

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



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

SUMMARY RECORD

Opening of the meeting

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The meeting was opened and the Secretary-General welcomed and introduced the new Chair of the Plants Committee, Ms. Adrienne Sinclair, and thanked the outgoing Chair, Ms. Margarita Clemente for her dedication to the role.

The Secretary-General introduced members of the Secretariat's Scientific Support, Legal Services and Governing Bodies and Meeting Services teams (Ms. Choi, Mr. De Meulenaer, Ms. Flensburg, Ms. Gaynor, Mr. Kachelreiß, Ms. Kang, Ms. Lopes, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Palmero, Ms. Reid, Ms. Sosa Schmidt and Mr. Yilmaz) and advised the Committee of Ms. Sosa Schmidt's appointment as the coordinator of the CITES Trees Project.

The Chair of the Plants Committee welcomed the members of the Committee, Party Observers, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the meeting. The Chair asked the Committee to approach the week's meetings practically, hoping to get work done in manageable amounts.

Pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat asked participants to declare any conflict of interest.

The Committee noted that no member present declared any financial interests that he or she considered calling into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the meeting agenda.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

Administrative matters

1. Agenda

The Secretariat introduced document PC23 Doc. 1.

The Committee adopted the agenda in document PC23 Doc. 1.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

2. Working programme

The Chair of the Committee introduced document PC23 Doc. 2.

The Committee adopted the working programme in document PC23 Doc. 2 with the following amendment: agenda item 29 on *Periodic Review of the Appendices* will be taken as the first agenda item in the afternoon session on Monday 24 July.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

3. Election of the Vice Chair

The Committee agreed to postpone the election of the Vice-Chair of the Plants Committee to a later time in the meeting.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Ali Mahamane (Africa) was elected by acclamation as Vice-Chair of the Plants Committee.

During the discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) and the Chair of the Plants Committee.

4. Rules of Procedure

4.1 Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

The Chair of the Committee introduced document PC23 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1).

The Committee noted the Rules of Procedure of the Plants Committee as amended at the 22nd meeting and contained in the Annex to document PC23 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1).

No other intervention was made during discussion of this document.

4.2 Revision of the Rules of Procedure [Decisions 17.3, 17.4 and 17.5]

The Secretariat introduced the revision of the Rules of Procedure, noting that the revised rules would align with those of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) and the Standing Committee, and would in particular look at the processes for handling documents, dealing with working groups, and improving communication efficiency through electronic means.

The Chair noted that there was currently no document for this item, but that the Secretariat would produce a document for the Standing Committee.

The Committee agreed to consider the issue of the revision of the Rules of Procedure at its 24th meeting.

During the discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the Chair.

5. Admission of observers

The Chair of the Committee introduced the document PC23 Doc. 5.

The Committee noted the list of observers provided in document PC23 Doc. 5.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

Strategic matters

6. Plants Committee strategic planning for 2016-2019 (CoP17-CoP18)

6.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Plants Committee

The Chair of the Committee introduced document PC23 Doc. 6.1.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 6.1.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

6.2 Plants Committee workplan

The Chair of the Committee introduced document PC23 Doc. 6.2.

The Committee agreed that the members present would finalize the Annex to document PC23 Doc. 6.2 and present it later in the meeting.

Later in the meeting, the Committee noted the final Plants Committee workplan in the Annex to document PC23 Doc. 6.2 (Rev. 1).

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

7. Review of Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) [Decision 17.9]¹

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 6/PC23 Doc. 7, noting that Decision 17.9 requests the review of the Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees, with a focus on; removing redundancies with other activities directed to the Committees by Resolutions, reflecting on current practices and clarifying the function of the Committees as scientific advisory bodies. The Secretariat also suggested the creation of a joint working group to revise Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) and articulate other aspects relevant to the functioning of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in the Resolution.

Several Parties supported the creation of a joint working group, but questioned the inclusion of observers from other biodiversity-related Conventions, representatives of research institutions or relevant international intergovernmental organizations, as proposed by the Secretariat. During the discussion, it was noted that such outside observers would not be helpful additions to the working group, but it was suggested that the IGO and NGO community that has worked with CITES for several years may provide useful perspectives.

The Committees endorsed the suggested approach for implementing Decision 17.9, as outlined in paragraphs 11 to 14 of document AC29 Doc. 6/PC23 Doc. 7 and established an intersessional working group on the review of the terms of reference of the Animals and Plants Committee with the following terms of reference:

1. Review Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), and other aspects relevant to the functioning of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17);
2. Take into account previous deliberations, and documents CoP17 Doc. 10.2.1 and AC29 Doc. 6/PC23 Doc. 7, as well as Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee; and
3. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: AC Chair (Mr. Lörtscher) and PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair);

¹ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

Members: AC acting representative of Asia (Mr. Ishii), the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Calvar Agrelo), Europe (Mr. Fleming), North America (Ms. Gnam), and the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk); the PC representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach) and the PC nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);

Parties: Canada, China, European Union, Georgia, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Humane Society International.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), Canada, China, European Union, Mexico, the United States of America, Mexico, Humane Society International and the Chair of the Animals Committee.

8. CITES Strategic Vision [Decision 17.18]²

The Secretariat noted that the current Strategic Vision covers 2008-2020 and highlighted the need to review the Vision at the next Conference of the Parties (CoP). The Standing Committee will be leading the review process.

The Committees agreed to request the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees (and the Vice-Chairs of each Committee if the Chairs are not available) to participate in the Standing Committee Strategic Vision working group when it is established by the Standing Committee.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

9. Appendix I-listed species [Decision 17.24]³

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 8/PC23 Doc. 9, noting with regret that a current lack of funding is limiting the implementation of Decision 17.22, which highlights the need for a consultant to undertake a rapid assessment of the conservation status and legal/illegal trade in Appendix-I listed species. The Secretariat noted that an estimate of 100,000 - 300,000 USD would be needed to implement this Decision, and stressed the importance of quickly acquiring funding and donors.

Some Parties voiced concern about the terms of reference and the proposed budget for this consultancy. They suggested that information from Parties regarding the work already under way to improve Appendix-I species conservation status might be helpful in clarifying the role of the consultant.

Understanding that the formation of an intersessional working group to work on the terms of reference would need to report back to the Committees for endorsement, it was suggested instead that an informal advisory group could provide advice to the Secretariat on this issue.

The Committees established an informal advisory group that will draft, with the Secretariat, terms of references and methods for the consultancy called for in Decision 17.22.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming); and

Parties: Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the acting AC representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), Mexico, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zimbabwe, the United States of America; IWMC Wildlife Conservation Trust, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat.

² This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

³ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

10. Capacity building and identification materials [Decisions 17.32 and 17.33]⁴

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 9/PC23 Doc. 10, outlining four proposed work packages to be addressed by a joint working group on capacity building and identification materials.

Several Members welcomed the addition of new material in the Species+ database parallel to the archiving of the old system but cautioned against whole database transfers without adequate annotations. There was also some concern raised regarding the access to materials in the Pacific region due to limited internet services.

Other concerns were expressed, including maintaining similar emphasis on both endeavours (capacity building and identification); more information on gap analysis and how this will be identified; and some discrepancies between the two endeavours in terms of the outlined 'roles'. It was also suggested that capacity building and identification materials would benefit from regional developments, with specific examples from the Amazonian region and collaborative work by Brazil and Columbia on timber identification material.

The Committees established a joint intersessional working group on capacity building and identification materials with the following terms of reference:

1. Taking into consideration inputs and recommendations made in plenary, consider the work plan and activities outlined in paragraphs 7 to 33 of document AC29 Doc. 9/PC23 Doc. 10;
2. Finalize and implement a workplan with timelines, in consultation with the Secretariat, that will result in a determination of the availability of materials and the enhancement of their accessibility, revision or guidance to revise select material, a review of the project proposals as described in part e) of Decision 17.32, and the review of Resolution Conf. 3.4 and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) and recommendations to promote accuracy and availability of materials; and
3. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee);

Members: AC representatives of Africa (Mr. Kasoma), North America (Ms. Gnam), and Oceania (Mr. Robertson); acting AC representatives of Asia (Mr. Ishii) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Lemus), AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk); and PC representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), Asia (Mr. Fernando), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), Europe (Ms. Moser), and North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno), and PC alternate representatives of Africa (Ms. Khayota) and Asia (Ms. Al Salem);

Parties: Australia, Canada, Kenya, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, Born Free USA, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), the AC representatives of North America (Ms. Gnam) and Oceania (Mr. Robertson), and the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk).

⁴ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

11. Non-detriment findings

11.1 Report of the Secretariat [Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)]⁵

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 10/PC23 Doc. 11.1, explaining that it intends to develop draft decisions for consideration at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties on reviewing existing materials and guidance on non-detriment findings, making a gap analysis, and developing new or updated materials as needed.

Members and Parties generally supported this initiative, and suggested to share the full inventory of available capacity building materials on the making of non-detriment findings on the CITES website.

