

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 and 24-27 July 2017

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE OF SPECIMENS  
OF APPENDIX-II SPECIES  
(agenda item 15)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Chair: the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);
- Members: the representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahamane and Ms. Koumba Pambo), Asia (Mr. Lee) and of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón), Oceania (Mr. Leach);
- Parties: Argentina, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, European Union, France, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and
- IGOs and NGOs: UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), American Herbal Products Association, Center for International Environmental Law, Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale (CSFI), Confederation of European Music Industries, Environmental Investigation Agency, Forest Based Solutions, LLC, Global Eye, International Society of Violins and Bow Makers, International Wood Products Association, IWMC World Conservation Trust, Society for Wildlife And Nature International (SWAN), Species Survival Network, Taylor Guitars, and TRAFFIC.

Mandate

Concerning agenda item 15.2:

For the 11 species/country combinations retained in the review after the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee, in accordance with paragraph 1) g) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), the working group shall:

- a) review the report in Annex 1 to document PC23 Doc. 15.2 and the responses received from the range States concerned contained in Annex 2 (and any additional information), recategorize the species/country combination of *Hoodia gordonii*-Namibia, which is indicated as 'unknown status', as either 'action is needed' or 'less concern' and provide a justification for such recategorization; and, if appropriate, revise the preliminary categorization proposed for species/country combinations of those where 'action is needed' or those of 'less concern' and provide a justification for the revision;

- b) formulate time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, and transparent recommendations directed to the range States retained in the review process, using the principles outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33; and
- c) formulate separate recommendations directed to the Standing Committee regarding problems that are not directly related to the implementation of Article IV paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a).

Concerning agenda item 15.3:

In accordance with paragraph 1 b) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17):

Review the information contained in the Annexes to document PC23 Doc. 15.3, as well as information available to the Plants Committee, the Secretariat, Parties or other relevant experts, and on the basis of that information, recommend a limited number of species/country combinations of greatest concern for inclusion in Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade.

Recommendations

- A. Concerning **agenda item 15.2**, and in accordance with paragraph 1) g) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), for the 11 species/country combinations retained in the review after the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee, the working group **recommends** the following.
  - I. That the following 6 species/country combinations be categorised as ‘action is needed’.

Species Name	Country	Justification
<i>Hoodia gordonii</i>	Namibia	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2. Changed from ‘unknown status’ to ‘action is needed’ because more information is needed.
<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>	India	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2.
<i>Prunus africana</i>	Cameroon	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2
<i>Prunus africana</i>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2
<i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i>	Nepal	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2
<i>Bulnesia sarmientoi</i>	Paraguay	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2

The working group proposes that the **recommendations** directed to range States in **Annex 1** to this report be adopted with respect to the species/country combinations identified above for which ‘action is needed’.

- II. That the following 5 species/country combinations be categorised as ‘less concern’.

Species Name	Country	Justification
<i>Galanthus elwesii</i>	Turkey	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2, and based on information provided by Turkey at the meeting regarding harvest management and populations.
<i>Hoodia gordonii</i>	South Africa	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2. Category retained as less concern in consideration of the South Africa’s indication at the meeting

Species Name	Country	Justification
		that they intended to publish a zero quota (see Additional recommendations for agenda item 15.2).
<i>Dendrobium chrysotoxum</i>	Lao People's Democratic Republic	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2, with referral to Standing Committee as explained under Additional Recommendations for agenda item 15.2.
<i>Dendrobium moschatum</i>	Lao People's Democratic Republic	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2, with referral to Standing Committee as explained under Additional Recommendations for agenda item 15.2.
<i>Bulnesia sarmientoi</i>	Argentina	As outlined in Table 1 of Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2. Changed to less concern on the basis of information provided by Argentina at the meeting, as explained under Additional Recommendations for agenda item 15.2.

### III. Additional recommendations concerning agenda item 15.2

The working group made the following additional recommendations and observations:

1. The working group notes that while there is no recent legal CITES reported trade in wild specimens of *Dendrobium chrysotoxum* and *Dendrobium moschatum* from Lao People's Democratic Republic, field-based studies have indicated continued large-scale unreported international trade in *Dendrobium* species from that country, including *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*. This is at odds with the sudden reported shift in trade from wild-sourced specimens to artificially-propagated specimens, noting that these species are difficult to cultivate. The working group recommends that this issue be referred to the Standing Committee, noting the ongoing Standing Committee's processes for this country.
2. The working group notes that South Africa intends to publish a zero quota for wild specimens of *Hoodia gordonii*.
3. The working group notes the following explanation regarding exports from Argentina of *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, which was accepted as a rationale for re-classification of the species-country combination as 'less concern': "Argentina will have no authorized export of timber of *Bulnesia sarmientoi* until regional management plans for this species have been approved. Exports of pre-2013 timber stocks will be verified according to documented records and treated separately".

