

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



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

Species specific matters

AFRICAN TREE SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee*.
2. At the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC22, Tbilisi, 2015), the Committee established an intersessional working group on African tree species with the following membership: Chair: Kenya (Beatrice Khayota); Plants Committee members: Representative of Africa (Mr. Luke) and Alternate Representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo); Parties: Belgium, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Madagascar, Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America; international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations: UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency, Special Survival Network, TRAFFIC, WWF, and FTS Botanics.
3. In order to ensure broad participation from relevant stakeholder groups in the working group, particularly from range States of CITES-listed African tree species, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2015/060 on 20 November 2015, which invited participation in the working group from other Parties as well as relevant industry and non-governmental representatives. In response to the Notification, the following additional members joined the group: Cameroon, Senegal, South Africa, Forest Research and Management Institute, International Wood Products Association, INDENA, ITTO, World Resources Institute and EUROMED.
4. The working group had preliminary discussions and the following specific issues were raised:
 - a) difficulties in applying the recommendations in Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on Management of nationally established export quotas in light of the fact that export quotas may be established on the basis of annual allowable cutting permits rather than harvest year;
 - b) the possibility of adopting quotas comprising various commodities (e.g., sawn wood, logs) and the challenges posed by this;
 - c) lack of knowledge of the impact of certain harvesting practices on the health of the species and the challenges posed in making non-detriment findings in such cases; and
 - d) Identification of species in trade.
5. The working group was unable to initiate more substantive discussions, and the 17th Conference of the Parties agreed to the following revised decision:

* 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.

Decision 17.302 African tree species

Directed to the Plants Committee

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.*

Recommendation

6. The working group is re-established by confirming members in paragraphs 2 and 3, and identifying additional members if considered necessary.
7. Given the extensive mandate of the working group, the Plants Committee develop a realistic work plan to carry out the mandate under Decision 17.302 intersessionally that would identify specific actions and allow for a manageable workload with appropriate milestones.
8. With respect to part c) of the mandate, the working group keeps informed of the deliberations of the ACPC Working Group on capacity building (Decision 17.32) so as not to duplicate work.