

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

Strategic matters

Plants Committee strategic planning for 2017-2019 (CoP17-CoP18)

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Annex 1 to this document provides an overview of the currently valid Resolutions that require actions from, or contain references to the Plants Committee.
3. Annex 2 lists all currently valid Decisions of the Conference of the Parties directed to the Plants Committee, or that may need consultation with, or assistance from the Committee.
4. The Plants Committee is invited to take these instructions into consideration in developing its working programme for 2017-2019 (see document PC23 Doc. 6.2).

RESOLUTIONS CONTAINING INSTRUCTIONS THAT ARE DIRECTED OR RELEVANT
TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

Resolution	Instruction
<p>Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) Annex 3</p> <p>Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes</p>	<p>1. RESOLVES that the Secretariat shall perform the following functions:</p> <p>...</p> <p>d) receive and review reports on registered nurseries, provided by the Parties, and present summary conclusions to the Plants Committee;</p>
<p>Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)</p> <p>Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II</p>	<p>5. URGES Parties that are considering the submission of a proposal to amend the Appendices, in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, to consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee as early as possible in advance of submitting the proposal;</p> <p>9. RESOLVES that, to monitor the effectiveness of protection offered by the Convention, the status of species included in Appendices I and II should be regularly reviewed by the range States and proponents, in collaboration with the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, subject to the availability of funds;</p> <p>Annex 4: Precautionary measures</p> <p>B. The following review procedures shall apply when a species is transferred to Appendix II pursuant to paragraph A. 2. c) above.</p> <p>1. Where the Plants Committee, the Animals Committee or a Party becomes aware of problems in compliance with the management measures and export quotas of another Party, the Secretariat shall be informed and, if the Secretariat fails to resolve the matter satisfactorily, it shall inform the Standing Committee which may, after consultation with the Party concerned, recommend to all Parties that they suspend trade with that Party in specimens of CITES-listed species, and/or request the Depository Government to prepare a proposal to transfer the population back to Appendix I.</p> <p>2. If, on review of a quota and its supporting management measures, the Animals or Plants Committee encounters any problems with compliance or potential detriment to a species, the relevant Committee shall request the Depository Government to prepare a proposal for appropriate remedial action.</p> <p>Annex 6: Format for proposals to amend the Appendices</p> <p>10. <u>Consultations</u></p> <p>Provide details of the consultation undertaken to secure comments on the proposal from the range States of the species, either through direct contact or via the CITES Secretariat. Comments received from each country should be provided. Where comments were sought but not received in sufficient time to enable their inclusion in the supporting statement, this should be noted, as well as the date of the request.</p>

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	<p>In cases of proposals to transfer Appendix-II species that are subject to the Review of Significant Trade to Appendix I, the proponent should consult the affected range State(s) and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee. The proponent should state the reasons to justify why the amendment proposal was made. In cases of consultation with Parties via the CITES Secretariat, information from range States and non-range States should be separated.</p> <p>In the case of species that are also managed through other international agreements or intergovernmental bodies, provide details of the consultations undertaken to obtain the comments of those organizations or bodies, and indicate how those comments have been addressed in the supporting statement. Where comments were sought but not received in sufficient time to enable their inclusion in the supporting statement, this should be noted, as well as the date of the request.</p>
<p>Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP17) Inclusion of species in Appendix III</p>	<p>2. RECOMMENDS that, when considering the inclusion of a species in Appendix III, a Party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) inform the Management Authorities of other range States, the known major importing countries, the Secretariat and the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee that it is considering the inclusion of the species in Appendix III and seek their opinion on the potential effects of such inclusion; g) consult with the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee, to ensure that any proposed annotation that is part of a request to include a species in Appendix III (and any definitions developed that define terms in the annotation, as appropriate) is clear and unambiguous, and likely to be understood by enforcement personnel and user groups; <p>6. REQUESTS the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee to assist Parties if necessary in reviewing the status of species in Appendix III, subject to available funding;</p> <p>7. URGES Parties having included species in Appendix III to review periodically the status of these species and, taking into account these guidelines and any recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, to consider the necessity to maintain them in that Appendix;</p>
<p>Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) Transport of live specimens</p>	<p>1. DIRECTS the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees to deal with matters related to the transport of live specimens;</p> <p>2. RECOMMENDS that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and IATA, regularly review, revise and approve amendments to the <i>CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants</i>; <p>3. DIRECTS the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA in order to amplify or update the <i>Live Animals Regulations, the Perishable Cargo Regulations and the CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants</i>; b) to examine new or additional references for transport of live specimens for

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	<p>incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate;</p> <p>c) to examine developments related to the transport of live plant specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; and</p> <p>d) to examine when appropriate, any high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future;</p>
<p>Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17)</p> <p>Establishment of Committees</p>	<p><i>Regarding the establishment of committees</i></p> <p>2. RESOLVES that:</p> <p>b) there shall be an Animals Committee and a Plants Committee, which shall report to the Conference of the Parties at its meetings and, if so requested, to the Standing Committee between meetings of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>d) the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees may appoint working groups with specific terms of reference as required to address specific problems. These working groups shall have a defined life span which shall not exceed the period until the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which time they may be re-established if necessary. Working Groups established by the Conference of the Parties shall report to the Conference of the Parties and, if so requested, to the Standing Committee. Working groups should use the <i>Guidelines for improving species specific reporting requests by CITES working groups</i> and the <i>Template for species based reporting</i> as adopted and amended from time to time by the Standing Committee and distributed by the Secretariat;</p> <p>f) the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees may appoint subcommittees with specific terms of reference to implement the tasks that are given to them. Unless otherwise agreed by through a Resolution or Decision of the Conference of the Parties, these subcommittees shall have a defined lifespan, which shall not exceed the period until the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which time they may be re-established if necessary;</p> <p>h) the Animals and Plants Committees shall adopt their own Rules of Procedure, which shall, however, be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee as far as is practicable;</p> <p>j) the Secretariat shall make provision for the payment, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of members, including attendance at the relevant committee meetings, and other expenses of the Chairs of the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, other than members from developed countries;</p> <p>m) when back-to-back meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees include a joint session, the duration of the separate committee meetings should be four days, but that when not back-to-back, the length of each meeting should be five days; and</p> <p>n) the Secretariat shall ensure that any vacancies in the Animals and Plants Committees are brought immediately to the attention of the Standing Committee, in order to fill the vacancies as soon as possible;</p>

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	<p>Regarding regional sessions at meetings of the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>4. AGREES that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) each region has specific tasks to fulfil, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii) selection of the members and alternate members of the Animals and Plants Committees. In accordance with Annex 2 of this Resolution the members and alternate members of the Animals and Plants Committees are persons. The persons to be chosen should be experts in animals or plants in general and with regard to the region they are representing in particular; <p>Regarding representation in the Animals and Plants Committees</p> <p>5. RECOMMENDS that the following guidelines be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <u>Election of the candidates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Parties proposing candidates as representatives should confirm, at the time of nomination, that the candidate will be supported and that they will obtain the necessary means to undertake their activities; <li>ii) The names of the proposed candidates, and their <i>curricula vitae</i>, should be circulated to the Parties of the region concerned at least 120 days before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the representatives will be elected. Although not regional representatives the same process should apply to candidates seeking election as specialists on botanical and zoological nomenclature; <li>iii) Ideally the candidates should be associated with a Scientific Authority, have adequate knowledge of CITES and receive sufficient institutional support to carry out their duties. This information should also be included in the <i>curricula vitae</i>; and <li>iv) As long as the representatives are persons, a Party shall not be accepted as a proposed candidate subject to a later identification of the person concerned by the Party; and <li>b) <u>Timing of replacement of regional members and alternate members</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The procedure should be the same as that described above for the Standing Committee; <li>ii) As alternate members are alternates of specified members, they should be elected at the same time as the members; <li>iii) If a region wishes to re-elect a member or alternate member, there is nothing to prevent it from doing so; and <li>iv) in the event that no nominations be received before the deadline the incumbent shall remain, if so willing and able, as an representative until a replacement is elected; and