The Committees noted document AC29 Doc. 10/PC23 Doc. 11 and asked the Secretariat to share the draft decisions mentioned in paragraph 9 of document AC29 Doc. 10/PC23 Doc. 11 with the Animals and Plants Committees for their comments and review at their next meetings.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the PC representatives of Europe (Mr. Carmo) and Oceania (Mr. Leach), Mexico, Peru, the United States of America, the Chair of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat.

11.2 Guidance on making non-detriment findings for plants

Germany introduced document PC23 Doc. 11.2. The document provides updates on “CITES Non-detriment Findings Guidance for Perennial Plants – A nine-step process to support CITES Scientific Authorities making science-based non-detriment findings (NDFs) for species listed in CITES Appendix II”, which was launched in collaboration with TRAFFIC at CoP17. Germany noted that the guidance had been applied to several species, and processes had been started to adapt the methodology to timber-producing plant species. Feedback from these applications would be used in future revisions of the guidance. Additionally, Germany informed the Committee that the guidance had also been useful for the development of NDFs for animals.

Several participants thanked Germany and TRAFFIC for their guidance on making NDFs and welcomed work on its application to timber species.

The Committee invited Germany to report to the Plants Committee at its 24th meeting on progress with its 9-Steps NDF Guidance for plants.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), Mexico, Republic of Korea, the United States of America and the Chair.

12. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES) [Decision 16.15 (Rev. CoP17)]⁶

The Secretariat presented an oral update to the Committees on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES). Progress had been reported to the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17), but regrettably funds were currently too limited to start an assessment of the sustainable use of wild species. The Secretariat noted that this thematic assessment would take approximately three years to complete, and was estimated to cost one million USD.

Mexico intervened to urge others to provide financial and political support for the proposed IPBES thematic assessment on the sustainable use of wild species.

The Committees noted the oral update provided by the Secretariat and the call from Mexico to provide financial and political support for the proposed IPBES thematic assessment on the sustainable use of wild species.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by Mexico.

⁵ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

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13. Strengthening conservation and sustainable production of selected Appendix II species in North America – synergies with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation⁷

Mexico introduced document AC29 Doc. 12/PC23 Doc. 13. The document outlines a project aimed at promoting the legal, sustainable and traceable trade of Appendix-II listed species, and identifying 56 taxa as being of priority because of their high trade volumes. The project focuses on five priority species groups (sharks, parrots, tarantulas, turtles/tortoises and timber species), and resulted in 89 actions plans for these priority groups.

Parties in the North American region spoke to highlight the positive regional collaboration through the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

The Committees noted the synergies between the CITES North American Region and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), and in particular the action plans for the five priority species groups (summarized under paragraphs 5 and 6 and in the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 12/PC23 Doc. 13).

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Canada and the United States of America.

14. Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity [Resolution Conf. 16.5 and Decision 17.53]

The acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno) introduced document PC23 Doc.14, and thanked the Scientific Authority of Mexico for its collaboration. Recalling Resolution Conf. 16.5 (CoP16) on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation on the Convention on Biological Diversity* (GSPC 2011-2020), Ms. Camarena Osorno noted the recommendation to the Committee to update Annexes 1 and 2 of document CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev.1). The Committee was reminded that Annex 1 consists of "Draft report on CITES contribution to the implementation of GSPC 2011-2020", as well as details, on a qualitative basis, of the role of CITES in the implementation of each of the objectives of the Strategy, while Annex 2 summarizes the proposals submitted to CoPs for amendments to Appendices I and II, the taxa selected for the periodic review of Appendix I and II species, and the Appendix II flora subject to significant trade.

The Committee agreed to include in its work programme the following tasks:

- a) Update Annex 1 to document CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1) (the latest version is currently updated up to 2016). This might include re-issuing a Notification with a questionnaire, similar to that of Notification to the Parties No. 2016/046.
- b) Update the information called for in Decision 17.54, and in particular taking into account the recent outcomes of the amendments to the Appendices adopted at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee requested that the Secretariat send the updated report identified in Decision 17.53 and communicate ongoing progress of CITES to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in a timely manner, by official means, to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

During the discussion of this item, an intervention was made by Mexico.

Interpretation and implementation matters

15. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17)]

15.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade

The Secretariat introduced document PC23 Doc. 15.1 providing an update on species-country combinations subject to review and thanking the European Union for funding to move all of the Decisions related to the Review of Significant Trade forward. The Secretariat informed the Committee that a new in-house tracking and management database would be developed that would increase data

⁷ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

sustainability, interlinkage and utilisation of the database, informing the Committee that in the meantime, an interim tabular system would be made available.

Members noted their support for the work being done to support the Review of Significant Trade and had some queries about the timeframe and budget of the database project. Some Parties showed support for work being done in relation to the Review of Significant Trade, suggesting that other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) should be made aware of progress to help support work on a global scale. Concerns about the tagging exercises involved were also mentioned.

The Secretariat referred the Committee to documents AC29 Inf. 19 and PC23 Inf. 13 regarding the budget and timeframe of the database project, and addressed concerns of document tagging prioritisation, saying that this would run parallel to other work.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 15.1 and the update on the Review of Significant Trade tracking and management database.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno), Madagascar, Mexico, the United States of America and the Secretariat.

15.2 Species selected following CoP16

The Secretariat introduced document PC23 Doc. 15.2, and thanked the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) for its contributions. The Secretariat informed the Committee that following CoP16, 13 taxa were selected for review in compliance with paragraphs a) and b) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), noting that this Resolution was revised at CoP17 and that to the extent possible the review of the remaining cases would go forward under the provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17). The Secretariat reported that several species/country combinations were eliminated from the review because the range States were deemed to have satisfied Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a) of the Convention. The Secretariat noted that 11 species/country combinations were retained in the review after the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee.

UNEP-WCMC introduced Annex 1 to document PC23 Doc. 15.2, highlighting that population trends, distribution, trade trends, management monitoring actions and general information about each species was considered during the review of these 11 species/country combinations and informed their provisional categorisation as either 'unknown status', 'action is needed' or 'less concern'. It was reported that seven of the 10 range States provided responses to the request for information.

Argentina updated the Committee on initiatives and legislation currently in place to assist in the sustainable conservation of red sanders (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*).

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc 15.2.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), Argentina, UNEP-WCMC, American Herbal Products Association and the Chair.

15.3 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP17

The Secretariat introduced document PC23 Doc.15.3 and thanked UNEP-WCMC for its work and recalled that Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) had been revised at CoP17. The Secretariat recalled the Review of Significant Trade process prior to CoP17, and highlighted the differences between the review process prior to CoP17 and the review process following CoP under Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17). The Secretariat outlined that under the revised Review of Significant Trade process, the initial selection would identify a limited number of species/country combinations of greatest concern for inclusion in Stage 2 of the process.

UNEP-WCMC introduced Annexes 1 and 2 to document PC23 Doc. 15.3, outlining the summary of information and the extended analysis carried out for the selection of species for trade reviews.

In regards to methodology for this analysis, UNEP-WCMC outlined the five criteria used to extract species showing noteworthy patterns of trade over the last five years: endangered species (according to The IUCN Red list of Threatened Species), sharp increase (in global trade), sharp increase (of export at the country level), high volume (compared to other taxa in their order), and high volume (globally threatened for their order). UNEP-WCMC informed the Committee that for the high volume (globally threatened) criteria, those species were therefore on the IUCN Red list of Threatened Species and were multiplied by 10 to account for global threat status. They suggested a way to improve the output for 15.3 would be to include the year of suspensions as contextual information.

Members noted the significant amount of work done in preparing document PC23 Doc.15.3 and its Annexes but also noted the need for clarification on the five criteria used to select species and the definition of 'large volume' of trade.

Parties also suggested that conversion factors be taken into account in the outputs in the future, for example in the case of timber species, that figures for logs and sawn wood be split up to provide a more realistic view on trade trends.

It was noted that Table 2 in Annex 1 identified three range States for *Panax quinquefolius*, however, the United States of America and Canada are the only range States for this species.

Other participants questioned the initial consideration of species/country combination and were reminded that the outputs produced by UNEP-WCMC are summary tools to be used during the working group on the selection of species for trade reviews. It was also suggested that a country-by-country breakdown would be helpful in cases where a number of countries export the same species, as it would be a more useful tool to evaluate trade trends.

The Committee established a working group on the Review of Significant Trade (agenda items 15.2 and 15.3) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 15.2:

For the 11 species/country combinations retained in the review after the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee, in accordance with paragraph 1 g) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), the working group shall:

- a) review the report in Annex 1 to document PC23 Doc. 15.2 and the responses received from the range States concerned contained in Annex 2 (and any additional information), recategorize the species/country combination of *Hoodia gordonii*/Namibia, which is indicated as 'unknown status', as either 'action is needed' or 'less concern' and provide a justification for such recategorization; and, if appropriate, 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;
- b) 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 Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33; and
- c) formulate separate recommendations directed to the Standing Committee regarding problems that are not directly related to the implementation of Article IV paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a).

