

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

Interpretation and implementation matters

Compliance and enforcement

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

SPECIES SELECTED FOLLOWING COP17

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Selection of species/country combinations to be reviewed

2. Following the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), 8 plant species/country combinations were selected for the Review of Significant Trade at the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC23, Geneva, July 2017) on the basis of information provided in document [PC23 Doc. 15.3 Annex 2](#).
3. The Secretariat notified the range States concerned on 20 September 2017 of the selected taxa; explained the reason for this selection; and requested comments regarding possible problems with the implementation of Article IV of the Convention for trade in these species. Range States were given 60 days to respond (i.e. until 19 November 2017). The Secretariat emphasized that the main purpose of the request was to obtain the information required to assess the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) in the relevant range State. The letter was accompanied by the text of the Resolution, a summary schedule on the conduct of the Review of Significant Trade, guidance on how to respond to the enquiry, as well as details of the sort of information that would be taken into account by the Plants Committee when assessing the selected cases at its twenty-fourth meeting (PC24, Geneva, July 2018). The Secretariat also pointed out that in the absence of a reply or sufficient information, the Plants Committee could come to the conclusion that "action is needed" and formulate recommendations directed to the range State, which, if not implemented, could lead to action by the Standing Committee, including ultimately the possibility of a suspension of trade in the relevant species. Parties were encouraged to work closely with their Scientific Authorities as well as other relevant stakeholders to ensure that their responses were as complete as possible.
4. The selected species/country combinations concerned, and the justification for their selection, are shown in the table below. Range States that responded to the consultation are indicated in bold, and their responses are presented in the language in which they were submitted in Annex 1.

Taxa included in the Review of Significant Trade following CoP17

Taxon	Range State concerned	Justification for selection
1. <i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Cambodia	High volume (globally threatened)
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	High volume (globally threatened)
	Viet Nam	Included with the other range States to obtain information for the region as a whole.
2. <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	Nicaragua	High volume trade
	Panama	High volume trade
3. <i>Pericopsis elata</i>	Cameroon	Endangered; High volume (globally threatened); Note that the sharp increase criterion was initially met for Cameroon but based on a recent annual report correction, this criterion would not apply.
	Congo	Endangered; High volume (globally threatened); Sharp increase
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Endangered; High volume (globally threatened)

Consultation with the range States and compilation of information

5. In accordance with paragraph 1 d) ii) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*, the Secretariat engaged the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) to compile a report about the biology and management of, and trade in the species selected for retention at PC23, to be submitted for consideration by the Plants Committee at the present meeting. In doing so, the consultants actively engaged with the range States and relevant experts on behalf of the Secretariat in the compilation of the report.
6. UNEP-WCMC'S species report is found in Annex 2 to this document. It presents conclusions about the effects of international trade on the selected species, the basis on which such conclusions are made, as well as problems with the implementation of Article IV of the Convention. It provides preliminary categorizations of each species into one of the three categories outlined in paragraph 1) e) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), namely:
 - i) '*action is needed*' shall include species/country combinations for which the available information suggests that the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), are not being implemented;
 - ii) '*unknown status*' shall include species/country combinations for which the Secretariat (or consultants) could not determine whether or not these provisions are being implemented; and
 - iii) '*less concern*' shall include species/country combinations for which the available information appears to indicate that these provisions are being met.
7. In accordance with paragraph 1 f) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat will draw the attention of the relevant range States to Annex 2 of this document ahead of the present meeting, and invite them to provide any additional information for consideration by the Plants Committee.

Categorization and recommendations by the Plants Committee

8. In accordance with paragraphs 1 g) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), the Plants Committee shall at the present meeting:
 - a) review the responses from the range States in Annex 1 and the report from UNEP-WCMC in Annex 2, along with any additional information received from the range States concerned. If appropriate, the Plants Committee shall revise the preliminary categorization proposed for species/country combinations

of those with 'unknown status', those where 'action is needed' or those of 'less concern', and provide a justification for the revision;

- b) for cases where 'action is needed', formulate, in consultation with the Secretariat, 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). The recommendations should aim to build the range State's long term capacity to implement Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention; and
 - c) also take into consideration, as appropriate, the guidance on the formulation of recommendations for the Review of Significant Trade, presented in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33.
9. In accordance with paragraph 1 g) i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), in cases where the species/country combination is categorized by the Plants Committee as of 'less concern' due to the establishment of a zero export quota, any change to this quota should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, along with a justification.
10. In accordance with paragraph 1 i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), the Plants Committee is to formulate separate recommendations directed to the Standing Committee for problems identified in the course of the review that are not directly related to the implementation of Article IV paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a), following the principles outlined in Annex 3 of the Resolution.

Recommendations

11. The Plants Committee is invited to undertake the tasks outlined in paragraphs 8 to 10, in accordance with paragraphs g) and i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17).