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	<p>c) <u>Conflict of interest</u></p> <p>A “conflict of interest”¹ refers to any current financial interest which could significantly impair the individual’s impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a member of the Committee. A candidate’s employment by itself does not automatically constitute a conflict of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Parties proposing candidates as members or alternate members are to request that, together with their names and <i>curriculae vitae</i>, each candidate provides a declaration of interest which should be circulated to the Parties of the region concerned at least 120 days before the meeting of the Conference by the Parties at which the representatives will be elected. In that declaration, the candidate should disclose any current financial interest that might call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a member or alternate member of the Committee; ii) Following an election, the declaration of interest and the <i>curriculum vitae</i> of each member and alternate member shall be made available by the Secretariat to the Chair and the members of the Committee concerned, and to the Chair of the Standing Committee; iii) Each member shall, at the beginning of each meeting of the Committee, declare any financial interests that he or she considers calls into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the agenda for that meeting of the Committee. If a member has declared such an interest, he or she may take part in discussions but not in the decision-making regarding the agenda item in question. If the member is the subject of the potential conflict of interest, he or she shall not chair the meeting or sub-meeting for the agenda item in question; and iv) When taking part in meetings or seminars outside the CITES framework, the members and alternate members should specify that their interventions are not made on behalf of the Committee or of any CITES body, unless specific instructions have been issued by the Committee to that effect; <p>Regarding regional communication and representation</p> <p>6. RESOLVES that the Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) publish on the CITES website forthcoming deadlines relevant to the work of the Animals and Plants Committees; b) explore funding options to ensure that the regional representatives and the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees from developing countries and countries with economies in transition can attend the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and fully participate in the committees' work; and c) seek funding to support the holding of regional meetings in association with regional seminars or other related meetings organized by the Secretariat. The regional representatives should prepare the agenda and chair the

¹ Conflict-of-interest policies in scientific assessment bodies typically make a distinction between “conflict of interest” and “bias”, which refers to a point of view or perspective that is strongly held regarding a particular issue or set of issues.

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	<p>meeting; and</p> <p>Annex 2 Establishment of the Animals and Plants Committees of the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>1. RESOLVES to re-establish the Animals and Plants Committees of the Conference of the Parties, with the following terms of reference:</p> <p>within the policy agreed to by the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) provide scientific advice and guidance to the Conference of the Parties, the other committees, working groups and the Secretariat, on all matters relevant to international trade in animal and plant species included in the Appendices, which may include proposals to amend the Appendices; b) deal with nomenclatural issues by carrying on the following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) cause standardized nomenclatural references for animal and plant taxa, to the level of subspecies or botanical variety and including synonyms, to be prepared, or propose for adoption existing nomenclatural references, as appropriate, for all species listed in the Appendices to the Convention; ii) upon its acceptance of a new or updated reference (or part thereof) for a given taxon, after following the procedure described below, present this to the Conference of the Parties for adoption as the standard reference for that taxon; iii) ensure that the highest priorities in developing the standard reference lists of animal and plant names and synonyms be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. species names of animals and plants listed at the species level in the Appendices; B. generic names of animals and plants listed at the genus or family level in the Appendices; and C. family names of animals and plants listed at the family level in the Appendices; iv) review the existing Appendices with regard to the correct use of zoological and botanical nomenclature; v) upon request, provide advice to Parties concerning nomenclature issues related to proposals to amend the Appendices; vi) upon request from the Secretariat, review proposals to amend the Appendices to ensure that correct names for the species and other taxa in question are used; vii) ensure that changes in nomenclature recommended by a Party do not alter the scope of protection of the taxon concerned; and viii) make recommendations on nomenclature to the Conference of the Parties, other committees, working groups and the Secretariat; c) assist the Secretariat with the implementation of the Resolution on the Identification Manual and Decisions related to it and, upon request of

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	<p>the Secretariat, review proposals to amend the Appendices with regard to possible identification problems;</p> <p>d) cooperate with the Secretariat on the implementation of its programme of work to assist Scientific Authorities and provide scientific advice on training materials used in capacity building;</p> <p>e) develop regional directories that list the botanists and zoologists in each region who are experts in CITES-listed species;</p> <p>f) establish a list of those taxa included in Appendix II that are considered as being significantly affected by trade, and review and assess all available biological and trade information including comments by the range States on these taxa to:</p> <p>i) exclude all species for which there is adequate information to conclude that trade is not having a significant detrimental effect on their populations;</p> <p>ii) formulate recommendations for remedial measures for those species for which trade is believed to be having a detrimental effect; and</p> <p>iii) establish priorities for projects to collect information for those species for which there is insufficient information available on which to base a judgement as to whether the level of trade is detrimental;</p> <p>g) assess information on those species for which there is evidence of a change in the volume of trade or for which specific information is available to indicate the necessity for review;</p> <p>h) undertake a periodic review of animal or plant species included in the CITES Appendices by:</p> <p>i) establishing a schedule for reviewing the biological and trade status of these species;</p> <p>ii) identifying problems or potential problems concerning the biological status of species being traded;</p> <p>iii) consulting the Parties on the need to review specific species, working directly with the range States in the selection process, and seeking their assistance in such reviews; and</p> <p>iv) preparing and submitting amendment proposals resulting from the review, through the Depositary Government, for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>i) make available advice on management techniques and procedures for range States requesting such assistance;</p> <p>j) draft resolutions on scientific matters related to animals or plants, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, with a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding;</p> <p>k) perform any other functions that may be entrusted to them by the Conference of the Parties or the Standing Committee; and</p> <p>l) report to the Conference of the Parties and, if so requested, to the</p>

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	<p>Standing Committee, on the activities they have carried out or supervised between meetings of the Conference;</p> <p>2. AGREES that in giving instructions to the Animals and Plants Committees, the Conference of the Parties should pay due attention to whether the nature of the work is within their mandate and whether the committees have the time and personnel to undertake such work;</p> <p>3. DETERMINES that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the membership of the Animals and Plants Committees shall consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) a person chosen by each of the major geographic regions consisting of North America and Oceania; ii) two persons chosen by each of the major geographic regions consisting of Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, and Europe; and iii) a specialist on zoological nomenclature (Animals Committee) and a specialist on botanical nomenclature (Plants Committee) appointed by the Conference of the Parties who would be <i>ex-officio</i> and non-voting; b) each person chosen as an alternate member for a member described in paragraph a) i) or ii), shall be represented at meetings as a regional member only in the absence of the member for whom he/she is the alternate; c) the membership of the Committees shall be reviewed at every regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The terms of office of the members shall commence at the close of the regular meeting at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second regular meeting thereafter; d) any Party shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Committees as an observer; e) a chair and a vice-chair shall be elected by the Committee. The Chair should be replaced in his/her role of regional member by his/her alternate. In the absence at a meeting of the alternate in question, the Chair shall serve also as regional member for his/her region on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis; and f) the Chair may invite any person or representative of any other country or organization to participate in meetings of the Committee as an observer; <p>4. RESOLVES that the duties of members elected by the regions of the Animals and Plants Committees and their alternates are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) each member should, to the best of their abilities, act as impartially as possible and endeavour to base their judgements and opinions upon an objective, scientific assessment of the available evidence; b) each member should collaborate with his/her alternate regarding the work to be done between the meetings of the Committee; c) each member should maintain regular communication with the Parties in his/her region; d) when a region has more than one representative, the representatives should also agree which Parties each represents. Contact persons should