Concerning agenda item 15.3:

In accordance with paragraph 1 b) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17):

Review the information contained in the Annexes to document PC23 Doc. 15.3, as well as information available to the Plants Committee, the Secretariat, Parties or other relevant experts, and on the basis of that information, recommend a limited number of species/country combinations of greatest concern for inclusion in Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade.

The membership was decided as follows:

- Chair: the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);
- Members: the representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahamane and Ms. Koumba Pambo), of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón), and Oceania (Mr. Leach);
- Parties: Argentina, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, European Union, France, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and
- IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), American Herbal Products Association, Center for International Environmental Law, Chambre Syndicale de la Façure Instrumentale (CSFI), Confederation of European Music Industries, Environmental Investigation Agency, Forest Based Solutions, LLC, Global Eye, International Society of Violins and Bow Makers, International Wood Products Association, IWMC World Conservation Trust, Society for Wildlife And Nature International (SWAN), Species Survival Network, Taylor Guitars, and TRAFFIC.

Later in the meeting, the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough) introduced document PC23 Com. 5, detailing the outcomes of the working group and the selected species/country combinations for review.

Regarding Part B of the document, discussion focused on *Pterocarpus santalinus*/India and the need for clarification regarding the volumes of seized stock being gradually exported, the status of the material exported from plantations to ensure that these stocks meet the provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) on artificially propagated specimens and an assessment of the possible impacts on wild populations. Members and Parties highlighted a need for the Secretariat to provide additional information on this issue to the next meeting of the Plants Committee.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 5 with the following amendments:

- Include the representative of Asia (Mr. Lee) as a member of the working group.
- Replace paragraph 1 on page 3 under “Additional recommendations concerning agenda item 15.2” by: “The working group notes that while there is no recent legal CITES reported trade in wild specimens of *Dendrobium chrysotoxum* and *Dendrobium moschatum* from Lao People’s Democratic Republic, field-based studies have indicated continued large-scale unreported international trade in *Dendrobium* species from that country, including *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*. This is at odds with the sudden reported shift in trade from wild-sourced specimens to artificially-propagated specimens, noting that these species are difficult to cultivate. The working group recommends that this issue be referred to the Standing Committee, noting the ongoing Standing Committee’s processes for this country.”
- Modify the long-term action for *Prunus africana*/Cameroon and *Prunus africana*/Democratic Republic of the Congo by replacing “regional” by “subregional”.
- For 6(a) *Pterocarpus santalinus*/India, delete the title “Short-term action”, delete the first bullet under short-term action, and remove the time-frame of 3 months.
- Delete 6(b) Recommendation to the Standing Committee for *Pterocarpus santalinus*/India.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Asia (Mr. Lee), the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser), the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough), Belgium, the European Union, Germany, Mexico, Peru, the

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, American Herbal Products Association, Confederation of European Music Industries, Species Survival Network, the Chair and the Secretariat.

15.4 Country-wide significant trade reviews [Decision 17.111]⁸

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 13.4/PC23 Doc. 15.4. It mentioned the possible benefits of a consultancy to analyse the advantages and disadvantages of conducting country-wide significant trade reviews. The Secretariat also indicated that Madagascar's country-wide Review of Significant Trade could provide some insights into the possibility of conducting further trade reviews of this nature.

It was suggested during the discussion that this process could be seen as cumbersome and unhelpful, but there was general consensus in the room expressing support for conducting country-wide significant trade reviews, suggesting that previous experiences could be converted into lessons and provide synergy with the Standing Committee. Both Members and other participants cited the case study of Madagascar as a useful basis for understanding the advantages and disadvantages of such a review process.

The Committees established an intersessional working group on country-wide significant trade reviews with the following terms of reference:

1. Explore potential benefits and disadvantages of country-wide significant trade reviews drawing upon the lessons learned and existing information on outcomes and impacts and, if possible, the outcomes of the consultancy proposed in paragraph 6 of document AC29 Doc. 13.4/PC23 Doc. 15.4;
2. Taking into account discussions in the joint session, consider the issues mentioned in paragraph 7 of document AC29 Doc. 13.4/PC23 Doc. 15.4; and
3. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: AC representatives of Europe (Mr. Fleming), North America (Ms. Gnam), and Oceania (Mr. Robertson), PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair) and PC nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);

Parties: Canada, European Union, Madagascar, Norway, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

The Committees agreed to review the recommendations of the intersessional working group, the possible outputs of a consultancy on country-wide significant trade reviews, and progress with the implementation of Decision 17.111 at their next joint session in 2018.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough), the United States of America, Humane Society International, TRAFFIC, WWF, and the Chair of the Plants Committee.

⁸ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

16. Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA [Decision 17.90]⁹

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 15/PC23 Doc. 16 and thanked the United States of America for providing funding to start the implementation of Decision 17.90.

Members of the Committee expressed the need to ensure that activity on specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA remained focused and stated that due to the recent emergence of this topic, it may be premature to expect to find positive and negative impacts on CITES listed species. It was also noted that the definitions of synthetic or cultured DNA were not self-evident and would need to be clarified.

Parties suggested making use of existing work under way in other Conventions in order to avoid duplication.

The Committees established a drafting group to finalize the terms of reference for the study on specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA contained in the Annex to document AC29 Doc. 15/PC23 Doc. 16.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming);

Parties: Canada, Mexico, South Africa, and United States of America.

The Committees agreed that the terms of reference for the study on specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA should read as follows:

Pursuant to Decision 17.89 and drawing upon document CoP17 Doc. 27 (paragraphs 21 to 26) and other relevant documentation submitted by Parties and observers, the study should review relevant CITES provisions, resolutions and decisions, including Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) and taking into consideration past discussions on specimens covered by the Convention, e.g. ambergris, etc. 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.

First part of the study

Describe in a very concise manner the different ways that DNA can be synthesized, cultured or otherwise produced artificially, in the context of CITES.

Collate existing definitions for the various term, including “cultured DNA”, “synthesized DNA”, “bioengineered” and other relevant terms for the purpose of determining what is covered by CITES.

Prepare case studies involving specimens of CITES-listed species, e.g. rhino horn, ivory, pangolin scales, medicinal plants, fragrances, etc.

Second part of the study

Identify and differentiate relevant legal/regulatory/enforcement and scientific/technological interrelated elements that should be considered by the Standing Committee and the joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees.

⁹ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

Elements that may be considered from a legal/regulatory/enforcement perspective:

- a) Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) interprets the terms 'readily recognizable' but does not provide an operational definition for the terms 'parts' or 'derivatives'. The study shall explore the pertinence and relevance of including operational definitions of the terms 'parts' and 'derivatives' in Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) in this context;
- b) The pertinence and usefulness of creating a new source code for "bioengineered" wildlife products as a separate category of specimens;

Third part of the study

Elements to be considered from a scientific/technological perspective:

- c) Information on existing or potential tools to distinguish between synthetic and cultured DNA;
- d) Information on recent technological developments that produce substitutes for CITES-listed species within the field of synthetic biology; and
- e) Information on relevant risk management measures and best practices.

To ensure consistency and to avoid duplication, the consultant shall – in undertaking these tasks – take into account ongoing discussions and work carried out by other relevant international organizations, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the acting AC representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), Canada, Mexico, Lewis and Clarke - International Environmental Law Project, and the Chair of the Animals Committee.

17. Transport of live specimens [Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev CoP16)]¹⁰

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 17/PC23 Doc. 17 noting that presently there are no valid Decisions or requests for extra work on this issue.

Some Parties queried the use of the term 'wild' in the title of the *CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live wild animals and plants* and asked if this included ranched specimens. It was noted that the term 'wild' was kept when Resolution Conf. 10.21 was last revised at the CoP16 and that the intention was that it includes ranched specimens.

The Committees noted the information contained in document AC29 Doc. 17/PC23 Doc. 17.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Fondation Franz Weber, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat.

18. Timber identification

18.1 Implementation of Decisions 17.166 to 17.169

The Chair introduced document PC23 Doc. 18.1 updating the Committee on the implementation of Decisions 17.166 to 17.169. In particular, Decision 17.167 refers to updating the nomenclature for prioritized taxa and the building of reference systems and information for identification material of CITES-listed tree species in trade.

Members expressed their support for implementation of Decisions 17.166 to 17.169 and the work already being done by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to strengthen capacities and build on identification of tree species. Some concerns were noted regarding the ambitious scope of the mandate and Members called for a flexible and realistic approach and workplan, including timelines and prioritisation. It was also suggested that the recommendations of the wood specialist group

¹⁰ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

that met in Guatemala be considered, including: developing mechanisms for gathering descriptions and exchange of timber samples for identification purposes; developing reference collections of regional resources; and the assessment of Party situations through the issuing of a Notification.

Parties agreed with comments from the Members, particularly the need for a realistic work plan. Parties also referred the Committee to work being done by the Global Timber Tracking Network, and suggested that their work on species identification may be useful in avoiding duplication of information.

Other participants urged that Committee to make sure that industry and private sector had adequate access to these databases.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 18.1.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón), the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno), the acting representative of Asia (Ms. Setijo Rahajoe), the European Union, Mexico, Forest Based Solutions, International Wood Products Association and World Resources Institute.

