

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

5. Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Plants Committee for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties *No document*

The vice-Chair of the Plants Committee announced that he was stepping down as member of the Plants Committee and its vice-Chair. The Committee agreed that the Alternate Representative of North America (Ms. Sinclair) would replace the Representative of North America (Mr. Benítez), and also be the vice-Chair of the Plants Committee until the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chair announced that she did not plan to attend the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66). The Committee asked the Chair of the Animals Committee (Ms. Caceres) to present at SC66 the joint AC/PC agenda items and the Alternate Representative of Asia (Ms. Al-Salem) to present the PC agenda items.

20. Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16)]

20.1 Overview of species under review..... PC22 Doc. 20.1

20.3 Species review

20.3.1 Periodic review of Didieraceae, *Aloe* spp. and *Euphorbia* spp. PC22 Doc. 20.3.1

20.3.2 Periodic review of *Pachypodium brevicaule* PC22 Doc. 20.3.2

and

20.3.3 Periodic review of *Sclerocactus* spp...... PC22 Doc. 20.3.3

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC22 Com. 2 with the following amendments:

- Correction of the name of the following species: *Dioscorea deltoidea* (and not *Discorea deltoidea*), *Hedychium philippinense* (and not *Hedychium philipinense*), and *Tillandsia kammii* (and not *Tillandsia kamm*);
- Inclusion of the following sentence in paragraph 1.1.b after “Ms. Rivera”: “and considering that the species has been under the periodic review process for more than two intersessional periods between CoPs (since 2005), and in compliance with para. e) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16).”
- In paragraph 5.2, correct the grammatical error in the last line to read: “which should be transferred”

The Committee recommended the inclusion of paragraph 4 of document PC22 Com. 2 in the report of the Chair of the Plants Committee to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

11. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)]

11.3 Species selected following CoP16PC22 Doc. 11.3

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC22 Com. 3 with the following amendment:

- Inclusion of the Representative of Africa (Mr. Luke) and of the Alternate Representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo) as members of the working group;

The Committee recommended the inclusion of paragraphs 2a) and b) of document PC22 Com. 3 in the report of the Chair of the Plants Committee to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

12. Non-detriment findings

12.1 Report on Non-detriment finding for *Pericopsis elata* from the Democratic Republic of the Congo PC22 Doc. 12.1

12.2 Report on Non-detriment finding for *Bulnesia sarmientoi* from Paraguay..... PC22 Doc. 12.2

and

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC22 Com. 4 with the following amendments:

- Translation in French of “management” should be “aménagement” and not “gestion”;
- Translation in Spanish of “commends” should be “felicita”;
- Inclusion of the Representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rivera) as a member of the working group;
- Under “Report on NDF for *Pericopsis elata* in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (PC22 Doc. 12.1)”, paragraph c) should read as follows:

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;

- Under “Report on NDF for *Pericopsis elata* in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (PC22 Doc. 12.1)”, insert in paragraph e) the word “Plants” at the end of the fifth line between “Chair of the” and “Committee”;
- Under “Report on NDF for *Pericopsis elata* in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (PC22 Doc. 12.1)”, paragraph f) should read as follows:

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 Implementation of the Convention for timber species and Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on Management of nationally established export quotas;

- Under “Report on NDF for *Pericopsis elata* in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (PC22 Doc. 12.1)”, replace the last bullet point at the end of paragraph f) with the following:

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.

- Under “Report on NDF for *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in Paraguay (PC22 Doc. 12.2)”, paragraph b) should read:

encourages ~~the~~ Parties and ~~the~~ 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;
- Under “Report on NDF for *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in Paraguay (PC22 Doc. 12.2)”, paragraph c) should read:

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~~all~~ 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;
- Under “Report on NDF for *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in Paraguay (PC22 Doc. 12.2)”, paragraph d) should read:

recommends that the Secretariat and Paraguay address the question of export quotas for *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in order to resolve the technical ~~arrangements~~ issues mentioned during the meeting.
- Under “Harvesting of and trade in *Prunus africana* (PC22 Doc. 13)”, insert in line 2 of paragraph b) “, as appropriate,” before “an assessment of the management of the species”;
- Under “Harvesting of and trade in *Prunus africana* (PC22 Doc. 13)”, the Spanish translation of “against the principles” in paragraph b) should read “en linea” and not “en contra”;
- Under “Harvesting of and trade in *Prunus africana* (PC22 Doc. 13)”, replace the word “rules” by “guidelines” in line 2 of paragraph c);
- Under “Harvesting of and trade in *Prunus africana* (PC22 Doc. 13)”, replace the word “mean” by “means” in line 2 of paragraph d);
- Under “Harvesting of and trade in *Prunus africana* (PC22 Doc. 13)”, insert in line 4 of paragraph e) “standardized” before “monitoring of the impact”;
- Under “Harvesting of and trade in *Prunus africana* (PC22 Doc. 13)”, use a lower-case “d” for the word “~~D~~ecisions”;
- Under “Harvesting of and trade in *Prunus africana* (PC22 Doc. 13)”, add the following sentence at the end of paragraph i): “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.”