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	<p>be identified in those countries. Contact should also be established with non-Parties in the region;</p> <p>e) each member should increase the awareness of the role and function of the Committee, its mandate and the issues of concern to his/her region through mechanisms such as participation in seminars or in related meetings organized by the Secretariat and by other organizations at regional or sub-regional level;</p> <p>f) before the meetings of the Committee, the members should inform and consult the Parties in their regions about the agenda and in particular on matters specifically relevant to the countries of the region;</p> <p>g) the members should submit a written report, covering the preceding period, to each meeting of the Committee;</p> <p>h) the members should inform the Parties in their regions of the results of each meeting of the Committee;</p> <p>i) the members must inform the alternates well in advance if they will not attend a forthcoming Committee meeting; and</p> <p>j) the members should provide to their successors all relevant information on the activities in the region;</p> <p>5. FURTHER RESOLVES that the zoological and botanical nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees shall coordinate, monitor and analyse the input needed from specialists in fulfilling the responsibilities assigned by the Parties;</p> <p>6. DETERMINES further the following principles for the payment of travel expenses to members of the Plants or Animals Committee:</p> <p>a) the Secretariat shall make provisions in its budget for the payment, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of members, to attend no more than two meetings of the Committee concerned between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, other than for members from developed countries;</p> <p>b) the Secretariat shall also make provision for the participation of the Committees' Chairs at meetings of the Standing Committee and at other meetings that the Chairs are instructed to attend by the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>c) members should make every effort to pay their own travel expenses; and</p> <p>d) travel arrangements for sponsored members will be made by the Secretariat in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the United Nations and, where applicable, claims for refunds must be supported by receipts, and be submitted to the Secretariat within 30 days from the completion of the travel;</p> <p>7. URGES Parties and regions to utilize or develop long-term sustainable funding mechanisms to support their representatives in the Committees; and</p> <p>8. DIRECTS the Secretariat, to the extent possible, to provide funding from outside sources for the production costs of publications prepared by the Committees.</p>
Conf. 11.19	1. DIRECTS the Secretariat to:

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(Rev. CoP16) Identification Manual	h) inform the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees on the progress made whenever appropriate;
Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP17) Use of annotations in Appendices I and II	<p>7. URGES Parties submitting proposals that contain substantive annotations to consult with the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee, to ensure that the annotation is appropriate and can be readily implemented;</p> <p>8. DIRECTS:</p> <p>a) the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, to agree on interim definitions between meetings of the Conference of the Parties in cases where significant differences in the interpretation of terms in annotations exist among trading countries and are causing implementation difficulties, and then include these definitions in its report to the Conference of the Parties for adoption;</p>
Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	<p><i>Regarding conduct of the Review of Significant Trade</i></p> <p>1. DIRECTS the Animals and Plants Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat and experts, and in consultation with range States, to review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade, to identify problems and solutions concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a), in accordance with the following procedure and as outlined in Annex 1 of this Resolution:</p> <p>Stage 1: Selection of species/country combinations to be reviewed</p> <p>a) the Secretariat shall, within 90 days after each meeting of the Conference of Parties, commence, or appoint consultants to commence, preparation of a summary from the CITES Trade Database of annual report statistics showing the recorded level of direct exports for Appendix-II species over the five most recent years, and an extended analysis of trade to inform the preliminary selection of species/country combinations, to be completed in sufficient time for the first regular meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee following that meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see Annex 2 of this Resolution);</p> <p>b) on the basis of recorded levels of direct exports and information available to the Animals or Plants Committee, the Secretariat, Parties or other relevant experts, a limited number of species/country combinations of greatest concern shall be included in Stage 2 of the review process by the Animals or Plants Committee at their first regular meeting following a meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and</p> <p>c) in exceptional cases, outside of steps 1 a) and b) above, and where new information provided to the Secretariat by a proponent indicates that rapid action may be needed concerning problems relating to the implementation of Article IV (for a species/country combination), the Secretariat:</p> <p>i) will verify that the proponent has provided a justification for the exceptional case, including supporting information;</p> <p>ii) may produce, or request a consultant produce a summary of trade from the CITES Trade Database in relation to the species/country combination concerned as necessary; and</p> <p>iii) will, as soon as possible, provide the justification and, if appropriate, a trade summary to the Animals or Plants Committee for their intersessional review and decision on whether or not to include the</p>

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	<p>species/country combination in Stage 2 of the review process;</p> <p>Stage 2: Consultation with the range States and compilation of information</p> <p>d) the Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) within 30 days after the meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee at which species/country combinations are selected, or within 30 days after the Committee has selected a species/country combination on an exceptional basis, notify selected range States that their species has been selected, providing an overview of the review process and an explanation for the selection. The Secretariat shall request range States to provide the scientific basis by which it is established that exports from their country are not detrimental to the survival of the species concerned and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention. In its letter, the Secretariat shall provide guidance to range States on how to respond, explain the consequences of not responding to the request, and inform the range States that the responses will be made available on the CITES website as part of the agenda for meetings of the Animals or Plants Committee. Range States shall be given 60 days to respond; and ii) compile, or appoint consultants to compile, a report about the biology and management of and trade in the species, including any relevant information provided by the range States, to be made available for the next meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee. In doing so, the Secretariat (or consultants) shall actively engage with the range States and relevant experts in the compilation of the report; <p>e) the report required under subparagraph 1 d) ii) shall include conclusions about the effects of international trade on the selected species/country combinations, the basis on which such conclusions are made and problems concerning the implementation of Article IV, and shall provisionally divide the selected species/country combinations into three categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) 'action is needed' shall include species/country combinations for which the available information suggests that the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), are not being implemented; ii) 'unknown status' shall include species/country combinations for which the Secretariat (or consultants) could not determine whether or not these provisions are being implemented; and iii) 'less concern' shall include species/country combinations for which the available information appears to indicate that these provisions are being met; and <p>f) once the report is completed, the Secretariat shall draw the attention of the relevant range States to the report prepared under subparagraph d) ii) and invite them to provide any additional information for consideration at the second meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee following the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>Stage 3: Categorization and Recommendations by the Animals or Plants Committee</p> <p>g) the Animals or Plants Committee shall, at their second meeting following the Conference of the Parties, review the report of the Secretariat or the consultants, and the responses and additional information received from the range States concerned. For each selected species/country combination the</p>

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	<p>Animals or Plants Committee shall recategorize species/country combinations of 'unknown status' as either 'action is needed' or 'less concern' and provide a justification for such recategorization. Additionally, if appropriate, the Animals and Plants Committee shall 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;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) species/country combinations determined by the Animals or Plants Committee to be of less concern shall be removed from the review process and the Secretariat shall notify the range States accordingly within 30 days; in cases where the species/country combination is of less concern due to the establishment of a zero export quota, any change to this quota should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and the Chair of the relevant Committee along with a justification; and ii) species/country combinations determined by the Animals or Plants Committee to be those for which 'action is needed' shall be retained in the review process. The Animals or Plants Committee shall, in consultation with the Secretariat, 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 this Resolution. The recommendations should aim to build the range State's long term capacity to implement Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention; h) the Secretariat shall, within 30 days of the meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee, transmit these recommendations to the range States concerned; and i) the Animals or Plants Committee shall formulate separate recommendations directed to the Standing Committee for problems identified in the course of the review that are not directly related to the implementation of Article IV paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a), following the principles outlined in Annex 3 of this Resolution; <p>Stage 4: Measures to be taken regarding the implementation of recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) the Secretariat shall monitor progress against the recommendations, taking account of the different deadlines; k) once the range State has reported on the implementation of recommendations or the deadlines have passed, whichever is first and, following timely intersessional consultation with members of the Animals or Plants Committee through the Chairs, the Secretariat shall determine whether the recommendations referred to above have been implemented; i) where the recommendations have been met, the Secretariat shall, following consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, notify the range States concerned that the species/country combination was removed from the review process and include the rationale for its evaluation, noting where relevant, specific commitments made by the range States in question and, in the case where a species/country combination was removed from the review process on the basis of the establishment of an interim precautionary export quota (including a zero export quota) in the place of implementing the recommendations, any change to this quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and Chair of the relevant Committee along with a justification, for their

