

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

Species specific matters

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

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on *Agarwood-producing taxa* (*Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* spp.):

Directed to the Secretariat in collaboration with the Plants Committee

- 17.194 *Range, transit, consumer, and producer Parties of agarwood products are invited to compile and publish identification manuals on agarwood products, taking into consideration the updated version of the Glossary provided in the Annex to document PC22 Doc.17.5.3, and any further updated version, if appropriate. They are encouraged to distribute these identification manuals as training material to management and enforcement officials.*

Directed to the Secretariat

- 17.197 *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat, in cooperation with agarwood range States and the Plants Committee, shall organize a regional workshop to: continue the work of the Asian Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa, hosted by the Government of India in Guwahati, Assam, India, from 19 to 23 January 2015 with an emphasis on how range States can cooperate to ensure the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species in the wild through agarwood plantation programmes that integrate forest recovery programmes; and strengthen the agarwood network for sharing information on planting stocks, management, technologies, harvest and trade.*
- 7.198 *The Secretariat will report to the Plants Committee meeting on the implementation of Decisions 17.194 and 17.197 prior to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES.*

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 17.199 *The Plants Committee will consider the report of the Secretariat submitted in accordance with Decision 17.198 and report accordingly to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Implementation of Decision 17.194

3. At its 23rd meeting (PC23, Geneva, July 2017), the Plants Committee noted the updated *Glossary of agarwood products*, which was prepared as a joint effort by the Management Authorities of Kuwait and China, and of which hard copies had been distributed at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Committee requested that the *Glossary* be made available on the CITES website. Accordingly, the

document has been made accessible from the dedicated page on identification materials¹ on the CITES website. The document is available in five languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish.

4. Further to the above, the Secretariat issued Notification to Parties 2017/058,² which included a request for any other identification materials on agarwood-producing taxa. The Secretariat did not receive additional identification materials from range, transit, consumer, or producer Parties of agarwood products in response to this part of the Notification.
5. The Secretariat would like to thank the Management Authorities of Kuwait and China for their work and contributions on the updated glossary, and considers that Decision 17.194 has been implemented.

Implementation of Decision 17.197

6. The implementation of Decision 17.197 and the organization of the meeting it calls for could cost anywhere between 100,000 and 120,000 USD. These resources have not been secured.
7. In the context of the implementation of the European Union funded CITES Tree Species programme, resources have been made available to organize the *CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Asia* (Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 25-29 June 2018). Indonesia kindly offered to host this meeting, while the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is responsible for the logistical arrangements (see document PC24 Doc. 9.2).
8. At the time of writing this document (May 2018), the Secretariat was collaborating with Indonesia and the ITTO Secretariat in an attempt to accommodate the discussions called for in Decision 17.197 during the week of 25-29 June 2018. It was agreed that this could best be accomplished by dedicating two days (28-29 June 2018) to the *2nd Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa*. The Secretariat was considering how to maximize the use of funds that in principle would limit the number of participants to each meeting. A few representatives from some range States of *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* spp can attend both meetings, but this is not the case for all participating Parties. Efforts were also made to invite the Plants Committee Members for Asia to the workshop.
9. The Committee is invited to note that Malaysia has submitted a project proposal under the CITES Tree Species Programme that is entitled *Reducing Harvesting Pressure on the Aquilaria malaccensis (Thymelaeaceae) Natural Populations in Peninsular Malaysia through the Establishment of Arboreta and Germplasm*.
10. The Secretariat will provide an oral update on the implementation of Decision 17.197 at the present meeting.

Recommendations

11. The Plants Committee is invited to:
 - a) consider the report of the Secretariat, submitted in accordance with Decision 17.194 and 17.197;
 - b) discuss whether Decisions 17.194, 17.197, 17.198 and 17.199 can be considered as implemented after the workshop takes place, and whether they can be proposed for deletion at CoP18; and
 - c) prepare a report for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as directed in Decision 17.199.

¹ <https://cites.org/eng/prog/identification/index.php> (this page is under construction)

² <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/notif/E-Notif-2017-058.pdf>