### B. Concerning agenda item 15.3, the working group recommends the following:

- i. In accordance with paragraph 1 b) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), the working group recommends the following species/country combinations for inclusion in Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade.

	Species	Country selected	Justification
1	<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Lao People's Democratic Republic	High volume (globally threatened)
2	<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Cambodia	High volume (globally threatened)

	Species	Country selected	Justification
3	<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Viet Nam	Include Viet Nam with the other range states to obtain information for the region as a whole.
4	<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	Nicaragua	High volume trade
5	<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	Panama	High volume trade
6	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	Cameroon	Endangered; High volume (globally threatened); Note that the sharp increase criterion was initially met for Cameroon but based on a recent annual report correction, this criterion would not apply.
7	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	Congo	Endangered; High volume (globally threatened); sharp increase
8	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Endangered; High volume (globally threatened);

II. Additional recommendations concerning agenda item 15.3

The working group made the following additional recommendations and observations:

1. The Plants Committee notes that Madagascar will put in place an immediate zero quota for wild specimens for the following taxa (names as cited in PC23 Doc 15.3, Table 2, Annex 2), and will communicate it to the Secretariat for publication on the CITES website:

*Operculicarya hyphaenoides*  
*Operculicarya pachypus*

*Pachypodium brevicaule*  
*Pachypodium eburneum*  
*Pachypodium horombense*  
*Pachypodium inopinatum*  
*Pachypodium rosulatum*

*Zygosicyos pubescens*  
*Zygosicyos tripartitus*

*Euphorbia ankarensis*  
*Euphorbia guillauminiana*  
*Euphorbia hedyotoides*  
*Euphorbia itremensis*  
*Euphorbia kondoi*  
*Euphorbia labatii*  
*Euphorbia neohumbertii*  
*Euphorbia pachypodioides*  
*Euphorbia pedilanthoides*  
*Euphorbia perrieri*  
*Euphorbia razafindratsirae*  
*Euphorbia sakarahaensis*  
*Euphorbia suzannae-marnierae*

*Senna meridionalis*

*Aerangis fuscata*  
*Aerangis* spp.

*Aeranthes* spp.

*Angraecum coutrixii*  
*Angraecum humblotianum*  
*Angraecum mahavavense*  
*Angraecum obesum*  
*Angraecum pinifolium*  
*Angraecum* spp.

*Cynorkis* spp.

*Jumellea* spp.

*Oeonia* spp.

*Uncarina stellulifera*

*Cyphostemma elephantopus*  
*Cyphostemma montagnacii*

2. The working group recommends that the Secretariat consult with Costa Rica concerning reported exports of wild specimens (source W) to the United States of America for *Phalaenopsis* spp, noting that Costa Rica is not a range State for this genus.
3. The working group acknowledged the significant progress made by the range States of *Pericopsis elata* in improving their management of this species.
4. The working group noted that a species of coral (*Sarcophyton* spp.) was somehow included in the output for selection of plant species for the Review of Significant Trade process.

**RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED TO RANGE STATES RETAINED  
IN THE REVIEW PROCESS – AGENDA ITEM 15.2**

The following recommendations, directed to the range States retained in the review process, are based on the principles outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33.

**1. *Hoodia gordonii* – Namibia. The Management Authority of Namibia shall report to the Secretariat on implementation of the following:**

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Action</u></p> <p>Establish a voluntary export quota system, put in place a zero export quota for wild specimens, and inform the CITES Secretariat of this quota so that it can be included in the national export quotas on the CITES website.</p> <p>Before wild trade is resumed, the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee should be informed of the process under which the non-detriment finding was made for their agreement.</p>	<p>3 months</p>	<p>As outlined in Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2. Namibia's response did not provide information on exports of wild specimens traded for commercial purposes.</p>

**2. *Prunus africana* – Cameroon. The Management Authority of Cameroon shall report to the Secretariat on implementation of the following:**