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	<p>agreement; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) when the recommendations are not deemed to have been met (and no new information is provided), the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the members of the Animals or Plants Committee through the Chairs, recommend to the Standing Committee appropriate action, which may include, as a last resort, a suspension of trade in the affected species with that State; or iii) where the recommendations are not deemed to have been met or have been partially met, and there is new information suggesting the recommendation may require updating, the Secretariat shall, in a timely fashion, request the members of the Animals or Plants Committee, through the Chairs, to prepare a revised recommendation, keeping in mind the principles that recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should promote capacity building. The Secretariat shall provide the revised recommendation to the range States within 30 days of its drafting; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> l) the Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on its evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations, including the rationale for its evaluation and, where relevant, specific commitments made by the range States in question, and a summary of the views expressed by the Animals or Plants Committees. The Secretariat shall additionally report on any further actions taken by the Animals or Plants Committee in the case of range States where new information has resulted in revised recommendations; m) for range States where recommendations are not deemed to have been met, the Standing Committee shall decide, at its next regular meeting or intersessionally as appropriate, on necessary action and make recommendations to the range State concerned, or to all Parties, keeping in mind that these recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should promote capacity building. In exceptional circumstances, where the range State under consideration provides new information on the implementation of the recommendations to the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee through the Secretariat, shall consult in a timely fashion with the members of the Animals or Plants Committee through the Chair, prior to making a decision on necessary action; n) the Secretariat shall notify all Parties of any recommendations or actions taken by the Standing Committee; o) a recommendation to suspend trade in the affected species with the range State concerned should be withdrawn only when that range State demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee through the Secretariat, which shall act, through the Chair, in consultation with the members of the Animals or Plants Committee, in compliance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a); and p) the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals or Plants Committee, shall review recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years, evaluate the reasons why this is the case in consultation with the range State, and, if appropriate, take measures to address the situation; <p><i>Regarding capacity building, monitoring, reporting, and evaluating the review process</i></p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>5. DIRECTS the Secretariat, for the purpose of monitoring and facilitating the implementation of this Resolution and the relevant paragraphs of Article IV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to report at each meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee on the implementation by the range States concerned of the recommendations made by the Committee; and b) to maintain a database of species/country combinations that are included in the review process set out in this Resolution including a record of progress with the implementation of recommendations; <p>6. DIRECTS the Secretariat to include training on the Review of Significant Trade process as part of its capacity building activities related to the making of non-detriment findings;</p> <p>7. DIRECTS the Animals or Plants Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, to undertake a regular review of the outcomes of the Review of Significant Trade by, for example, examining a sample of past species/country combinations to assess whether implementation of Article IV paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a) was improved. The Animals or Plants Committee should consider the results of this review and revise the Review of Significant Trade process as necessary. In doing so, feedback should be obtained from range States (including their Scientific Authorities) who have been through the review process;</p>
<p>Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17)</p> <p>Standard nomenclature</p>	<p>2. RECOMMENDS that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) where there are domesticated forms of listed taxa, the Animals and Plants Committees recommend names for the wild and domestic forms; e) upon receiving proposals to amend the Appendices to the Convention, the Secretariat seek, where appropriate, the advice of the Animals and Plants Committees on the correct names to use for the species or other taxa in question; f) whenever a change in the name of a taxon included in the Appendices is proposed, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, determine whether this change would alter the scope of protection for fauna or flora under the Convention. In the case where the scope of a taxon is redefined, the Animals or Plants Committee shall evaluate whether acceptance of the taxonomic change would cause additional species to be included in the Appendices or listed species to be deleted from the Appendices and, if that is the case, the Depositary Government should be requested to submit a proposal to amend the Appendices in accordance with the recommendation of the Animals or Plants Committee, so that the original intent of the listing is retained. Such proposals should be submitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees will be considered; g) if the Animals or Plants Committee proposes nomenclatural changes relating to taxa included in Appendix-III, they should advise the Secretariat whether these changes would also result in changes in distribution that would affect the determination of which countries would be required to issue certificates of origin; h) if there is conflict regarding the choice of taxonomic authority for taxa for which no standard references have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties, countries authorizing export of animals or plants (or parts or derivatives thereof) of such taxa inform the CITES Secretariat and prospective importing countries of their preferred published taxonomic

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>authority. 'Taxonomic authority' means a recent published paper or monograph that reviews the nomenclature of the taxon being exported and that has been reviewed by professionals in the pertinent discipline. In cases where specimens of the taxon are exported from several countries and the exporting countries do not agree, or the exporting and importing countries do not agree, on the taxonomic authority, the Animals or Plants Committee should determine the most appropriate taxonomic authority, until a formal recommendation to the Conference of the Parties is made. The Animals or Plants Committee shall include this interim decision in its report to the Conference of the Parties, for adoption. The Secretariat shall notify the Parties about the interim decision;</p> <p>k) when the Animals or Plants Committee recommends a change in the name of a taxon to be used in the Appendices, it also provide an evaluation of the implications for the implementation of the Convention;</p> <p>3. RECOMMENDS the following procedure for updating current standard nomenclatural references and adoption of new ones:</p> <p>a) the process for updating current standard nomenclatural references and adoption of new ones shall be initiated directly by the Animals or Plants Committee on their own initiative or by the submission of a proposal to the Committees by:</p> <p>i) one or more Parties; or</p> <p>ii) the Secretariat, on its own initiative or in response to information it has received from the Parties; and</p> <p>b) proposed changes shall be based on recognized taxonomic publications. In the case where a proposed amendment to the nomenclatural status of a taxon is still under discussion, the new taxonomy should not be adopted;</p> <p>4. RESOLVES that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, may make orthographical changes in the lists of species included in the Appendices to the Convention, without consulting the Conference of the Parties, and shall inform the Parties of those changes;</p> <p>5. DIRECTS the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, and in the implementation of its memoranda of understanding or cooperation, or programmes of work with other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, to consider ways of harmonizing the taxonomy and nomenclature of species included in their respective provisions;</p> <p>7. RECOGNIZES the <i>Checklist of CITES species</i>, compiled by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 2005, and its updates, as an official digest of scientific names contained in the standard references, that fully reflects the taxonomy and nomenclature contained in the original species proposals, the recommendations of the Animals or Plants Committee and all accepted names included in the standard references that have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties for species included in the Appendices;</p> <p>9. URGES Parties to assign to their Scientific Authorities the principal responsibility for:</p> <p>a) interpretation of the listings;</p> <p>b) consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee as appropriate;</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>c) identification of nomenclatural issues that may warrant further review by the appropriate CITES committee and preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices if appropriate; and</p> <p>d) supporting and cooperating in the development and maintenance of the checklists;</p> <p>11. DIRECTS the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, to promote harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature used by biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements; and</p>
<p>Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14)</p> <p>Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines</p>	<p>1. URGES the Parties to:</p> <p>a) make use of the <i>Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity</i>, also taking into account scientific, trade and enforcement considerations determined by national circumstances, as well as the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees (see Annex 2) when adopting non-detriment-making processes and making CITES non-detriment findings;</p>
<p>Conf. 14.3</p> <p>CITES compliance procedures</p>	<p>Annex: Guide to CITES compliance procedures</p> <p><i>The various bodies and their compliance-related tasks</i></p> <p>13. The Animals and Plants Committees, acting in accordance with instructions from and authority delegated by the Conference of the Parties, advise and assist the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties with regard to compliance matters, <i>inter alia</i>, by undertaking necessary reviews, consultations, assessments and reporting. These Committees are entrusted with specific tasks in the handling of matters related to the Review of Significant Trade.</p>
<p>Conf. 14.4</p> <p>Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber</p>	<p>5. URGES Parties to support and contribute to work, guided by the CITES Plants Committee, to develop appropriate listing proposals based on the best available science to ensure the conservation of timber species and help ensure that trade does not threaten their survival</p>
<p>Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)</p> <p>Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II</p>	<p>1. AGREES that the Animals and Plants Committees shall conduct a periodic review of species listed in Appendix I and II, seeking information, participation and support from the range States. The regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees shall seek assistance from range States within their region to support the taxon reviews;</p> <p>2. FURTHER AGREES that the review will be conducted in accordance to the following process:</p> <p>a) normally, after every second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a schedule for the periodic review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods. The list should be established at the first meetings of the Committees after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) that initiates the review period;</p> <p>b) the Animals and Plants Committees shall select a practical subset of CITES-listed species of flora or fauna for analysis pursuant to the following methods and guidance:</p> <p>i) the Secretariat shall, subject to availability of funding, undertake or appoint consultants to undertake the assessment outlined in the Annex and prepare the resulting outputs for consideration by the Scientific</p>

