

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

---



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

Interpretation and implementation matters

Trade controls and traceability

Definition of the term 'artificially propagated'

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat.
2. The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016) agreed on three Decisions directed to the Plants Committee related to the definition of the term 'artificially propagated' found in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) on *Regulation of trade in plants* and in paragraph 1 g) of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*, as follows:

**Decision 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.*

**Decision 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).*

**Decision 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.*

3. Of direct relevance to this work are two further Decisions adopted at CoP17, directed to the Secretariat and Standing Committee respectively:

**Decision 17.101 (directed to the Secretariat)**

*Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall review ambiguities and inconsistencies in the application of Article VII paragraphs 4 and 5, Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) on Specimens of animal species bred in captivity, Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of operations that breed Appendix-I animal species in captivity for commercial purposes, Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17)*

on Regulation of trade in plants, *Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes, Resolution Conf. 5.10 (Rev. CoP15) on Definition of 'primarily commercial purposes' and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on Permits and certificates as it relates to the use of source codes R, F, D, A and C, including the underlying CITES policy assumptions and differing national interpretations that may have contributed to uneven application of these provisions, as well as the captive breeding issues presented in document SC66 Doc. 17 and legal acquisition issues, including founder stock, as presented in document SC66 Doc. 32.4, submit the review to Parties and stakeholders for comments through a notification, and submit its conclusions and recommendations along with the comments of Parties and stakeholders to the Standing Committee.*

**Decision 17.106 (directed to the Standing Committee)**

*The Standing Committee shall review the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretariat under Decision 17.101 and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.*

4. Decision 16.156 arose from a proposal to amend the Appendices by changing the annotation for *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gynerosme* spp. (Agarwood) submitted to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013) in proposal CoP16 Prop 70. During the discussion of this proposal, China, referring to documents CoP16 Inf. 3 and Inf. 20, *inter alia* proposed – and the Conference adopted – Decision 16.156.
5. During the intersessional period from CoP16 to CoP17, the Plants Committee worked on the implementation of this Decision and, at its request, Notification to the Parties No. 2015/046 of 11 August 2015 was issued with a questionnaire to gather information regarding production systems for CITES-listed tree species, including monospecific and mixed plantations. However, as explained in document CoP17 Doc. 53.1, the Committee drew no conclusion from the results of this questionnaire.
6. Decisions 17.175 and 17.176 arose from discussion of document CoP17 Doc. 43 submitted by China, Georgia, Indonesia and Kuwait. The proponents stated that Parties at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties had acknowledged “that artificial propagation can relieve pressure on wild populations” and considered that there may be a case for expanding the definition of ‘artificially propagated’, with the result that more specimens would qualify under the special provisions in Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Convention.
7. The Secretariat recommends that the Plants Committee’s reviews under Decisions 16.156 (Rev. CoP17), 17.175 and 17.176 be designed to contribute to the Standing Committee’s recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to be made under Decision 17.106.
8. Mindful also of the instruction given to it under Decision 17.101, the Secretariat stands ready to assist the Plants Committee, as required, in its implementation of Decisions 16.156 (Rev. CoP17), 17.175 and 17.176.
9. The Plants Committee is invited to commence its implementation of Decisions 16.156 (Rev. CoP17), 17.175 and 17.176.