18.2 Adaptation of the macroscopical timber identification tool CITESwoodID to CoP17 timber listings'

Germany introduced document PC23 Doc. 18.2 noting the use of timber identification tool *CITESwoodID* as a first method of recognition of traded timber through an interactive database using both taxonomic and visual identification. Germany highlighted that this tool would be especially useful for persons with limited knowledge on timber, and noted that a new version will be available at the end of October 2017.

Members stressed that identification can be done using visual, chemical and genetic methods, and suggested the need for other methods of timber identification to be stimulated by CITES, including at a regional level and not just limited to CITES-listed species.

Parties welcomed Germany's work on timber identification, noting other databases that could be used in conjunction, such as 'Inside Wood'.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on timber identification (agenda item 18) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 18.1:

In order to implement Decision 17.167, develop and implement a realistic work plan of activities, including timelines and the identification and involvement of experts, institutions and networks, to fulfil work intersessionally. In doing so, use available information sources and existing networks.

Concerning agenda item 18.2:

Propose recommendations for consideration by the Plants Committee regarding the use of CITESwoodID as a tool for enforcement officers and use in training workshops.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin);

Members: the representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahamane and Ms. Koumba Pambo);

Parties: Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale (CSFI), Forest Based Solutions, International Wood Products Association, Taylor Guitars, TRAFFIC, and World Resources Institute.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin) introduced document PC23 Com. 7.

Members highlighted that work being conducted by regional bodies in Africa requires capacity building due to limited access to identification laboratories.

During the discussion on this document, some Parties noted the recommendation calling for a market study on traded rosewood species [PC23 Com. 7, paragraph 1 (i)]. While some Parties suggested there could be coordination between timber identification studies, *Dalbergia* studies and work already being done, others supported prioritising the most important studies first and removing this recommendation.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 7 with the following amendments:

- Include Canada as a co-Chair of the working group and the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) and the acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser) as members of the working group;
- “Concerning to agenda item 18.1” should read “Concerning agenda item 18.1” on page 1 and “Concerning agenda item 18.2” on page 2;
- In paragraph 1 c), delete “n” in “sent” to read “webpage set up by the Secretariat”;
- Add at the end of paragraph 1 g): “that require new checklists and that other nomenclature issues be referred to the Plants Committee for consideration”;
- Delete paragraph 1 i); and
- Paragraph 2 should read: “The working group notes that the CITESwoodID can be used as a tool for enforcement officers after they are trained to utilize it, and in training workshops. The working group further notes that an updated version of the CITESwoodID, which will be published in November 2017, will be made available on the CITES website, along with other identification tools.”

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), the acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser), the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough), Austria, Canada, France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Chair and the Secretariat.

19. Definition of the term ‘artificially propagated’

19.1 Report of the Secretariat [Decisions 16.156 (Rev. CoP17), 17.175 and 17.17]

The Secretariat introduced document PC23 Doc. 19.1 noting the current use of source code A for artificially propagated specimens, and the need to review the application of the definition of this source code for timber and non-tree species.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 19.1.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

19.2 Report on production systems for tree species, plantations and definition of the term ‘artificially propagated’ [Decision 16.156 (Rev. CoP17)]

The representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón) introduced document PC23 Doc. 19.2.

Members highlighted the need to take a broad approach to looking at production systems to quell confusions about appropriate use of source codes A and W. This was also echoed by some Parties, suggesting that looking for middle ground in regards to the conservational impacts of production systems and the new issues that that are arising around them.

Other Members noted with regret that more Parties did not reply to the request for consultations. Other participants also echoed this, stating that more Party responses to the Notification would have been helpful, especially considering the economic interests of production systems.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on the definition of the term 'artificially propagated' (agenda item 19) with the following mandate:

Develop and implement a realistic workplan that will:

- a) give an overview of the evolution of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) and perspective on the original intent of the Resolution guiding the definition of artificial propagation in order to inform debate regarding possible amendment of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17);
- b) provide an overview of the relevant work completed and conclusions thus far in the Plants Committee and the Conference of Parties regarding production systems;
- c) enable consideration of the current production systems of tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations; and assess the applicability of the definition of 'artificial propagation' in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17);
- d) 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 definitions of 'artificial propagation' and 'under controlled conditions' in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17); and
- e) report back to the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, including recommendations as appropriate.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-chairs: the representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach) and the acting representative of Asia (Ms. Setijo Rahajoe);

Members: the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón), and Europe (Mr. Carmo), and the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough); and the alternate representative of Asia (Ms. Al-Salem);

Parties: Belgium, Canada, China, European Union, France, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, American Herbal Products Association, Center for International Environmental Law, Species Survival Network and TRAFFIC.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach) introduced document PC23 Com. 6 highlighting that there is still a significant need for clarity surrounding the term 'artificially propagated'. Mr. Leach invited Parties to provide information on any good case studies that may be helpful for continued work in the intersessional working group and invited more participants to join this group.

A Member of the Committee offered to share data with the intersessional working group based on experience with the nursery propagation of seeds.

Parties also noted that new attempts to explore source codes for production systems would still require the development of NDFs.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 6 with the following amendments:

- Include the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) as member of the intersessional working group;
- Include “Resolution Conf. 16.10” at the end of paragraph c) of the mandate;
- Include a new subparagraph e) in the mandate: “explore a definition of plantation”, with paragraph e) becoming paragraph f); and
- Include in paragraph 6, after “a possible new source code”: “, keeping in mind non-detriment findings and legal acquisition requirements”.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach), Cameroon, Germany, Georgia, Indonesia, the United States of America, Zimbabwe, UNEP-WCMC and the Chair.

Species specific matters

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

20.1 Implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* [Resolution Conf. 16.10 and Decision 16.157 (Rev. CoP17)]

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced orally this item noting the 2015 workshop help in India and that source material of agarwood-producing taxa was predominately wild.

During the discussion, Members noted that, after adoption of Resolution Conf. 16.10, it was expected to see a shift in trade data from wild to show more material as artificially propagated. Current trade data only extends to 2015, so it will be interesting to see if data over the following two years does indicate this shift.

Some Parties noted the Glossary of Agarwood Products created through regional workshops should be available on the CITES website, while also noting there are ongoing challenges in importing countries with regards to identification of the various products.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to publish the Glossary of Agarwood Products on the CITES website under identification materials and noted current challenges with the identification of agarwood-producing taxa.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach), Kuwait, Indonesia and the United States of America.

20.2 Report of the Secretariat [Decisions 17.198 and 17.199]

The Secretariat introduced document PC23 Doc. 20.2, updating the Committee on the Secretariat’s activities in terms of the development of a CITES website page on identification; the identification of possible hosts for regional workshops and possible funding sources. It was noted that a revised notification had been issued and that the Secretariat would provide an update on replies in due course.

Parties noted the need for invitations to future workshops to also be extended to importing countries.

Kuwait noted their willingness to support the development of the glossary and offered financial support to any work in this area.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 20.2.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by Kuwait and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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

21.1 Report of Madagascar on the implementation of Decision 17.204, paragraphs a) to d)

Madagascar introduced document PC23 Doc. 21.1, thanking the Swiss Government for their support and the CITES Secretariat for their renewed confidence in Madagascar. Madagascar summarised its progress in the implementation of Decision 17.204, in particular activities pertaining to strength and application of law, and the management of rosewood stocks and scientific activities. They asked the Committee for help and advice to support the implementation of their Action Plan.

Parties applauded Madagascar for their endeavour to strengthen their management systems and improve their reference collections and offered support and collaboration in both of these areas.

Members also requested that Madagascar share samples from its reference collections, where possible.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 21.1 and requested the Secretariat to continue to support Madagascar, notably by liaising with Parties that have asked Madagascar to share samples from its reference collections and with Singapore for samples of the shipment seized by this country.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser), Madagascar, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Chair.

21.2 Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 17.208

The Secretariat provided an oral update, informing the Committee that there was currently no new relevant information to report, given the report from Madagascar on its implementation of Decision 17.204. The Secretariat did, however, refer to the Standing Committees' recommendations on trade in ebonies, palisanders and rosewoods from Madagascar, stating that current procedures suspending trade in *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. will continue until Madagascar is specifically looking at trade in these species and submit an inventory of at least one third of its stockpiles. The Secretariat informed the Committee of its intention to undertake a mission to Madagascar and report back to the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Participants thanked Madagascar and the Secretariat for their status updates and asked for more information on the timeline of the planned mission, which the Secretariat noted was likely to take place in September.

The Committee noted the oral update provided by the Secretariat.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the European Union, the Environmental Investigation Agency and the Secretariat.

22. Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (*Fabaceae*)] [Decision 17.234]

22.1 Implementation of Decision 17.234

The representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo) introduced document PC23 Doc. 22.1 on Leguminosae (*Fabaceae*) and the implementation of Decision 17.234, which calls on the Plants Committee to review document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) and gather information on trade in CITES-listed rosewood species, and formulate recommendations for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18). The document outlines challenges highlighted by Parties in response to a consultation, including identification, formulation of NDFs, enforcement and management concerns.