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Action</u></p> <p>Establish a zero export quota for the North West region of Cameroon.</p> <p>Establish an interim quota of not more than 50% of the country's current total export quota (as of 26 July 2017, the current quota for 2017 is 908,743 kg of dry bark (ref: National export quotas on CITES website)). This quota should cover all material that is exported. No exports of any material should occur until this revised quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>Before making any increases to the interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the Management Authority of</p>	<p>3 months</p>	<p>As outlined in Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
Cameroon to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.		
<u>Long-term Action</u> -Develop and implement subregional management with clearly defined harvest management measures (e.g., minimum rotation periods, minimum DBH, good harvesting techniques, impact of harvest on the targeted trees) -undertake monitoring of the impact of harvest and implement harvest and export restrictions based on monitoring results	18 months	

**3. *Prunus africana* – Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo shall report to the Secretariat on implementation of the following:**

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<u>Short-term Action</u> Review and revise if appropriate, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, the export quota for the species and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. The quota should be conservative. Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.	6 months	As outlined in Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<u>Long-term Action</u> -Develop and implement subregional management with clearly defined harvest management measures (e.g., minimum rotation periods, minimum DBH, good harvesting techniques, impact of harvest on the targeted trees) -undertake monitoring of the impact of harvest and implement harvest and export restrictions based on monitoring results	24 months	

4. *Nardostachys grandiflora* – Nepal. The Management Authority of Nepal shall report to the Secretariat on implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<u>Short-term Action</u> -Establish a zero export quota for wild specimens and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website. -Before making any increases to the zero export quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the Management Authority of Nepal to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement. Clarify the current legislation with regard to trade in this Appendix II listed species.	3 months	As outlined in Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2
<u>Long-term Action</u> The Management Authority should report to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee its actions to implement the provisions of Article IV, and how the Scientific Authority determines that levels of export are not detrimental to the populations concerned, including the scientific basis for allowable harvest rates, and how legal domestic harvest and illegal	18 months	As outlined in Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2



Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p>harvest are taken into account when making NDFs.</p> <p>Develop and implement coordinated national and/or local management plans (that include harvest management considerations) with clear monitoring requirements with adaptive management (regular review of harvest records, of impact of harvesting, adjustment of harvest instructions as necessary), to ensure harvest restrictions are based on monitoring results.</p>		

**6(a) *Pterocarpus santalinus* – India. The Management Authority of India shall report to the Secretariat on implementation of the following:**

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p>-Any future amendment of the quota not take place until the Standing Committee has an opportunity to review the situation and advice the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee on the results of their work, in particular in relation to the confiscated materials.</p>		<p>As outlined in Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2</p> <p>-concerns about continued high volume of export of confiscated materials and concerns with adherence to Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) with respect to artificially propagated specimens.</p>
<p>-Clarify, to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, the status of material exported from plantations, and provide data to support the case that these stocks meet the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) for artificially propagated specimens and assess the possible impact on wild populations.</p>	9 months	<p>-concerns about continued high volume of export of confiscated materials and concerns with adherence to Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) with respect to artificially propagated specimens.</p>

7. *Bulnesia sarmientoi* – Paraguay. The Management Authority of Paraguay shall report to the Secretariat on implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Action</u></p> <p>Establish in consultation with the Secretariat and with the Chair of the Plants Committee an interim conservative quota, for the species, its products, derivatives and extracts and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until this revised quota has been published on the Secretariats website.</p> <p>The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable offtake that make use of best available scientific information. Information should also be supplied on the management and monitoring measures that are in place and active.</p> <p>Before making any future increase to the quota, the planned changes should be communicated to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification how the updated quota is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off- take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>3 months</p>	<p>As outlined in Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p>The Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee will take into account results of the review of management and monitoring measures, and the revised plans to provide an effective locally-appropriate system.</p> <p>The Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee will review this information and make their recommendations on revision of the quota.</p>	9 months	As outlined in Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2
<p><u>Long-term Action</u></p> <p>Review management systems in place, including how population levels are calculated and sustainable off- take assessed, taking into account levels and frequency of harvest, annual growth rates for the species, and the location of harvest. Critically review monitoring measures, the reporting and assessment of same, assess their effectiveness and amend as appropriate.</p> <p>Overall, the review should aim to establish an effective NDF process with a locally- appropriate and effective monitoring system.</p>	2 years	As outlined in Annex 1 of PC23 Doc. 15.2