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	<p>Committees at their first meeting after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that initiates the review period (Note: if no funding is available, the Secretariat shall inform the Parties and the Scientific Committees' Chairs);</p> <p>ii) the following taxa should not be considered for review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. species that were the subject of listing proposals at the previous three meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) (whether or not the proposals were adopted); B. species subject to ongoing reviews, under the Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17)], or periodic reviews conducted within the last 10 years; or C. species subject to other reviews targeted by valid Decisions and Resolutions of the CoP; and D. species for which it is clear that there has been no change in the status, range or trade and for which there is no possibility to need to amend the Appendices; and <p>iii) outputs resulting from the assessment conducted in accordance with the Annex to this Resolution shall contain the following information in summary tables that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. a summary of trade data since the initial inclusion of that taxon in the Appendices; B. current conservation status, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category of the species, if assessed; C. current listing in the CITES Appendices, criteria under which it was listed (if known), date of first listing; and D. the distribution of the species (range States); <p>c) at the first meetings of the Committees after the meeting of the CoP that initiates the review period and based on the outputs prepared in subparagraph 2 b) above, the Animals and Plants Committees will identify the list of taxa to be considered for periodic review;</p> <p>d) the Secretariat shall send a copy of the proposed list of taxa to be reviewed to all Parties, and request range States of the taxa to comment within 60 days on whether they support a review of the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the reviews. The responses shall be relayed by the Secretariat to the Animals or Plants Committee. If no volunteer offers to undertake a review within two intersessional periods between CoPs, those taxa shall be deleted from the list of species to be reviewed;</p> <p>e) each review (ideally in the format of a proposal used to amend the Appendices) is to be submitted as a working document to the Animals or Plants Committee for review, clearly specifying the recommendation with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). The Secretariat shall notify the relevant range States of these working documents in advance of the meeting of the Committee;</p> <p>f) the Animals or Plants Committees may also evaluate reviews undertaken independently by Parties and submitted for their consideration;</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>g) based on the information as per subparagraph 2 e) above, the Animals or Plants Committee is to make a recommendation on whether it would be appropriate to retain a taxon in the Appendix in which it is currently listed, transfer a taxon from one Appendix to another, or to delete a taxon from the Appendices;</p> <p>h) the Animals or Plants Committee shall draft its recommendation with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). The Committee shall report its conclusions to the Conference of the Parties, and the Secretariat shall inform the range State(s) for the species reviewed of the conclusion of the Committee; and</p> <p>i) in the event that the Committee recommends a change in the CITES listing status for the species reviewed:</p> <p>i) the Secretariat shall invite the range State(s) of the species reviewed to submit a proposal to the next Conference of the Parties; and</p> <p>ii) if no range State expresses a willingness to submit the proposal, the Secretariat may request the Depository Government to submit it as specified in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) and to include the comments of the range States in the supporting statement, if so requested by the Animals or Plants Committee;</p> <p>3. RECOMMENDS the Animals and Plants Committees should share their experience, especially during joint meetings, regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of taxa included in the Appendices (including financing of reviews, processes, format and outputs);</p> <p>4. ENCOURAGES the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties to facilitate periodic reviews by:</p> <p>a) collaborating with university graduate students, including those from the CITES Master's Programme at the International University of Andalusia;</p> <p>b) collaborating with other non-Party reviewers including species experts such as IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Groups;</p> <p>c) using readily available information on species' conservation status from organizations (e.g. IUCN, BirdLife, etc.) and Parties;</p> <p>d) seeking financial support for reviews, including from importing countries, as appropriate; and</p> <p>e) increasing communication between the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and suggest coordination with Parties when animal and plant species' ranges overlap;</p> <p>5. DIRECTS the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees to keep the Standing Committee informed about the conduct of periodic reviews, noting that Standing Committee approval is not required to initiate the process;</p>
<p>Conf. 16.3 (Rev. CoP17) CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020</p>	<p>This document provides a framework for the future development of the existing body of Resolutions and Decisions. While it should provide guidance on how the goals and objectives are to be achieved, the Conference of the Parties, the Committees or the Secretariat, as appropriate, will take required action.</p>
<p>Conf. 16.5 Cooperation with the Global Strategy for</p>	<p>NOTING that, since its 13th meeting (Geneva, August 2003), the Plants Committee has recognized that CITES contributes to many of the Targets of the GSPC;</p>

Resolution	Instruction
<p>Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>RECALLING Decision 15.19 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), which directs the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to collaborate with processes established to develop the GSPC beyond 2010, as it relates to CITES activities;</p> <p>2. DIRECTS the Secretariat to encourage the exchange of information related to the GSPC and other plant conservation and sustainable use initiatives, by:</p> <p>d) inviting a CBD representative to participate as an observer at Plants Committee meetings that address GSPC;</p> <p>3. DIRECTS the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to promote CITES collaboration with CBD on the implementation of the GSPC by:</p> <p>a) representing the CITES Plants Committee at meetings of CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and other GSPC meetings subject to the availability of external funding; and</p> <p>b) providing contributions for CBD documents regarding the implementation of the GSPC.</p> <p>Annex List of potential CITES activities and products and their contribution to the objectives and targets of the updated <i>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020</i></p> <p>GSPC's Objective (v) The capacities and public engagement necessary to implement the Strategy have been developed</p> <p>Target 16: Institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels to achieve the targets of this Strategy.</p> <p>CITES's potential contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — CITES Parties and Plants Committee. – Regional Directories.
<p>Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)</p> <p>Non-detriment findings</p>	<p>3. DIRECTS the Secretariat:</p> <p>a) to maintain a prominent section for non-detriment findings on the CITES website and to update it regularly with information from the Animals and Plants Committees, Parties and other sources;</p> <p>b) to implement a user-friendly mechanism on the CITES website that would allow Parties to easily submit relevant information to be considered for inclusion in the website;</p> <p>c) to ensure that this information is accessible in the appropriate sections of the CITES Virtual College; and</p> <p>d) to assist in identifying possible funding sources to help Parties implementing capacity-building activities related to the making of non-detriment findings</p>
<p>Conf. 16.10</p> <p>Implementation of the</p>	<p>9. ENCOURAGES Parties to make use of the Glossary as a reference while inspecting and controlling specimens of agarwood products. The Glossary was adopted by the Plants Committee at its 20th meeting (Geneva and Dublin,</p>

Resolution	Instruction
Convention for agarwood-producing taxa	March 2012) and is presented in document CoP16 Inf. 3, in which the images illustrate samples of products but do not represent the whole range of products of agarwood.
Conf. 17.2 Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2017-2019	28. REQUESTS the Secretariat: d) in consultation with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, to assign scientific consultants and define terms of reference for specific science-based projects. Such a process should be implemented in a fashion that would not have a negative impact on the budget, but rather effectively utilize the scientific expertise of the Parties which is available to the Secretariat via the Chairs of the technical committees;

DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE
OR THAT MAY REQUIRE ITS INPUTS OR ASSISTANCE

Administrative and financial matters

Rules of Procedure

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 17.3 Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of committees* contains provisions that are relevant for the Rules of Procedure of the Committees. In reviewing the Rules of Procedure, the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting, with input from the Animals and Plants Committees, shall identify possible inconsistencies and overlap and make such suggestions as appropriate to revise Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 17.4 Based on a proposal prepared by the Secretariat, the Animals and Plants Committees shall review their respective rules of procedure and align them as closely as possible with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee, taking into account the unique composition and role of the Scientific Committees.
- 17.5 The Animals and Plants Committees shall also identify possible inconsistencies and overlap between Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of committees* and their own Rules of Procedure and submit to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee any required revisions to the Resolution for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 17.9 The Animals and Plants Committee shall review their terms of reference as contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of Committees* in order to, as necessary: remove redundancies with other activities directed to the Committees by Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties; reflect current practice including provision of scientific advice upon request of Parties; and otherwise clarify the functions of the Committees in their role as science advisory bodies to the Conference of the Parties. The Animals and Plants Committees shall present any proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) arising from their review to the Standing Committee for inclusion into their proposed amendments, as appropriate, pursuant to Decision 17.3, and for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.7 In order to assist the review of the Animals and Plants Committees referred to in Decision 17.4 and 17.5, the Secretariat shall prepare draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Animals and Plants Committees and recommend revisions, as appropriate, to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) to address possible inconsistencies and overlap between the Resolution and the Rules of Procedure of the Animals and Plants Committees for consideration at the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee respectively.
- 17.8 The Secretariat shall maintain and publish on the CITES website a list of active intersessional working groups, established by the Standing Committee, and the Animals and the Plants Committees, including Chairs and members of such groups.
- 17.9 The Animals and Plants Committee shall review their terms of reference as contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of Committees* in order to, as necessary: remove redundancies with other activities directed to the Committees by Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties; reflect current practice including provision of scientific advice upon request of Parties; and otherwise clarify the functions of the Committees in their role as science advisory bodies to the Conference of the Parties. The Animals and Plants Committees shall present any proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) arising from

their review to the Standing Committee for inclusion into their proposed amendments, as appropriate, pursuant to Decision 17.3, and for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

Strategic matters

CITES Strategic Vision

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.18 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) establish a Strategic Plan Working Group, with representation from all regions and from the Animals and Plants Committees, to develop, with the assistance and cooperation of the Secretariat, a proposal for a strategic vision for the period after 2020 and any associated action plan and indicators to measure progress;
- b) through the working group, review progress in implementing the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020* against the adopted indicators, taking account of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, its Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, and of any emerging replacement for the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets*; and
- c) submit a proposal for a CITES strategic vision for the period after 2020 and any associated action plan and indicators, in time for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Appendix-I listed species

Directed to the Secretariat

17.22 Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall contract the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) or other consultants, as appropriate, to make a rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal in trade in species included in Appendix I, with an indication of conservation priorities based on levels of threats caused by trade and resource availability to address these threats, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees, following consultation with range States. The Secretariat shall make recommendations to the Animals and Plants Committees on how the findings can contribute to the implementation of Aichi Target 12.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

17.24 The Animals Committee and the Plants Committees shall review the report and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 17.22, and formulate recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the Parties and consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

Potential conflict of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.9 (Rev. CoP17) The Standing Committee shall, at its 69th and 70th meeting and on the basis of a review from the Secretariat, assess the functioning of the conflict of interest policy set out in paragraph c) under Regarding representation in the Animals and Plants Committees of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of committees*, and make recommendations for refining the definition of conflict of interest, if appropriate, and for a mechanism to deal with such conflicts, having reference to such mechanisms developed in other multilateral environmental agreements or relevant international organizations and bodies, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.10 (Rev. CoP17) The Secretariat shall continue to compile examples of conflicts of interest procedures under other relevant agreements and organizations, and shall prepare a report for consideration at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Capacity building

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat

- 17.32 The Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a joint working group on capacity-building and identification materials to undertake the following tasks, in consultation with the Secretariat:
- a) provide assistance to Parties in identifying CITES-listed taxa and in undertaking capacity-building activities that contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention;
 - b) determine the current availability of capacity building materials, including identification guides and other tools, and enhance their accessibility;
 - c) review selected capacity building and identification materials, and assess the need for their revision and improvement, taking into account the materials that are being developed or have already been developed by Parties and materials requested in Decisions;
 - d) undertake, or provide scientific guidance to the Secretariat's undertaking of the revision and development of selected capacity building and identification materials, including materials on the development, establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas;
 - e) review the project proposal on Improvements to the CITES identification materials: Options to promote accuracy and availability of identification material to the Parties to CITES, drafted by the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), as well as any other projects or programmes identified by the Secretariat, and consider whether funding should be actively sought to support the activities;
 - f) review Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical Cooperation* and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*, and make recommendations, including possible amendments to these Resolutions if appropriate, to promote accuracy and availability of capacity building and identification materials; and
 - g) report on progress with these activities at the next meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees as well as at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 17.33 The Animals and Plants Committees shall inform the Standing Committee, as necessary, on the progress made in implementing Decision 17.32.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.34 The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external funding where needed:
- a) continue to develop and enhance the CITES website as well as the CITES Virtual College as an electronic means of providing capacity-building support to Parties, including the incorporation of the following information:
 - i) a list of references to capacity building found in the current Resolutions and Decisions, as well as the relevant sections of the CITES implementation reports, so as to enhance the continued monitoring of capacity-building activities; and
 - ii) a list of possible financial resources and mechanisms to support the implementation of CITES (such as the Global Environment Facility and the African Elephant Fund);
 - b) within the scope of Goals 1 and 3 of the CITES Strategic Vision, provide targeted technical capacity-building support and deliver general and specialized training, to: CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, Customs and law enforcement entities, the judiciary,

legislators and other stakeholders, particularly in new Parties, developing country Parties, Parties identified through the compliance mechanism and Small Island Developing States.

- c) in consultation and cooperation with the Animals and Plants Committees, undertake the revision and development of selected capacity building and identification materials, including materials related to the development, establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas;
- d) issue a Notification to the Parties inviting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to provide to the Secretariat precise information on their capacity-building needs, and report to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting on the answers received; and
- e) further cooperate with institutions and organizations to provide Parties with joint capacity-building assistance of relevance to CITES, for example through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) (including each of its partners), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International University of Andalusia, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.35 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) monitor the implementation of activities related to capacity building found in the current Resolutions and Decisions through information provided by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 17.34 a) i);
- b) review the results of the survey initiated through the Notification to the Parties referred to in Decision 17.34 d), as well as information submitted in the relevant sections of the CITES implementation reports;
- c) review the work of the Animals and Plants Committees in the implementation of Decision 17.32, and provide guidance, as necessary; and
- d) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, on how capacity-building activities specified in Resolutions and Decisions may be consolidated, rationalized and made more coherent.

Strategic matters / Cooperation with organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Directed to the Standing Committee

16.14 (Rev. CoP17) The Standing Committee shall establish a working group on IPBES, including the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to assist its efforts to ensure that:

- a) there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES as well as a contributor to IPBES;
- b) communication between CITES and IPBES is effective;
- c) the work of IPBES takes into account the needs of national scientific and management authorities to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment and legal acquisition findings, and related trade decisions; and
- d) CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are

provided in accordance with relevant timelines.

Any inputs to IPBES developed by the intersessional working group shall, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee, be conveyed to IPBES by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee shall consider the need for drafting a resolution which specifically recognizes the relationship between CITES and IPBES.

