

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

AFRICAN CHERRY (*PRUNUS AFRICANA*):
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 *Prunus africana*:

Decision directed to the Secretariat

17.250 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *organize, subject to available resources, an International Workshop on the sustainable use and the control of international trade in *Prunus africana* with the participation of all relevant Parties, including exporting and importing countries, forestry experts and stakeholders with a view to producing recommendations, among others, on methodologies to be used for inventories (including regarding the sampling design and the inventory data set), sustainable harvesting techniques, monitoring and traceability systems, and perspectives in terms of developing plantations or agroforestry systems as a possible complementary mean of producing bark of *Prunus africana* in a sustainable manner, as well as any other relevant issues;*
- b) *seek external funding, in particular from interested Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the International Tropical Timber Organization; in order to organize the International Workshop as called for under paragraph a); and*
- c) *report to the Plants Committee at its 24th meeting about the recommendations made by the International Workshop for consideration and advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*.*

Directed to exporting and importing Parties of African cherry (*Prunus africana*)

- 17.251** *Exporting and importing Parties of *Prunus africana* shall cooperate with the Secretariat in the organization of the International Workshop by providing expertise, among others, on methodologies to be used for inventories, sustainable harvesting techniques, monitoring and traceability systems, perspectives in terms of developing plantations or agroforestry systems and funding on a voluntary basis.*

Decision directed to: Plants Committee

17.252 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) cooperate with the Secretariat with regard to the organization of the International Workshop;
- b) review the recommendations from the International Workshop for consideration and advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*; and
- c) submit a report and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and report to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Implementation of Decisions 17.250 to 17.252

3. Organizing an international workshop on the sustainable use and the control of international trade in *Prunus africana* involving the participants and stakeholders mentioned in Decision 17.250, would cost in the range of USD 100,000 to 120,000. The Secretariat was unable to secure specific funding for such a workshop. However, it was agreed with the European Union (EU), the main donor of the of the EU-CITES project "Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant", to extend the *CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Africa* for the purpose of implementing Decision 17.250. Côte d'Ivoire kindly offered to host the regional meeting and the associated *Prunus africana* workshop, which is being organized in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).
4. The participation of relevant range States and Parties is under review, but will largely depend upon available resources. Efforts will also be made to make arrangements for one or two Plants Committee Members for Africa to participate in the *Prunus africana* workshop.
5. The Secretariat draws attention to several projects aimed at *Prunus africana* that will be undertaken in the framework of the EU-CITES. The outcomes may support or inform the implementation of Decisions 17.250 to 17.252. The projects concerned are the following:
 - a) Renforcement des capacités des parties prenantes en vue d'une gestion durable de *Prunus africana* au Burundi;
 - b) Renforcement des capacités des parties prenantes sur l'élaboration, la mise en œuvre et le suivi des plans de gestion de *Prunus africana* au Cameroun;
 - c) Gestion durable de la population de *Prunus africana* de Madagascar : évaluation de stock, agroforesterie, technique de prélèvement et cadre réglementaire; and
 - d) Avis de commerce non préjudiciable de *Pericopsis elata*, *Guibourtia demeusei* et *Prunus africana* en République démocratique du Congo.
6. The Secretariat notes that the trade in specimens of *Prunus africana* is a good example of large-scale use of, and trade in medicinal plant products, which involves many thousands of species. Much of the international trade in wild-sourced medicinal and aromatic plants, and products and derivatives thereof, takes place outside the purview of the Convention because relatively few species are included in its Appendices. Furthermore, trade in CITES-listed specimens, for example on emerging e-commerce platforms, may go unnoticed (see document [PC23 Inf. 10](#)). From a conservation and sustainability perspective, trade in medicinal and aromatic plants poses challenges in terms of resource management, monitoring, sourcing, identification and traceability, combined with issues such as socio-economic importance for local livelihood, health care policies, resource ownership and accessibility, etc. The Secretariat prepared an information document to highlight some specific features of the international trade in medicinal plants, highlighting the role of CITES. It is hoped that this will contribute to the ongoing discussions concerning *Prunus africana*, and more broadly generate interest among Parties about medicinal and aromatic plants in trade.
7. The Secretariat will provide an oral update on the implementation of Decisions 17.250 and 17.251 at the present meeting, and is considering organizing a side event at PC24 on international trade in CITES-listed medicinal plants.

Recommendations

8. The Plants Committee is invited to:
 - a) consider the information presented by the Secretariat concerning the implementation of Decisions 17.250 and 17.251; and
 - b) agree on a way forward to implement Decision 17.252, including reporting to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.