

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

Species specific matters

AFRICAN TREE SPECIES
(agenda item 24)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Co-chairs: the representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahamane and Ms. Koumba Pambo) and the alternate representative of Africa (Ms. Khayota);
- Members: the representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) and Europe (Mr. Carmo);
- Parties: Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Madagascar, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America
- IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), IUCN, Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency, EUROMED, Forest Based Solutions, Llc., Forest Research and Management Institute, FTS Botanics, International Wood Products Association, INDENA, Special Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Mandate

1. Draft a realistic work plan, including timeline and prioritization of tasks, to carry out the mandate under Decision 17.302 intersessionally that would identify specific actions and allow for a manageable workload within available resources;
2. With respect to part c) of Decision 17.302, seek ways to interact with the AC/PC working group on capacity building (Decision 17.32) so as not to duplicate work.

Recommendations

Having considered the mandate, the working group recommends that the Plants Committee:

1. Note that the working group has established the need to identify a limited number of key topics related to the implementation and enforcement of CITES listings for African tree species, which it will bring to the attention of the next meeting of the Plants Committee;
2. Note that to achieve recommendation 1, the African tree species working group has established a drafting group which consists of the representatives for Africa, Cameroon, Belgium, China, the European Union, Portugal, the United States of America, and the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), in order to:

- a) draft a questionnaire by 30 September 2017 to collect input from CITES Parties on parts b) to, and including, f) of Decision 17.302. This questionnaire will seek information addressing the topics identified in paragraphs b to f) of Decision 17.302;
 - b) review, and request comments and approval of the draft by the African tree species intersessional working group;
 - c) finalise the questionnaire by 31 October 2017 and send the final version of the questionnaire to the CITES Secretariat for circulation *via* a Notification to the Parties; and
 - d) with assistance from the CITES Secretariat, analyse the inputs provided to the questionnaire and produce a report for the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee by April 2018 for the attention of the Plants Committee;
3. Note that the results of the questionnaire can be particularly useful for initiatives such as regional workshops supporting Parties and relevant stakeholders to identify other African tree species that may benefit from inclusion in the CITES Appendices;
 4. Invite the Plants Committee at its 24th meeting to consider the key topics related to the implementation and enforcement of CITES listings for African tree species, based on the questionnaire's results and report by this working group;
 5. Encourage Parties to provide feedback to the representative of Africa on relevant regional initiatives, e.g. the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC), or the Southern African Development Community (SADC), centres of expertise and available datasets on timber species in trade; and
 6. Encourage the Animals Committee / Plants Committee (AC/PC) joint intersessional working group on capacity building to take note of the deliberations of this African tree species working group and that the results of the questionnaire will be shared with the AC/PC intersessional working group on capacity building.