Members suggested that it would be helpful to extend the mandate of a working group to cover all rosewood species, not just *Dalbergia*, and welcomed the opportunity to share information and results on other species.

Parties asked the Committee for clarification on paragraph 10 b) and c), asking why special consideration should be given to the genera *Pterocarpus* and *Guibourtia* and why certain activities have to take place before the next meeting of the Plants Committee. In response, it was stated that the results of the consultation with Parties highlighted that these particular species were suffering more pressure and therefore required special consideration. Parties also stressed the need to build capacity for identification. It was stated that the intention was to prepare a questionnaire and based on the replies received to report to PC24.

Other participants highlighted the need to be consistent and for unified approaches to cross border movements of timber species, particularly in the case of musical instruments.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno), Cameroon, France, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale, Environmental Investigation Agency, Forest Based Solutions, League of American Orchestras, World Resources Institute, the Chair, and the Secretariat.

22.2 International trade in rosewood species

The European Union (EU) introduced document PC23 Doc. 22.2. The document provides updates on issues related to trade in rosewood timber species since the CoP17 listing of all rosewood and palisander species of the genus *Dalbergia*; *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (kosso); *Guibourtia demeusei*; *Guibourtia pellegriniana*; and *Guibourtia tessmannii* (bubinga). The EU emphasised the administrative burden caused by the listings and questioned the added value of covering finished products. The document highlighted particular challenges in regards to the interpretation of annotation #15; the term 'non-commercial'; the term '10kg per shipment'; the cross border movement of musical instruments; and trade and management of pre-Convention specimens/stockpiles.

Parties discussed the complexity of the term 'non-commercial' and noted that CITES controls should focus on those commodities primarily exported from the range States. The main problem is related to illegal logging and de-forestation, which should be the focus.

The use of *Dalbergia* species in musical instruments was discussed. Participants from the private industry expressed the view that as musical instruments can have very long life spans they can be considered a long-term sustainable use of timber species and stated that *Dalbergia* species have specific qualities necessary for the crafting of such instruments. Participants called on the support of the Secretariat for musicians. Parties noted also that the challenges and concerns of the musical instrument community were also echoed by communities and industries manufacturing furniture and decking, who were facing short and long term effects of regulation of timber species, with potential impacts on livelihoods.

During the discussion on the terms of reference for the working group on agenda item 22.2, the United States of America accepted the consensus of the mandate as outlined. They however noted that they believed that the mandate went beyond the purview and expertise of the Plants Committee by introducing elements referring to enforcement and implementation, which they note should be dealt with by the Standing Committee. Instead, they called for the Plants Committee's mandate to address scientific and technical aspects, harvest plans, NDFs and management of resources. There were further concerns from participants in the meeting, questioning the necessity of having both an informal working group on annotations and the rosewood working group on agenda item 22.2.

The chair of the Standing Committee's working group on annotations and other members supported having two separate working groups.

The Committee established two separate working groups: one on annotation #15 (agenda item 22.2) and one on non-CITES listed rosewoods (agenda item 22.1).

A working group on annotation #15 of the rosewood listings (agenda item 22.) was given the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 22.1 (Recommendation 10 a):

Identify the key issues of concern with regard to CITES implementation for rosewood species.

Concerning agenda item 22.2:

1. Provide views and guidance on the interpretation of annotation #15 as suggested under paragraph 5 of document PC23 Doc. 22.2; and
2. Provide views and guidance on the suggestions for amending annotation #15, as provided in paragraph 7 of document PC23 Doc. 22.2.

The membership was decided as follows:

- Chair: the PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair);
- Members: the representatives of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón) and Europe (Mr. Carmo); and the acting representative of Asia (Ms. Setijo Rahajoe);
- Parties: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and
- IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, American Herbal Products Association, Center for International Environmental Law, Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale (CSFI), Confederation of European Music Industries, Environmental Investigation Agency, Forest Based Solutions, Global Eye, International Society of Violins and Bow Makers, International Wood Products Association, IWMC World Conservation Trust, League of American Orchestras, Martin Guitar, Overseas Traders, SWAN International, Species Survival Network, Taylor Guitars, TRAFFIC, and World Resources Institute.

A working group on non-CITES listed rosewood species (agenda item 22.1) was given the following mandate:

1. Identify the key issues of concern with regard to CITES implementation for rosewood species;
2. Give special consideration to non-CITES listed species of the genus *Pterocarpus* and *Guibourtia*, which occur in international trade and yet are currently not regulated;
3. Based on experience with trade in rosewood species, review document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) and the draft decisions contained in its Annexes, and formulate recommendations concerning rosewood species, which may include drafting additional decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

- Co-chairs: the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno) and the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo);
- Members: the representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahame) and of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin);
- Parties: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and
- IGOs and NGOs: American Herbal Products Association, Center for International Environmental Law, Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale (CSFI), Confederation of European Music Industries, Environmental Investigation Agency, Forest Based Solutions, LLC, Global Eye, International Society of Violins and Bow Makers, International Wood Products Association, League of American Orchestras, Martin Guitar, Overseas Traders, Species Survival Network, Taylor Guitars, TRAFFIC, and World Resources Institute.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document PC23 Com. 2 on rosewood timber species, implementation issues (annotation #15).

Indonesia expressed interest in hosting of a workshop on tree species, especially considering the listing of *Dalbergia* and the need for discussion on work to be done.

Parties noted that document PC23 Com. 2, paragraph 9, gives the impression that the working group will consider annotation #15, but stressed that the working group mandate should concentrate only on Decision 17.234. This was echoed by several other participants, who again noted that many issues should be referred to the Standing Committee for its consideration, rather than the Plants Committee. The Chair assured Parties that results of the working group would be shared with the Standing Committee.

Regarding paragraph 1 of document PC23 Com. 2, the Committee noted that there was some disagreement about whether this paragraph should be deleted or not.

Mexico also noted its desire to change paragraph 10) x) to include other genera under #15 in addition to *Dalbergia* so that the text would read "consider having a separate annotation for *Dalbergia* and other species under annotation #15".

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 2 as follows:

Regarding suggestions for the interpretation of annotation #15, as provided in paragraph 5 of document PC23 Doc. 22.2

1. These recommendations regarding the interpretation of the term "non-commercial purposes" are provided with consideration of the conservation value of the annotation, as non-commercial transactions should not represent a pressure on wild populations in terms of the quantity of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* wood in trade.
2. The recommendations represent the majority view of the working group members.

Regarding Interpretation of the term "non-commercial"

3. It is recommended that the following transactions be considered "non-commercial":
 - i) the cross-border movement of musical instruments for purposes including, but not limited to, personal use, paid or unpaid performance, display, or competition (e.g. on a temporary exhibition), and when the instrument is returned to the country where the instrument is normally held.

Regarding i) it is recommended to explore further options with respect to display when the instrument returns to the country of export (e.g., for tradeshows).

- ii) the cross-border movement of an item (such as a musical instrument), for the purpose of being repaired is considered as a non-commercial transaction, in view of the fact that the item will remain under the ownership of the same person and that such transport will not lead to the sale of the item. The return to the seller or manufacturer of a product under warranty after sale service should also be considered as a non-commercial transaction.
- iii) the cross-border movement of a shipment containing multiple items sent for one of the above purposes (e.g. a shipment of musical instruments being jointly sent for the purpose of being repaired), provided that the individual portion of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species present in each item weighs less than 10 kg and would therefore, if traveling separately, qualify for the exemption;
- iv) the loan of specimens for exhibition in museums, competition or performance purposes.

Regarding interpretation of the term "10 kg per shipment"

4. For shipments for non-commercial purposes, it is suggested that this 10 kg weight limit be interpreted as referring to the weight of the portions of the items in the shipment made of wood of the species concerned. In other words, the 10 kg limit is to be assessed against the weight of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* portions contained in the items of the shipment, rather than against the total weight of the shipment.

Regarding interpretation of paragraph b) of annotation #15 in the case of orchestras, music ensembles and similar groups which travel with all instruments in the form of a "consolidated shipment"

5. The cross-border movement of musical instruments in a container, together with or prior to the travelling of the orchestra, is considered as a "consolidated shipment". In such cases, the total weight of wood of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species in the instruments constituting the "consolidated shipment" is likely to exceed 10 kg. Such "consolidated shipment" should nonetheless not require a CITES document, considering that the individual portion of wood of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species present in each instrument weighs less than 10 kg and that the related instrument would therefore, if travelling separately, qualify for the exemption. However, if the weight of wood of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species subject to annotation #15 present in any individual instrument exceeds 10 kg, this specific instrument would require a CITES document.

Regarding identification of specimens at species or genus level on CITES permits and certificates

6. Specimens should, as far as possible, be identified at species level (e.g. *Dalbergia melanoxydon*) on CITES permits and certificates. However, in the absence of such information and in exceptional cases, it was suggested that specimens may be identified on CITES permits and certificates at genus level (*Dalbergia* spp.), in particular in the case of worked items such as musical instruments or in the case of pre-Convention specimens. It was nonetheless advised that, when the specimen is identified at the genus level, it should be indicated on such documents that the specimens concerned do not contain wood of the species *Dalbergia nigra* when this is actually the case.
7. It is recommended that the Standing Committee discuss further the need to indicate on CITES documents when the specimens do not contain wood of the species *Dalbergia nigra* when this is actually the case.

