starting point for further investigations within the genus, with a view to the improving information on individual species in order to establish whether international trade might be detrimental to the survival of the species.

Suggestions

Germany encouraged the Parties to collect data on *Dalbergia* spp., in order to identify which species are involved (CITES and non-CITES listed species) and to liaise with the competent Authorities for the EUTR in order to collect this data. Portugal expressed concern about possible opposition by some regions regarding the inclusion of the whole genus; it could be useful to create a list of potential solutions and problems.

Ms Clemente suggested the preparation of a document with an analysis of issues related to the potential listing of the genus *Dalbergia* in App.II and the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the 22nd PC for further discussion with other regions. This would be carried out by the Alternate Representative for Europe (Mr Carmo) with the assistance of several Parties.

15.00 **Session 10:** Approval of Recommendations from the Meeting

Chair: Regional Representatives

The document with the recommendations was read, slowly one by one, and the participants agreed on them

16.00: Time and venue of next European Regional Meeting

Montenegro offered to organise the next Regional meeting in 2016 and it was accepted.

16.15 Close of Meeting for the Day

The European Regional CITES Plants Meeting thanks the Netherlands for hosting and organising the meeting and facilitating open discussion between the Parties of the European region. It also thanks the CITES Secretariat, the European Commission, the United States of America and the Nomenclature Expert for Plants for their participation and contribution.

[Valentina Vaglica, Wageningen, 14 November 2014]

Opening Speech from Prof. Dr. Margarita África Clemente Muñoz

Chairman of the CITES Plants Committee and Representative of Europe
Distinguished Members of the Scientific and Management Authorities of the Netherlands, our hosting country
Distinguished Gentlemen: European representative, Nomenclature specialist for the Plants Committee,
European Alternate Representatives of the Plants Committee
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen: Observers from the European Parties and from US MA
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, present at this opening ceremony:

For me it is an honour and a great pleasure to address you all as European representative and Chairman of the Plants Committee at this opening ceremony our nine meeting, and to welcome you.

In the first place, on behalf of the Region, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Authorities of the Netherlands for this marvelous invitation to hold our meeting in the incomparable setting of the town of Wageningen. We are also privileged to be close of one of the most emblematic institutions, not only of the Netherlands but of all Europe: the University of Wageningen, well known for the quality of its teaching and the prestige of its researchers.

I would like to mention and deeply thank the CITES Scientific Authority of the Netherlands, and in special Pieter and Jos, for the splendid work they have done in preparing and organizing this meeting.

I also wish to thank the European representative my dear friend Maurizio for his work, support and collaboration, and also to thank David and Paulo -Alternates European representatives-, Milena from the CITES Secretariat, Anne from the US MA and the representatives of the European Parties for their participation in the meeting. I shall thank them all for their valuable contributions to our discussions.

The Netherlands is a country that is well known for the laborious, enterprising and open spirit of its inhabitants. It is the cradle of philosophers and thinkers such as Erasmus of Rotterdam and Baruch Spinoza, mathematicians and astronomers like Christian Huygens, grand masters of art such as Rembrandt or Van Gogh.... And I shall refrain from mentioning more, as the list would be endless. In short, the Netherlands has been the cradle of men and women renowned worldwide for their contributions to the advancement of knowledge and culture.

Furthermore, in the Netherlands we are surrounded by one of the country's most characteristic signs of identity: its excellent horticultural industry and vigorous trade in plants obtained by artificial propagation. The quality of Dutch horticulture is a paradigm throughout the world, as is the special dedication of the Dutch to knowledge of the Plant Kingdom. As you all well know, the Netherlands has spawned excellent botanists. The Dutch are constantly concerned with the conservation of natural resources, as is clearly demonstrated through the excellent work carried out by their government, their universities and botanic gardens; from their non-governmental organizations and from the sensitivity Dutch citizens show towards these matters.

This CITES European Meeting on Plants is unique, we have held nine meetings and several workshops, this allow us to work together between the Plants Committees meetings and between the CoPs. Our last meeting was in Tbilisi (Georgia) and we had there interesting documents, as well as valuable contributions and studies that the European Parties presented.

The same situation we have in this meeting and I encourage you to develop fruitful discussions and to reach valuable recommendations. We will share them with the other regions in the next Plants Committee that will be held in October 2015 in the beautiful city of Tbilisi in Georgia.

Finally, thank you very much again The Netherland for the marvelous hospitality!.. and congratulations for the election of the logo of this meeting a sculpture ('Plant, ontluikend leven') created by the artists Huub and Adelheid Kortekaas. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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

IX European Regional CITES Plants Meeting

Wageningen, the Netherlands 11-14 November 2014

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Via Skype

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Guests

44	Mr. Ulrich Heindl. Consultant. GTS (Global traceability solutions).	Wednesday 12th	Germany
45	Mr. René Klaassen (Consultant SHR, Wageningen, The Netherlands).	Wednesday 12th	Netherlands
46	Mr. Herman Wierenga Interim CITES SA Netherlands	Tuesday 11th	Netherlands
47	Mr. Marcel van Nijnatten. CITES Management Authority Netherlands	Tuesday 11th	Netherlands
48	Ms. Meriam Wortel. Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, Team of Enforcement.	Tuesday 11th	Netherlands