The Standing Committee shall report at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the results of this work.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 16.15 The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees shall:
(Rev. CoP17)
- a) assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of Decision 16.14 (Rev. CoP17);
 - b) subject to external funds, participate as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and thereby reinforce linkages between the MEP and the CITES scientific committees; and
 - c) report regularly to the Standing Committee on their activities under paragraph a) above.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 16.16 The Secretariat shall:
(Rev. CoP17)
- a) under the policy guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, and in cooperation with the Standing Committee's intersessional Working Group on IPBES, established pursuant to Decision 16.14 (Rev. CoP17), continue to track and contribute to the intersessional and regular work of IPBES bodies;
 - b) subject to external funds, participate as an observer in the governing body of IPBES and thereby reinforce linkages between that body and the governing bodies of CITES;
 - c) seek external funding to support attendance at IPBES meetings by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat; and
 - d) report regularly to the Standing Committee, as well as at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the results of this work.

Interpretation and implementation matters / Compliance and enforcement

Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.89 The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to:
- a) undertake a review of relevant CITES provisions, resolutions and decisions, including Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives*, to examine how Parties have applied the interpretation of Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) to wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA, under what circumstances wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA meet the current interpretation, and whether any revisions should be considered, with a view to ensuring that such trade does not pose a threat to the survival of CITES-listed species; and
 - b) report the findings and recommendations of this study to the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee, the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee, and the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 17.90 At the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee, the Animals and Plants Committees are requested to review the findings and recommendations of the Secretariat's report in Decision 17.89 and make recommendations for consideration at the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, including appropriate revisions to existing resolutions.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 17.91 At its 69th meeting, the Standing Committee is requested to review the findings and recommendations of the Secretariat's report in Decision 17.89 and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, and make recommendations for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including appropriate revisions to existing resolutions.

Review of Significant Trade

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 17.111 The Animals and Plants Committee, with the assistance of the Secretariat, shall explore potential benefits and disadvantages of country-wide significant trade reviews, drawing upon the lessons learned, outcomes and impacts of the country-wide Review of Significant Trade of Madagascar as relevant.

Interpretation and implementation matters / Trade control and traceability

Definition of the term 'artificially propagated'

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 16.156 (Rev. CoP17) The Plants Committee shall consider the current production systems of tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations, and assess the applicability of the current definitions of artificial propagation in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on Implementation of the Convention for timber species and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) on Regulation of trade in plants respectively, and report back at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 17.175 The Plants Committee shall review current production systems for artificial propagation and cultivation of non-tree-plant taxa listed in the Appendices and assess the applicability and utility of the current definitions of 'artificial propagation' and 'under controlled conditions' in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17).
- 17.176 The Plants Committee, following the review under Decision 17.175, shall consider if Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) and other relevant Resolutions need to be revised, and as appropriate, propose such amendments for consideration to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 17.177 The Standing Committee should consider the recommendations of the Plants Committee made in accordance with Decisions 17.175 and 17.176, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Identification (timber)

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 17.167 With respect to CITES-listed tree species, the Plants Committee shall, at its 23rd and 24th meetings:

Concerning standard nomenclature

- a) Prioritize taxa for the adoption of new or updated standard nomenclature references, in particular where nomenclature poses a barrier to identification of CITES-listed trees in trade;
- b) Identify the research needs and resource requirements for the production of standard nomenclature references for priority taxa;

Concerning wood and other material as reference samples for identification purposes, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and building on information on existing initiatives previously made available to Parties

- a) Determine, for all CITES-listed tree species, the locations and availability of existing reference samples or collections, and identify priorities in addressing gaps;
- b) Encourage interested Parties to identify, collect and curate reference samples, and facilitate exchange to make them available, as appropriate, to research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities concerned;
- c) Identify and compile information on best practices for the collection and curation of reference samples, identifying gaps where they exist; and
- d) Consider how best to assist and strengthen capacities for forensic work on identification of CITES-listed tree species in trade.

17.168 The Plants Committee shall update the Standing Committee on progress made on the implementation of Decisions 17.166-167 at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee; and will report its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

Directed to the Secretariat

17.168 The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and other relevant stakeholders, support the implementation of Decisions 17.166-168.

Species specific matters

African cherry (*Prunus africana*)

Directed to the Secretariat

17.250 The Secretariat shall:

- a) organize, subject to available resources, an International Workshop on the sustainable use and the control of international trade in *Prunus africana* with the participation of all relevant Parties, including exporting and importing countries, forestry experts and stakeholders with a view to producing recommendations, among others, on methodologies to be used for inventories (including regarding the sampling design and the inventory data set), sustainable harvesting techniques, monitoring and traceability systems, and perspectives in terms of developing plantations or agroforestry systems as a possible complementary mean of producing bark of *Prunus africana* in a sustainable manner, as well as any other relevant issues;
- b) seek external funding, in particular from interested Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the International Tropical Timber Organization; in order to organize the International Workshop as called for under paragraph a); and
- c) report to the Plants Committee at its 24th meeting about the recommendations made by the International Workshop for consideration and advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*.

Directed to exporting and importing Parties of African cherry (Prunus africana)

17.251 Exporting and importing Parties of *Prunus africana* shall cooperate with the Secretariat in the organization of the International Workshop by providing expertise, among others, on methodologies to be used for inventories, sustainable harvesting techniques, monitoring and traceability systems, perspectives in terms of developing plantations or agroforestry systems and funding on a voluntary basis.

Directed to the Plants Committee

17.252 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) cooperate with the Secretariat with regard to the organization of the International Workshop;
- b) review the recommendations from the International Workshop for consideration and advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*; and
- c) submit a report and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and report to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

African tree species

Directed to the Plants Committee

17.302 The Plants Committee shall form a working group on African tree species with the following terms of reference, as well as any other terms it deems appropriate:

- a) The working group will work primarily via electronic means;
- b) 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;
- c) 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;
- d) 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;
- e) 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;
- f) The working group will seek to identify other African tree species that may benefit from inclusion in the CITES Appendices;
- g) The working group will bring any issues related to implementation and enforcement of CITES listings for African tree species to the attention of the Plants Committee; and
- h) The working group will report its findings and recommendations to the Plants Committee.

Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

17.197 Subject to external funding, the Secretariat, in cooperation with agarwood range States and the Plants Committee, shall organize a regional workshop to: continue the work of the Asian Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa, hosted by the Government of India in Guwahati, Assam, India, from 19 to 23 January 2015 with an emphasis on how range States can cooperate to ensure the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species in the wild through agarwood plantation programmes that integrate forest recovery

programmes; and strengthen the agarwood network for sharing information on planting stocks, management, technologies, harvest and trade.

Directed to the Plants Committee

17.199 The Plants Committee will consider the report of the Secretariat submitted in accordance with Decision 17.198 and report accordingly to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

16.157 The Plants Committee shall monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on (Rev. *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.