Regarding marking requirements:

8. Any existing number, or other marks of identification, should be indicated on the corresponding CITES permit or certificate with a view to facilitating identification of the instrument linked to the permit or certificate.

Regarding suggestions for amending annotation #15, as provided in paragraph 7 of document PC23 Doc. 22.2

9. The working group recommended that further research and studies may be warranted to get a better understanding of species, products and volumes in trade, as well as regarding the impact of international trade on the conservation status of these species. It was further recommended that any future studies should ensure no duplication of study as directed by other relevant Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, and carefully consider the timeline for the study.
10. Working group members provided their initial ideas regarding #15 and potential amendments. The ideas below do not represent consensus ideas but rather the ideas expressed by individual working group members.
 - i) A study as proposed above is needed before changes are proposed to the annotation.
 - ii) A harmonized interpretation of the current annotation needs to be adopted.
 - iii) Delete the term non-commercial to simplify implementation.
 - iv) Exempt finished products such as musical instruments.
 - v) Exempt finished products with a small volume of the species contained within.
 - vi) Formally specify that the annotation also applies to re-export and that the 10 kg applies to the quantity of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species in each item shipped.
 - vii) Be cautious when considering removal of 'non-commercial' until the implications with respect to conservation impact are better understood.

- viii) Possible amendments to the annotation should take into consideration guidance on the use of annotations in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP17).
- ix) Learn from the experience of Thailand with respect to #6.
- x) Consider having a new separate annotation for *Dalbergia* spp.

The Committee recommended that the above recommendations be submitted for consideration by the Standing Committee, in particular the Standing Committee working group on annotations.

The Committee noted that the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) and the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno) should be included as members of the working group.

Later in the meeting, the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno) introduced document PC23 Com. 10.

Participants focused primarily on discussion of Decision 17.234 and document CoP17 Doc. 6.2 (Rev. 1). Some Participants suggested that Decision 17.234 gave a mandate to undertake recommendation 2 and 3 of document PC23 Com. 10, while the Chair of the Plants Committee clarified that this mandate extended only to review recommendations and work towards drafting decisions for CoP18. It was suggested during the meeting that perhaps the Standing Committee could invite the Plants Committee to commission a study based on the recommendations in the document, therefore eliminating wasted time between CoP17 and CoP18.

The Committee noted that the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón and Ms. Rauber Coradin) should be included as members of the working group.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in paragraph 1 of document PC23 Com. 10 as follows:

The Plants Committee recommended that Parties be encouraged to:

- a) Facilitate access to all the tools, methodologies, and materials developed related to the identification of timber species of rosewoods, and take into account the examples and initiatives developed by Parties and the wider CITES community, including but not limited to:
 - i) The techniques identified under the Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN);
 - ii) The use of chemical markers for the identification of rosewood species, like dalnigrin (for *Dalbergia nigra*);
 - iii) Identification technologies such as Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) and Directed Analysis in Real Time Mass Spectrometry (DART); the former used by Brazil and Guatemala, and the latter used by the United States of America;
 - iv) DNA-barcoding techniques, as those used by the University of Copenhagen, Denmark; and
 - v) Anatomic identification initiatives, as that of the laboratory for forensic identification of timber, of the National University of San Carlos of Guatemala;
- b) Develop a directory of experts on identification of rosewood species, and make it available in the CITES website; taking into account a similar directory of experts under development by GTTN and the World Resources Institute. This could be done through a Notification to the Parties, which could also call for the compilation of identification initiatives used and developed by Parties and relevant stakeholders;
- c) Take into account the recommendations of the working group on timber identification established at the present meeting;
- d) Related to financing non-detriment findings (NDF) processes:
 - i) develop project proposals related to the generation of information needed to develop NDFs for rosewood species, in order for them to be financed by the resources allocated by the European

Union, and to be managed through the CITES Tree Species Programme (the terms of reference for this are yet to be published under CITES website); and

- ii) actively seek for financing opportunities under regional and sub-regional initiatives;
- e) Related to the formulating non-detriment findings, to take into account the following guidance, including but not limited to:
- i) CITES Non-detriment Findings Guidance for Perennial Plants (and its future adaptation for timber);
 - ii) Outcomes of the timber working groups of the “International Expert Workshop on CITES NDF” (2008; Cancun, México);
 - iii) Other NDF guidance relevant to timber species published under CITES website;
 - iv) Establish a feedback process between CITES Authorities and stakeholders along the value chain of rosewood timber species (including local communities, producers, importers, etc.);
 - v) Collaborate with other organizations and institutions to develop guidance and protocols for NDF, including but not limited to the Food and Agriculture Organization;
 - vi) Map all the harvesting schemes for rosewood timber species within range States (whether wild, plantations, or other), and taking into account a progressive approach, develop specific NDF protocols for each of them; and
- f) Provide information on whether certain rosewood timber species or genera meet the criteria for inclusion in the Appendices; whether the inclusion of these species would present an added value for their conservation; and whether the inclusion of these species, including at genus level, would present an added value to address the enforcement and identification challenges that are posed by the listings of the rosewood timber species that are presently included in the Appendices to the Convention.

Regarding paragraphs 9.3 and 9.4 (document PC23 Doc. 22.1) on enforcement and management, respectively, the Plants Committee recommended to convey these aspects for consideration of the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, stressing the need to discuss at length aspects related to traceability and the implementation and interpretation of annotations related to rosewood species listed under the Appendices.

With regards paragraphs 2 and 3 of document PC23 Com. 10, the Plants Committee agreed to submit these elements for consideration by the Standing Committee.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane, the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Belletón Chacón), the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno), the chair of the Standing Committee's working group on annotations (Mr. Farr), France, the European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Confederation of European Music Industries, Environmental Investigation Agency, Forest Based Solutions, Global Eye, International Society of Violins and Bow Makers, International Wood Products Association, IWMC World Conservation Trust, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, the Chair and the Secretariat.

23. African cherry (*Prunus africana*) [Decision 17.252]

The Secretariat introduced document PC23 Doc. 23 noting that the Secretariat is working to identify donors interested in contributing to the organization of the *International Workshop on the sustainable use and control of international trade in Prunus africana*.

Parties highlighted the importance of this workshop as a means for range States to exchange information and suggested the possibility of funding through the ITTO-CITES programme. They also stressed the importance of range State participation in workshops regarding *Prunus africana*.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 23 and thanked the European Union for offering funding for the implementation of Decision 17.250.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by Cameroon and the European Union.

24. African tree species [Decision 17.302]

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document PC23 Doc. 24 updating the Committee on work undertaken to implement Decision 17.302.

Parties recognised the extensive mandate of the working group and suggested the prioritisation of issues regarding the development of export quotas and conversion factors of different commodities for African tree species, including the identification of other species that may benefit from inclusion in the CITES Appendices.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on African tree species (agenda item 24) with the following mandate:

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

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-chairs: the representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo) and the alternate representative of Africa (Ms. Khayota);

Members: the representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) and Europe (Mr. Carmo); Parties: Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Madagascar, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC; International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), IUCN; Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency, EUROMED, Forest Based Solutions, Forest Research and Management Institute, FTS Botanics, International Wood Products Association, INDENA, Special Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Later in the meeting, the representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo) introduced document PC23 Com. 9.

The Committee noted that the intersessional working group on African tree species would have the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) as another co-Chair.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 9.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo and Mr. Mahamane), Cameroon, the European Union, Kenya and the Chair.

25. Neotropical tree species [Decision 16.159 (Rev. CoP17)]

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document PC23 Doc. 25.

Discussion on this item focused primarily on the membership of the working group, particularly questioning if all range States were automatically included.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on neotropical tree species (agenda item 25) with the following mandate:

- a) The group shall work under the auspices of the Plants Committee;

- b) 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. External funding would be needed should the working group decide that additional means are required for it to carry out its mandate;
- c) The group shall act as a hub to circulate and exchange experiences on the sustainable use and management of these species;
- d) The group shall contribute to the strengthening of capacities in range States;
- e) Where necessary, the group shall facilitate full and effective application of the review of significant trade and review of the appendices for the species concerned;
- f) The group shall draft reports on progress made in the management, conservation of, and trade in the species dealt with by this group, as well as on lessons learnt, for submission at the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, which shall agree on how to submit these at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18);
- g) The group shall include, as part of its activities, an analysis of the data received from range States and importing Parties;
- h) The group shall facilitate and foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences relating to the scientific and technical aspects of the inclusion of *Cedrela odorata*, *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, among others, and species of the genus *Dalbergia*, with special emphasis on the latter in the annotation, and likewise any other New World tree species listed in the CITES appendices; and
- i) The Chair of the working group shall submit a written report, on the tasks defined in the previous paragraphs, for consideration at the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, which report shall be submitted to the Secretariat 60 days in advance of the meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón);

Vice-Chair: Ms. Nuñez (Peru);

Members: the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin);

Parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), and ITTO; Center of International Environmental Law, Confederation of European Music Industries, Forest Based Solutions, International Wood Products Association, Martin Guitar, Species Survival Network, and World Resources Institute.