The preliminary membership of the intersessional working group on African tree species of the Plants Committee was decided as follows:

Chair: Representative of Africa (Ms. Khayota);

PC members: Representative of Africa (Mr. Luke) and Alternate Representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo);

Parties: Belgium, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Madagascar, Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America;

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, CIEL, EIA, Special Survival Network, TRAFFIC, WWF and FTS Botanics.

The Committee adopted the following terms of reference of the intersessional working group on African tree species of the Plants Committee:

- a) The working group will function under the authority of the Plants Committee;
- b) The working group will work primarily via electronic means;
- c) The working group will seek to facilitate the circulation and exchange of experiences among the range States, importing countries and other stakeholders on the sustainable use and management of CITES-listed African tree species;
- d) The working group will seek to identify gaps and weaknesses in the capacity of range States of African tree species to effectively implement CITES for these species;
- e) The working group will examine how the processes currently used by countries to develop annual export quotas compare with the processes recommended under CITES and develop recommendations for reconciling them;
- f) The working group will explore the conversion factors used for different commodities (e.g., logs, sawn wood, bark) and develop recommendations for improving such processes;
- g) The working group will seek to identify other African tree species that may benefit from inclusion in the CITES Appendices;
- h) The group will conclude its deliberations on these issues by 31 March 2016 in order to have sufficient time to prepare a report on its progress for consideration at CoP17; and
- i) In its report to CoP17, the working group will invite the Parties to review the outcomes of the work undertaken by the working group and evaluate the need for continuing such a working group. Any decision adopted concerning the continuation of this working group will call on it to report its findings to the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Plants Committee (PC23 and PC24) as appropriate.

9. Guidance on making non-detriment findings (NDF)

9.2 Guidance on making NDFs for tree species PC22 Doc. 9.2 (Rev. 1)

The Committee noted that document PC22 Doc. 9.2 (Rev. 1) was withdrawn by the authors of the document: César Beltetón, CONAP, Guatemala, and Margarita África Clemente Muñoz, University of Cordoba, Spain

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC22 Com. 5 with the following amendments:

- In paragraph 1, replace “transparency” by “technical clarity”;
- In paragraph 2, delete in the first bullet point “in the context of protected areas”;
- Delete paragraphs 4, 6 and 7;
- Insert a new last paragraph as follows: “That the Plants Committee take note of the work done to date and encourage its further elaboration. The authors are welcome to resubmit the next draft of the Annex to the Plants Committee for information.”

17. Trees

17.3 Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and Malagasy rosewoods and palisanders (*Dalbergia* spp.)
(Decision 16.152)

17.3.1 Report of the Secretariat..... PC22 Doc. 17.3.1

and

17.3.2 Report of Madagascar on progress in implementing the
“Action Plan for *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp.”..... PC22 Doc. 17.3.2

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC22 Com. 6 with the following amendments:

- Inclusion of Ireland as a member of the working group;

- Deletion of “should” in paragraph 2c)
- In paragraph 2f), insert “IUCN” before “Specialist Group of Malagasy Plants”;
- Deletion of paragraphs 2n) and 2o) to be replaced by the following text: “encourages Madagascar to follow the recommendations made by the Secretariat in document PC22 Doc. 17.3.1.”

20. Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16)]

20.3 Species review

20.3.3 Periodic review of *Sclerocactus* spp...... PC22 Doc. 20.3.3

and

21. Standard nomenclature [Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16)]

21.1 Report of the specialist on botanical nomenclature PC22 Doc. 21.1

21.2 Taxonomic problems with *Nardostachys* and its potential implications for trade data and control..... PC22 Doc. 21.2

21.3 Revised nomenclature for *Aloe* spp. PC22 Doc. 21.3

21.4 Revised nomenclature for two species of Malagasy palms (*Arecaceae*) PC22 Doc. 21.4

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC22 Com. 7 with the following amendments:

- Under paragraph 3a), correction of the name of *Nardostachys jatamansi* (and not *Nardostachys jatamsai*);
- Inclusion of Portugal as a member of the working group.

Adoption of executive summary PC22 Sum. 3

The Committee adopted executive summary PC22 Sum. 3 with the following amendment:

- Add at the end of the third paragraph under agenda item 7.2 the following text: “presented in Annex 2 of document PC22 Doc. 7.2 (Rev. 2).”

17. Trees

17.5 Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gynerops* spp.)