East African sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*)

Directed to the Plants Committee and the Eastern African range States for *Osyris* species

- 16.153 The Plants Committee and Eastern African range States of *Osyris* species shall:
(Rev. CoP17)
- a) review and gather further information on the conservation status of, trade in and use of *Osyris* species and look-alike species and, assess their impact in the conservation status of *Osyris lanceolata*;
 - b) assess the data required to make non-detriment findings following the existing guidance;
 - c) identify mechanisms to help build capacity to carry out non-detriment findings for currently-listed populations;
 - d) report to the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee on the outcomes and recommendations of the workshop organized under Decision 16.154 (Rev. CoP17) b); and
 - e) report on their work at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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

Directed to Madagascar

- 17.204 Madagascar shall:
- a) continue to develop an inclusive process to identify the main commercially valuable species in these genera from Madagascar, in cooperation with transit and destination Parties, the CITES Secretariat and relevant partners, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with trade in timber of rosewood, ebonies and palisanders;
 - b) for those species identified under paragraph a) establish, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, a precautionary export quota based upon a scientifically robust non-detriment finding;
 - c) subject to the availability of funds, organize workshops in support of the implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of this Decision, and to strengthen the national capacity to formulate non-detriment findings, and identify and agree on monitoring mechanisms that include appropriate technology (e.g. timber tracking);
 - d) continue the production of identification materials for identifying timber and timber products of species of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar;

Directed to the Secretariat

17.208 The Secretariat shall:

- a) assist Madagascar, relevant Parties, and the Standing and Plants Committees in the implementation of Decisions 17.203 to 17.207;
- b) subject to available funding, assist with relevant capacity-building activities in Madagascar and transit and destination countries concerned by the trade in specimens of *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp. from Madagascar, including through international capacity building workshops; and
- c) provide written reports on progress with the implementation of this Decision to the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Plants Committee

17.206 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) review and assess reports from Madagascar on its implementation of Decisions 17.204 paragraphs a) to d), and from the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 17.208, and provide recommendations to Madagascar and the Standing Committee and other bodies as appropriate;
- b) continue supporting the preparation of a standard reference for the names of species of the genera *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* occurring in Madagascar, to be adopted, if appropriate, at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) assist Madagascar in the identification of technical resources in support of the implementation of Decisions 17.204 paragraphs a) to d), and if needed, make recommendations to Madagascar, Standing Committee and other relevant organizations.

Neotropical tree species

Directed to the Plants Committee

16.159 The Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species shall work under the auspices of the Plants (Rev. CoP17) Committee.

During its 23rd meeting, the Plants Committee shall define the membership and the terms of reference of the Working Group.

The Working Group shall preferably work through electronic means in order to reduce costs and speed up information exchange and progress in the activities included in its terms of reference.

The Working Group shall report on its progress at the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee. In turn, the Plants Committee shall prepare a report on work completed for submission at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

Directed to the Plants Committee

17.234 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) review at its regular meetings between the 17th and 18th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) on International Trade in Rosewood Timber Species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)] and the draft decisions in its Annex; and
- b) based on the proposals in this document, as well as experiences with trade in CITES-listed rosewood species, formulate recommendations concerning timber rosewood species for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Amendment and maintenance of the Appendices

Appendix-III listings

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 17.303 The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, shall consider the development of guidance on the application of Appendix-III CITES listings. Considerations could include, e.g.:
- a) possible guidance for exporting and importing countries with respect to the effective implementation of Appendix III, including measures to address suspected illegal international trade in Appendix III-listed specimens; and
 - b) possible guidance for range States on characteristics of species that may benefit from inclusion in Appendix III.
- 17.304 The Standing Committee shall, in consultation with the Secretariat, as well as Parties, as appropriate, make recommendations, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP17) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III*, to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

- 17.305 The Animals and Plants Committees shall advise the Standing Committee Working Group, if requested by the Standing Committee or its working group, on subject-specific items, e.g. on characteristics of species for a possible listing of species in Appendix III CITES.

Nomenclature: Cactaceae checklist

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 17.317 The Plants Committee shall review the feedback from UNEP-WCMC and information received from the Parties to report on this, and, as required, make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

Annotations

Directed to the Standing Committee, in cooperation with the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee

- 16.162 (Rev. CoP17) The Standing Committee shall re-establish the working group on annotations, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees, recognizing that the Animals and Plants Committees are an important source of expertise and advice to Parties on such scientific and technical issues. The group shall include, but not be limited to, members from the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee, observer Parties, CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, enforcement authorities, including Customs, and industry representatives. The Standing Committee shall particularly endeavour to ensure balanced representation of importing and exporting Parties. The terms of reference for the working group shall be:
- a) to further consider procedures for crafting annotations and develop recommendations for improving them;
 - b) to evaluate and address issues related to the drafting, interpretation and implementation of annotations, and assist Parties in drafting future annotations, drawing on appropriate expertise from within and outside its membership;
 - c) to conduct any relevant additional work on evaluating the existing annotations for plant taxa listed in Appendices II and III, with an emphasis on ensuring that such annotations are clear as to the types of specimens to be covered by a listing, can be readily implemented, and focus on those parts and derivatives primarily exported

from the range States and those commodities that dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource;

- d) based on the results of the timber trade study directed to the Secretariat in Decision 15.35 (Rev. CoP16), to review the existing annotations for tree species and, if appropriate, draft amendments to those annotations and prepare clear definitions for the terms used in the annotations in order to facilitate their use and understanding by CITES authorities, enforcement officers, exporters and importers;
- e) in close collaboration with ongoing efforts in the Plants Committee, to continue reviewing the appropriateness and practical implementation of the annotation(s) of the agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), taking into consideration the previous work done by the range and consumer States of these species;
- f) to review outstanding implementation challenges resulting from the listings of *Aniba rosaeodora* and *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in the Appendices, particularly concerning trade in extracts, and propose appropriate solutions;
- g) to draft definitions of terms included in annotations, in cases where the terms are not easily understood or where there has been difficulty in implementing the listing as a result of confusion about what commodities are covered, and submit them to the Standing Committee for adoption by the Conference of the Parties and subsequent inclusion in the Interpretation section of the Appendices;
- h) to conduct any work related to annotations directed to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee; and
- i) to prepare reports on progress made in addressing the issues tasked to it and submit them for consideration at the 69th and 70th meetings of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee shall report to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this Decision, propose amendments to Resolutions and Decisions as necessary, and request the Depositary Government to make any proposals to amend the Appendices as appropriate.

Directed to Parties

16.163 At its 18th meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall review the report submitted by the (Rev. Standing Committee on the outcomes of the work undertaken by its working group on CoP17) annotations called for in Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP17) and evaluate the need for continuing such a working group.

Annotations for Appendix II orchids

Directed to the Plants Committee

17.318 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) re-establish a working group on Annotations for Appendix II Orchids. The working group shall be chaired by a member of the Plants Committee and work on the basis of the following terms of reference :
 - i) The working group shall develop a questionnaire taking into consideration previous discussions and work on this topic, to seek information on the trade in orchid parts and derivatives (wild and artificially propagated) in consideration of the potential conservation impact of exempting orchid products from CITES controls.
- A) The questionnaire should invite Parties to provide available information on: the trade in orchid products from source to final product, including the identification of the major industry sectors involved in the trade; how NDFs are made; traceability

along the trade chain; and trade reporting. It should also request information on orchid parts and derivatives used in products, sectors involved (cosmetics, nutritional supplements, traditional medicine, foodstuffs – in particular flours -etc.), and conservation concerns for wild populations.

- B) The questionnaire should be transmitted to the Parties via a Notification and should emphasize the importance of responses from range States, with a sufficient deadline for responding.
- ii) Subject to the availability of funding, the working group may also consider actions to enable a full analysis of the potential conservation impact of orchid exemptions. These may include developing case studies on key orchid species identified in trade as finished products, including the 39 species identified in the Annex of document PC22 Doc. 22.1, as well as the two cases of orchid foodstuffs outlined in PC22 Inf. 6, workshop(s), or a study on trade data sources.
 - iii) Based on the information obtained from Parties in their responses to the questionnaire, as well as other information from the potential actions identified above, and other appropriate sources, the working group shall analyse the risks of trade in orchid products to conservation and provide its conclusions about such risks. Based on the findings and the analyses, the working group shall review the current annotation for Appendix II-listed orchids, and suggest such amendments as it considers appropriate, if any.
 - iv) The working group shall also consider and highlight the knowledge gaps of the orchid species in trade, i.e., consider identification, nomenclature and distributional information gaps where these are found to exist, and highlight these to the wider orchid research community and traders during trade events and forthcoming international meetings and workshops.
 - v) The working group will conduct its work via electronic means.
 - vi) The working group will report its findings to the Plants Committee;
- b) Consider the results of the working group; and
 - c) Report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.319 The Standing Committee shall consider the findings and recommendations of the Plants Committee together with the results of its working group on annotations, and provide the results of the work and its recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.