Additionally, the Plants Committee agreed to select as members of the working group on neotropical tree species up to:

- i) Two scientific experts with significant experience in Neotropical tree species;
- ii) Two experts from two non-governmental organizations with experience in the activities mentioned in Decision 16.159 (Rev. CoP17);

- iii) Two representatives from organizations of exporters from the two major exporting countries of the relevant products of these species that are regulated by CITES; and
- iv) Two representatives from organizations of importers from the two major importing countries of the relevant products of these species that are regulated by CITES;

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón and Ms. Rauber Coradin), the European Union, the United States of America, Species Survival Network and the Chair.

26. Report on the outcomes of the International Workshop on CITES-listed tree species

Guatemala introduced document PC23 Doc. 26, highlighting that the workshop was aimed at capacity building on CITES-listed tree species and outlining 22 recommendations and conclusions from the workshop.

Several participants noted the success of the workshop and their desire to be involved in the work on an ongoing basis.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 26 and further noted that the outcomes of the International Workshop on CITES-listed tree species, Guatemala, February 2017, will continue to be considered by the Plants Committee's working groups.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno), Cameroon, Indonesia, the United States of America and Species Survival Network.

27. East African sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*) [Decision 16.153 (Rev. CoP17)]

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document PC23 Doc. 27, which outlines the need to establish a realistic workplan to undertake the mandate under Decision 16.153 (Rev. CoP17), which directs the Plants Committee and Eastern African range States of *Osyris lanceolata* to gather information on the conservation status, trade in and use of the species, as well as assess what data is required to develop NDFs and identify mechanisms for capacity building.

Member interventions highlighted problems with lookalike species of sandalwood, suggesting that harvest pressures could shift to other non-listed species and result in ongoing issues for alternate species also. An intervening Party suggested that information of shifting pressures to alternate sandalwood species would be useful for planned workshops on sandalwood.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on East African sandalwood (agenda item 27) with the following mandate:

Draft a realistic work plan with appropriate milestones designed to carry out the mandate under Decision 16.153 (Rev. CoP17) intersessionally, including a process for gathering further information under part a) and for assessing data required under part b) of Decision 16.153 (Rev. CoP17); and to provide advice to the Secretariat on the consultative meeting described in part b) of Decision 16.154 (Rev. CoP17).

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-chairs: the representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo) and the alternate representative of Africa (Ms. Khayota);

Parties: Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: American Herbal Products Association and TRAFFIC.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo) introduced document PC23 Com. 4 outlining the suggested workplan and the expected capacity building on NDFs.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 4 and agreed that the workplan be annexed to document PC23 Com. 4.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach), Kenya and the Chair.

28. Possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*

The Secretariat introduced document PC23 Doc. 28 outlining a number of possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15). The Secretariat further offered to consider continuing to find possible amendments if the Committee deemed it necessary.

The discussion on this document went through the proposed amendments outlined in PC23 Doc. 28 (paragraph 5):

a) *Changing the title of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) to Implementation of the Convention for tree species.*

Members and Parties were generally supportive of the proposal to change the title from 'timber' to 'tree' and suggested this would make the resolution more effective. They further suggested that the working group on artificial propagation should consider the definition of 'plantation' as these terms are intrinsically linked.

b) iv) *The Plants Committee could consider how to best achieve the objective of strengthening consultations with ITTO, FAO and IUCN regarding CITES-listing proposals for timber species, and propose amendments to the resolution as appropriate.*

Discussion from Members highlighted that Parties in the Amazonian region would not support proposals for changes to the processes as these would, in turn, complicate current regional processes.

A Party intervention noted support for strengthening existing consultations with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), but asked for more detailed descriptions on how this consultation would take place.

e) *Concerns about non-detriment findings at the species level*

Regarding discussion on if and when NDFs should be conducted at the genus level, some Parties highlighted that NDFs are more effective when produced on a species level, but that perhaps genus level reports could be useful as general guidance, for example on estimations of volumes.

Other Parties recalled similar discussion during the Animals Committee, acknowledging that genus level NDFs could be appropriate for some taxa and there would need to be consideration of which taxa this could be applied to.

There was also discussion about the issuing of permits based on genus, which was pointed out as already being addressed under existing Resolutions.

f) *Regarding the establishment of voluntary annual national export quotas for timber species:*

There was general agreement from Parties to look into this suggestion and support for further discussion.

g) *Inclusion of a section on exports and imports*:*

i) *At PC22, the Plants Committee discussed concerns about the issuance of CITES export permits under court order. Based on a document submitted by the United States, the Standing Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties, at its 17th meeting, a new section to be added to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16) on Permits and certificates regarding these matters [see paragraph 12 of document CoP17 Doc. 10.1.1 (Rev. 1)].*

ii) *In light of these amendments, the Secretariat is of the opinion that the matter has been addressed and does not need further consideration by the Plants Committee at this stage.*

No participant intervened on this point and it was agreed that this issue had been sufficiently addressed.

- j) The section Regarding improvement of public understanding of the role of the Convention in the conservation of timber species could be moved to the end of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) as it does not provide targeted guidance but intends to raise general awareness on the impact CITES has in the conservation of tree species.**

No participant intervened on this point and the Committee agreed that this section could be moved to the end of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15).

The Committee agreed that the following amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. Conf. 15) could be proposed:

- a) change the title of the Resolution to *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*;
- b) seek enhanced, more elaborate and detailed views on proposals to amend the CITES Appendices for tree species from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) under the current consultation procedure;
- c) for the establishment of voluntary annual national export quotas for timber species, consider incorporating relevant guidance in Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas*; and
- d) move the section *Regarding improvement of public understanding of the role of the Convention in the conservation of timber species* to the end of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15).

The Committee noted that further discussion was needed on, among others, the establishment of non-detriment findings at the genus level and the use of conversion factors relative to the species when setting export quotas for tree species and making related non-detriment findings.

The Committee agreed that the matter of permits and certificates issued under court orders has been addressed in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates* and does not need further consideration by the Plants Committee at this stage.

The Committee further agreed to consider a revised version of the document by the Secretariat on possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) at its next meeting.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), the representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach), Canada, the European Union, France, Indonesia, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Environmental Investigation Agency, Forest Based Solutions, the Chair and the Secretariat.

29. Periodic Review of the Appendices [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)]

29.1 Overview of species under Periodic Review

The Secretariat introduced document PC23 Doc. 29.1 noting the intention to establish a periodic review database and noting also a request for guidance from the Committee on paragraph 7, regarding the need to keep data fields containing information that modify over time (conservation status; distribution) up to date.

Parties noted their support for a database on species under periodic review and suggested avoiding duplication through linkage with the Review of Significant Trade database.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 29.1, the corrections to be made to the Annex of document PC23 Doc. 29.1 for *Sclerocactus* spp. and the support of the Plants Committee for the establishment of a Periodic Review database.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by Mexico, the United States of America and Forest Based Solutions.

29.2 Selection of species for the Periodic Review

The Secretariat, with UNEP-WCMC, introduced document PC23 Doc. 29.2 and encouraged Parties to facilitate the reviews and identify the list of plant taxa to be reviewed.

UNEP-WCMC introduced the Annex to document PC23 Doc.29.2, which contains the species assessments and outputs 1-4. Output 1 contains Appendix I-listed plant taxa traded commercially from wild sources. Output 2 summarises commercial trade in wild sourced Appendix-II taxa. Output 3 contains Appendix-I plant taxa with no direct trade or minimal direct trade. Output 4 contains Appendix-II plant taxa with no direct trade or minimal direct trade. UNEP-WCMC noted that output 2 was discussed in the context of the Review of Significant Trade and was therefore omitted from the Annex to document PC23 Doc. 29.2. They also outlined the contextual information included in the outputs, including; global threat status (IUCN Red List), date of first listing on Appendix and species range States. There are 31 taxa in these outputs for consideration by the Committee.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 29.2.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the United States of America and UNEP-WCMC.

29.3 Periodic Review of *Hedychium philippinense*

The Committee noted that the Philippines was not present to introduce document PC23 Doc. 29.3.

The Committee established a working group on the Periodic Review (agenda items 29.2 and 29.3) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 29.2:

In accordance with paragraph 2 b) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17):

- a) identify a list of plant taxa to review during the next two intersessional periods between the 17th meeting [CoP17 (2016)] and the 19th meeting [CoP19 (2022)] of the Conference of the Parties, based on outputs indicated in paragraphs 7 to 10 of document PC23 Doc. 29.2.
- b) taking into account paragraphs 4 and 5 of document AC29 Com. 7, consider possible funding necessary to continue with the Periodic Review; and
- c) agree on ways to facilitate the periodic reviews, as suggested in paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17).

