

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



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

Interpretation and implementation matters

Trade controls and traceability

Timber identification

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS 17.166 TO 17.169

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee*.
2. The 17th Conference of the Parties considered a document, including a set of decisions, summarizing work lead by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)* within the framework of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to strengthen the development and use of tools and technologies to address illicit trafficking of timber.
3. The following decisions were adopted:

Decision 17.166

Directed to the Parties

Parties are encouraged to expand or create and maintain scientific reference collections essential for the development of methodologies to identify CITES-listed tree species and distinguish them from look-alike species, in accordance with current best practices regarding collection, curation and facilitation of exchange of reference materials.

Decision 17.167

Directed to the Plants Committee

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;*

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

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.*

Decision 17.168

Directed to the Plants Committee

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.

Decision 17.169

Directed to the Secretariat

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.

Recommendation

4. The Plants Committee to begin the mandate under Decision 17.167, including development of a realistic work plan for tasks to be fulfilled intersessionally as well as identification of experts and/or institutions required. In doing so, the Plants Committee may wish to consider the use of available information sources and existing networks.