17.5.3 Assessment of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.9 (Decision 16.157) PC22 Doc. 17.5.3

The Committee noted the revised Glossary of Agarwood Products in the Annex of document PC22 Doc. 17.5.3 and asked the Secretariat to publish a Notification inviting Parties to provide more information and comments to improve this glossary, if necessary.

The Committee recommended the deletion of Decisions 15.95 (Rev. CoP16) and 16.155 by the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting in order to continue the work of the Plants Committee on agarwood-producing taxa:

Directed to the Plants Committee

16.157 (Rev. CoP17) *The Plants Committee shall monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 (Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa) to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, and shall report on these issues at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting:

Directed to the range, transit, consumer and producer Parties of agarwood products,

17.XX *Range, transit, consumer, and producer Parties of agarwood products are invited to compile and publish identification manuals on agarwood products, taking into consideration the updated version of the Glossary provided in the Annex to document PC22 Doc.17.5.3, and any further updated version, if appropriate. They are encouraged to distribute these identification manuals as training material to management and enforcement officials.*

19. Trade in artificially propagated plants [Decision 14.40 (Rev. CoP16)] PC22 Doc. 19

The Committee recommended that Parties continue to report trade in artificially propagated Appendix-II plants at the species level consistent with the Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of CITES Annual Reports when possible, taking into account data entry capacity and in consideration of conservation priorities such as the value in species level reporting for new species in trade.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to incorporate the above recommendation into the Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of CITES Annual Reports (provided in Notification to the Parties No. 2011/019).

16. Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species (Decision 15.53)* PC22 Doc. 16

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document AC28 Com. 7 (Rev. by Secretariat) with the following additional feedback specific to plants:

- With respect to guidance on source codes for plant trade, the Plants Committee noted in particular that the decision path for Source Code D needs revision to take into consideration Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15), which recognizes that nurseries that are not registered may still continue exporting artificially propagated specimens of Appendix-I species grown for commercial purpose, with appropriate CITES export permits.
- It was also noted that the guidance did not address the definitions for “artificially propagated” agarwood (Resolution Conf. 16.10), grafts (Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15)) or trees grown in monospecific plantations (Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15)).
- Where references are made to ‘cultivated parental stock,’ this should be in accordance with the definition in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15), *Regarding the definition of ‘artificially propagated’*, paragraph b).
- There may be a nuance missing regarding exempt materials as described in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) (i.e., seeds, cuttings, divisions, callus tissue or other plant tissues, spores or other propagules as noted under the heading, “DETERMINES that the term ‘artificially propagated’ shall be interpreted to refer to plant specimens”), including the coding of specimens to be exported that were grown from exempt callus tissue or other plant tissues.
- Some questions might be confusing, such as “Was the cutting or division taken from a wild plant that is NOT considered cultivated parental stock?”.
- It would be useful to have the opportunity for CITES Authorities to ground test this guidance more fully.

The Plants Committee commended this undertaking to provide discrete guidance for determining source codes and recognized that there is inconsistent advice within the relevant resolutions associated with

source codes, which merits further attention by the Standing Committee and Parties. For example, ambiguity on the application of source code A and source code D.

The Plants Committee recommended that the Secretariat seek further feedback from the Standing Committee and Parties, and prepare a new version of this guidance taking into account the feedback received.

24. Any other business

24.2 Possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. Cop15) on Implementation of the Convention on timber species..... *No document*

The Committee requested the Secretariat to submit a document on possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. Cop15) on *Implementation of the Convention on timber species* to the Plants Committee at its 23rd meeting.

23. Regional reports

23.1 Africa..... PC22 Doc. 23.1

The Committee noted document PC22 Doc. 23.1.

23.2 Asia..... PC22 Doc. 23.2

The Committee noted document PC22 Doc. 23.2.

23.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean..... PC22 Doc. 23.3

The Committee noted document PC22 Doc. 23.3.

23.4 Europe..... PC22 Doc. 23.4 (Rev. 1)

The Committee noted document PC22 Doc. 23.4 (Rev. 1).

23.5 North America..... PC22 Doc. 23.5

The Committee noted document PC22 Doc. 23.5.

23.6 Oceania..... PC22 Doc. 23.6

The Committee noted document PC22 Doc. 23.6.

25. Time and venue of the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee..... *No document*

The Committee welcomed the offers of Paraguay and Madagascar to host respectively its 23rd and 24th meetings in 2017 and 2018.

26. Closing remarks *No document*

The Committee thanked its outgoing Chair. The Chair thanked the Committee members, and in particular the vice-Chair of the Plants Committee and the Representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean who will be leaving the Committee, Party observers, IGO and NGO observers, the interpreters, Georgia and the Secretariat, and closed the meeting.