Concerning agenda item 29.3:

Review the information presented in document PC23 Doc. 29.3, and make recommendations to the Committee regarding the listing in the Appendices of *Hedychium philippinense*, clearly specifying the reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

The membership was decided as follows:

- Chair: the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno);
- Parties: Canada, Estonia, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and
- IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, American Herbal Products Association, IWMC World Conservation Trust and TRAFFIC.

Regarding points a) and b) of the mandate for the working group on agenda items 29.2 and 29.3, a Committee member indicated that the working group would need to take into account the results of the

AC29 working group on the Periodic Review, especially paragraph 5) of document AC29 Com. 7 that applies to both plants and animal species.

Later in the meeting, the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno) introduced document PC23 Com. 1, which outlined seven species as candidates for potential review under Resolution Conf.14.8 (Rev. CoP17). The document highlights Mexico's voluntary offer to undertake reviews of *Ariocarpus retusus* and *Ceratozamia hildae*.

Parties noted the need to find volunteers to undertake reviews on the remaining five of the seven selected species for period review.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 1 with the following amendment:

- Correct the typo in the first word of paragraph 5 b).

The Committee noted that Zimbabwe expressed an interest in undertaking a review for *Encephalartos concinnus* and *Encephalartos manikensis*. Zimbabwe reported that there had been no exports of wild specimens of *Encephalartos manikensis* and UNEP-WCMC confirmed that the entry in the trade database was indeed a reporting error.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno), Mexico and Zimbabwe.

30. Appendix-III listings [Decision 17.305]¹¹

The Secretariat introduced document AC29 Doc. 34/PC23 Doc. 30 about characteristics for candidate species to be included in Appendix III, and related guidance.

Several Members agreed it was important to bring more attention to Appendix III listed species, but raised concerns about potentially proposing a list of candidates for listing, as this would be outside to scope of the Decision. Some Members suggested work begin on this issue immediately instead of delaying until the next meeting of the Committees and the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Other participants suggested that there are ongoing instances of Parties being unfamiliar with how to handle Appendix III- listed species, in particular reference to certificates; when they are needed and what information they must contain. The Secretariat recognised these concerns and advised that they will try to clarify this as soon as possible.

In anticipation of the implementation of Decision 17.303, the Committees agreed to nominate the Chair of the Plants Committee, the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam) and the AC alternate representative of Oceania (Mr. Makan) as their leads for addressing the issue of Appendix-III listings, who could also represent the scientific Committees in any working group that the Standing Committee may establish on Appendix-III listings.

The Committees established a joint intersessional working group on Appendix III listings with the following terms of reference:

1. Taking account of document AC29 Doc. 34/PC23 Doc. 30, and discussions in plenary, explore ways to best advise the Standing Committee on characteristics of species for possible inclusion in Appendix III by:
 - a) identifying particular biological or trade characteristic for the species concerned, and
 - b) making suggestions for amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP17) concerning guidance for range States on characteristics of species that may benefit from inclusion in Appendix III; and
2. Report to the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee and the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

¹¹ This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: PC Chair (Ms. Sinclair), AC representatives of North America (Ms. Gnam) and Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the AC alternate representative of Oceania (Mr. Makan) and the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: Canada, China, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Switzerland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Born Free Foundation, German Society of Herpetology (DGHT), Humane Society International, Ornamental Fish International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and WWF.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Fleming), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the acting AC representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov), AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk), the Chair of the Standing Committee (Ms. Caceres), Georgia, Norway, Peru, the United States of America, Ornamental Fish International, the Chair of the Plants Committee, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat.

31. Standard nomenclature [Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17)]

31.1 Report of the specialist on botanical nomenclature [Decision 17.317]

The nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough) introduced document PC23 Doc. 31.1, which asked the Committee to form a working group to consider the points highlighted in paragraph 11) of the document.

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 31.1.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

31.2 Change of taxonomic nomenclature of *Caesalpinia echinata* and its potential implications for trade data and control

The representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin) introduced document PC23 Doc. 31.2, highlighting the current use of a new nomenclature process in the interim between the 17th and 18th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and suggesting the need to add synonyms for species names in the Species+ database.

The Committee established a working group on nomenclature (agenda item 31) with the following mandate:

Concerning agenda item 31.1:

1. Consider the need for Parties to provide feedback on the use of newly adopted checklists and on databases that they find useful as resources to assist them in their work;
2. Make recommendations with regard to options to provide financial support for preparation of online updates of the CITES orchid checklists;
3. Review options with regard to the update of the standard reference for the generic names of all plants listed in the Appendices – and not covered by specific standard references;
4. Support the Nomenclature Specialist in working with experts/range States in any outstanding issues from the Periodic Review;
5. Note that *Pachypodium enigmaticum* be treated as an accepted species name but should be fully reviewed when the *Pachypodium* checklist is updated;
6. Prioritise species (including tree species) for the preparation and production of new standard checklists and consider possible sources of funding – taking into account all relevant Decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

7. Review any feedback on the application and use of the CITES *Cactaceae* Checklist (3rd edition)
8. Recommend actions that can be taken to ensure that the revision of the name of *Caesalpinia echinata* to *Paubrasilia echinata* is widely promulgated within the CITES and enforcement community;
9. Consider options by which the role of nomenclature specialist be given some financial support after the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and,
10. Consider any other relevant issues raised at the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee and where possible make recommendations on these to the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 31.2:

Consider the feasibility of adopting a mechanism to update the nomenclature of species when revised during intersessional periods and not yet proposed nor approved by the Conference of the Parties.

The membership was decided as follows:

- Chair: the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);
- Members: the representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahame), Asia (Mr. Lee), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), and Oceania (Mr. Leach);
- Parties: Austria, Estonia, Germany, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and
- IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC.

Later in the meeting, the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough) introduced document PC23 Com. 3 noting the more substantive recommendations, including updating of the CITES website; inclusion of *Paubrasilia echinata* as a short term synonym for *Caesalpinia echanata* in Species+; reviewing options for financial support for the nomenclature specialist; and the prioritisation of species for the production of new or updated standard checklists.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 3 with the following amendments:

- Correct the name of the representative of Africa: Mr. Mahamane;
- Include Malta as member of the working group; and
- In paragraph 10, last line, insert “in” between “are included” and “the Checklist of CITES Species”.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin) and Malta.

32. Annotations for Appendix II orchids [Decision 17.318]

The acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser) introduced document PC23 Doc. 32, highlighting the work that has already been done by the Swiss Management Authority.

Parties congratulated Switzerland on the work they have already done and confirmed that their case studies had already been very helpful.

The Committee established an intersessional working group on orchids (agenda item 32) with the following mandate:

1. Discuss the work carried out so far (in-depth case studies and overviews), including identification of knowledge gaps and conclusions thus far;
2. Develop a work plan, including liaison with the Standing Committee working group on annotations;

3. Draft the questionnaire; and
4. Identify possible funding sources for further in-depth studies.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser);

Parties: Canada, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, American Herbal Products Association, FTS Botanics, Species Survival Network, and TRAFFIC.

Later in the meeting the acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser) introduced document PC23 Com. 8, informing the Committee that the working group would continue intersessionally and noting the proposed workplan.

The Committee adopted the workplan of the intersessional working group on Appendix-II orchids' annotations in document PC23 Com. 8.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the United States of America and the Chair.

33. Annotations [Decision 16.162 (Rev CoP17)]¹²

Canada introduced document AC29 Doc. 36/PC23 Doc. 33 thanking Namibia for its help in the drafting of the document as the joint lead on annotations. Canada outlined the terms of reference for a working group on annotations to be developed for the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee and asked the joint Committee for any comments and guidance on these terms of reference.

Parties suggested asking the Animals and Plants Committees to identify annotation issues they consider most important, including annotations that impact timber trade, and provide these to the working group on annotations, as annotations deal predominately with plant species.

The Committees noted document AC29 Doc. 36/PC23 Doc. 33.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the European Union, the United States of America, the Chair of the Animals Committee and the Secretariat.

Regional matters

34. Regional reports

34.1 Africa

The Committee noted the report in document PC23 Doc. 34.1.

34.2 Asia

The Committee noted the report in document PC23 Doc. 34.2.

34.3 Central and South American and the Caribbean

The Committee noted the report in document PC23 Doc. 34.3.

¹² This agenda item is addressed jointly to the Animals and Plants Committees.

34.4 Europe

The Committee noted the report in document PC23 Doc. 34.4.

34.5 North America

The Committee noted the report in document PC23 Doc. 34.5.

34.6 Oceania

The Committee noted the report in document PC23 Doc. 34.6.

No other intervention was made during discussion of these items.

Conclusion of the meeting

35. Any other business

No other business was identified, and no intervention was made on this item.

36. Time and venue of the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee

The Committee noted that the Secretariat had provisionally booked a venue to hold back-to-back meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees (their 30th and 24th meetings respectively) from 16 July to 27 July 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

47. Closing remarks

The Chair of the Plants Committee and the CITES Secretary-General thanked the participants, the interpreters and all meeting organizers. The Chair of the Plants Committee then closed the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee.