

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 20, 21 and 23-26 July 2018

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental Agreements

COOPERATION WITH THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION
OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. The main provisions of CITES and of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in effect that relate to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (GSPC) are the following:

2.1. CBD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets”, adopted by the tenth meeting for CBD’s Conference of the Parties (CBD-COP10; Nagoya 2010) through Decision X/2. b. The “Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020” (GSPC 2011-2020), adopted by the CBD-COP10 through Decision X/7, where Target 11 “No species of wild flora endangered by international trade” has been acknowledged as the core business of CITES’ activities related to flora.
2.2. CITES	Resolution Conf. 16.5 on <i>Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity</i> , adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), which provides specific guidelines on GSPC-CITES collaboration, with emphasis on those targets most relevant to CITES mandate (particularly Target 11).

As acknowledged in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 16.5, several other CITES Resolutions contain references to specimens in trade and CITES activities that could directly or indirectly contribute to the objectives and targets of the GSPC 2011-2020. Examples include Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings*, Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*, Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *CITES and livelihoods*, which encourages Parties to work with key stakeholder groups, such as rural communities, to design, implement and monitor effective strategies for implementing CITES listings; and Resolution 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional medicines*, recommending to work closely with groups of traditional-medicine practitioners and consumers in developing public education and awareness programmes towards the elimination of illegal use of endangered species, and developing awareness of the need to avoid over-exploitation of other wild species.

3. Additionally, the Conference of the Parties adopted at its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016) the following Decisions concerning the GSPC:

Decision 17.53 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall send the updated version of the report on CITES contribution to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) 2011-2020 to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in order for it to be considered at CBD's 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13-CBD, Cancun, México; December 2016) as CITES contribution to the implementation of GSPC 2011-2020.

Decision 17.54 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) publish and maintain updated on its website the summary of the Periodic Review proposals submitted to Conference of the Parties for amendments to Appendices I and II, taxa selected for Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II, and Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species, including relevant updates derived from PC22 and CoP17;*
- b) request the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to include in its website an interactive version of the online flora, currently available at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/pc/22/E-PC22-07-02-Annex5-...>, in such a way that CITES Parties can maintain it up to date, and thus have a clear idea on CITES contribution to the implementation of Target 1 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC).*

4. The Plants Committee, at its 23rd meeting (PC23, Geneva, July 2017), considered document [PC23 Doc. 14](#). This document, submitted by the Alternate Representative of the North American Region (Ms. Camarena Osorno) in collaboration with the Mexican Scientific Authority, summarized the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.5 between CoP16 and CoP17, highlighting the assessment of the contribution of CITES to the GSPC in document [CoP17 Doc. 14.6 \(Rev. 1\)](#), as well as the lack of progress in the implementation of Decisions 17.53 and 17.54.
5. With regard to Decision 17.54 and in support of the Secretariat, the Plants Committee agreed at PC23 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 CoP17.

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

Progress

6. In compliance with Decision 17.53, the Secretariat shared the updated report of CITES contribution to the GSPC with the CBD Secretariat in May 2018, and requested it to be disseminated at 14th meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP14; Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 10-22 November 2018), and in other relevant CBD fora. The Secretariat considers that this Decision is now fully implemented.
7. Concerning Decision 17.54, the Plants Committee was not able to undertake the tasks that had been planned at PC23. Yet, as outlined below, progress has been achieved by the Secretariat in making sure there is balanced collaboration between CITES and CBD regarding the implementation of relevant GSPC targets.

Discussion

8. In case there is insufficient time before the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to execute the tasks that were agreed at PC23 (as shown in paragraph 5 above), and if the Plants Committee would want to pursue them, the Committee may need to draft one or more Decisions to this effect for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (CoP18, Colombo, 2019). Alternatively, (or simultaneously),

the Secretariat may try to implement Decision 17.54, and report on these activities at CoP18, noting that Decision 17.54 has no specified timeframe or reporting obligations. It should also be noted that the GSPC that is referred to in Decision 17.54 may change after 2020 (see paragraph 10 below).

9. While there is good progress in assessing how CITES contributes to the GSPC, it would be desirable to map out what CBD tools and data can be of assistance to CITES in the implementation of its flora-related activities. In this regard, the Secretariat observes that certain information on the CBD website that is dedicated to the GSPC (<https://www.cbd.int/gspc/>) may be of interest to, or supportive of CITES. It might be worthwhile for the CITES and CBD Secretariats to make this information more accessible to CITES and its Parties. In this regard, the Secretariat is preparing a draft analysis of how CBD's thematic and crosscutting programmes contribute to CITES processes and activities relating to flora. Progress and any preliminary outcomes of the draft analysis will be presented in an information document at PC24. Thus far, the draft analysis focuses on CBD's guidelines and tools for operationalizing sustainable use and benefit-sharing, with multiple case studies illustrating how these can contribute to the trade management of Appendix II-listed medicinal plant and tree species.
10. As called for in Decision 17.18, the Standing Committee is developing a proposal for a CITES strategic vision for the period after 2020, with an associated action plan and indicators. Similarly, the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is to be updated for the period 2020-2030 ([CBD Notification 2017-052](#)). The *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020* that is subject of Resolution Conf. 16.5 expires in 2020. At this stage, it is unclear whether the GSPC will be renewed through a revised CBD Decision, or will instead be imbedded in the new post-2020 Biodiversity Framework; yet the latter seems more likely be the case. It should be noted that Resolution Conf. 16.5 does not contain provisions for the Plants Committee, the CITES Parties or the Secretariat to contribute to, or provide inputs in a possible revision/renewal of the GSPC 2011-2020.
11. Bearing in mind that the current GSPC ends in 2020, Resolution Conf. 16.5 will need to be revised to reflect a renewed GSPC, or be deleted in case the GSPC is terminated or becomes embedded in a broader post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. Proposals concerning the revision of Resolution Conf. 16.5, in the form of draft decisions directed to the Plants and Standing Committees, and the Secretariat, should therefore be submitted for consideration at CoP18.
12. Thus, considering the progress achieved as well as considerations related to the future GSPC under CBD's post-2020 Strategic Plan, the Plants Committee may wish to consider the following draft decisions:

18.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) consult the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) concerning the post-2020 future of the GSPC, and collaborate with the Plants Committee in drafting a revision of Resolution Conf. 16.5 on Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020;
- b) in consultation with the CBD Secretariat and the Plants Committee, and taking into account an analysis by the CITES Secretariat of relevant CBD thematic and crosscutting programmes, facilitate the availability to CITES Parties and relevant stakeholders of CBD tools and information pertinent to CITES activities relating to flora; and
- c) report on progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) and b) to the Plants Committee; and

18.BB Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) draft, in collaboration with the Secretariat, a revision to Resolution Conf. 16.5, taking into account the discussions under CBD regarding the post-2020 future of the GSPC, and present its recommendations to the Standing Committee; and
- b) advise the Secretariat on appropriate ways for making CBD's tools and information pertinent to CITES activities related to flora available to CITES Parties and relevant stakeholders.

18.CC *Directed to the Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the recommendations of the Plants Committee concerning its proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 16.5, and make its own recommendations, as appropriate, taking account of the discussions regarding the post-2020 biodiversity agenda; and
- b) submit any proposed revisions of Resolution Conf. 16.5 to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 19th meeting.

Recommendations to the Plants Committee

13. The Plants Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 17.53 and 17.54 and the analysis on CBD's potential contribution to CITES-flora activities, as outlined in paragraphs 6 to 9, and advice on the most appropriate way to undertake the tasks outlined in Decision 17.54; and
- b) consider the draft decisions proposed in paragraph 12 for submission to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.