

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

Regional matters

Regional reports

EUROPE

1. This document has been prepared and submitted by the regional representatives for Europe.*

General information

2. Representatives: Mr Paulo Carmo, Mr Maurizio Sajeve, Mr David Kikodze, Ms Ursula Moser. Number of Parties in the region: 49.
3. Names of the other institutions and NGOs contacted for CITES work during the period: IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, TRAFFIC.

Activities

4. The regional Representatives kept contacts with all the Parties of the region. Ursula Moser (CH) and Paulo Carmo (PT) participated in meetings and working groups.
5. Switzerland sponsored the 10th European Regional CITES Meeting on Plants in Palermo (Italy), February 28th – March 2nd, 2018.
6. The European Union provided 7 M Euro for the period 2017-2020 to the CITES tree species programme aiming to assist Parties in taking conservation and management measures to ensure that their trade in timber, bark, extracts and other products from CITES-listed tree species is sustainable, legal and traceable.
7. The 10th European Regional CITES Meeting on Plants took place in Palermo (Italy) from February 28th to March 2nd, 2018. All the European regional representatives and the Nomenclature specialist participated in the meeting together with the CITES Secretariat. There were 44 participants from 17 European parties, Skype conferences with three European parties and with the Regional representative of Oceania.

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Recommendations of 10th European Regional CITES Meeting on Plants

10th European Regional CITES Meeting on Plants
February 28th – March 2nd, 2018
Orto Botanico dell'Università degli Studi di Palermo,
Via Lincoln, 2, Palermo – 90123, Italy

Cultivation & Artificial Propagation of CITES Plants

Commends the work and progress made by this Plants Committee Working Group

Recognizes the value of the range and scope of documents prepared by this group and encourages a range of Parties to submit the key documents to the next meeting of the Plants Committee to facilitate informed discussion of the formal results of the Working Group

In general, supports the move to develop an additional plant source code, to accommodate issues arising from wild managed plants and to facilitate implementation of the Convention for plants

Notes the Netherlands (NL) preference for expanding the current definition of Artificial Propagation and requests NL to pursue this option and return comments, on this basis to the WG Co-Chairs by March 10, 2018

Notes that any new “intermediate” source code should have the requirement of a clear and adequate NDF

That the Working Group ensure that there are clear and easily discernible boundaries between any new source code and source code A and also source code W

That the code description be clear and simple, and any additional issues such as registration or marking should be included in guidance and not in the core code description

That the concept of improving the “conservation of the species” goes beyond the remit of CITES and should be removed from the code description

That a new definition/simple description of plantation is required and, if possible, it should take the form of one simple text, based on what is currently most widely accepted in the international community

Commends Germany on its work on the scope and range of cultivation methods of medicinal plants and encourages it, if possible, to prepare a document on this subject for submission to the next meeting of the Plants Committee

That Guidance on the application of the new source code be produced, as soon as possible, after its adoption at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Encourages all Parties in the region, especially those attending this meeting, to return comments and advice to the Co- Chairs of the Working Group by March 10 at the latest.

Orchids, Aloes & Yews

Commends South Africa and Austria on its work on detecting and researching illegal trade in products of *Aloe ferox*

Encourages Parties in the region to inform its enforcement agencies of potential illegal trade in products of *Aloe ferox* and to, where possible, target detection of such trade

Encourages Parties who have not done so, to reply, by March 10, to the questionnaire distributed by the Plants Committees Working Group on Orchid Annotations

Notes the comprehensive work being carried out on illegal trade in orchids, and for Parties in the Region, to make this research available to its CITES Authorities, especially enforcement Agencies, and where possible, target the ongoing illegal trade in high value threatened tropical orchids

Commends the work being carried out by the CITES Authorities of Slovakia on illegal collection of rare and endangered temperate orchids

Requests Parties in the region share experience, research, education and enforcement protocols on addressing illegal collection and trade in temperate orchids with Slovakia

Welcomes the project being initiated by Germany on “DNA identification of CITES listed Species in Plant Products in Trade” and encourages Germany to keep Parties informed of its progress and end results.

The making of NDFs for CITES Plants

Commends Germany on its comprehensive and on-going work on the development of guidance for making adequate NDFs for perennial plants, now being utilised for a range of other life forms

Welcomes the expansion of the 9 Step guidance to timber tree species and recommends the results be presented to the next meeting of the Plants Committee

Commends Belgium on its, comprehensive and science-based, work on the non - CITES taxon *Pterocarpus tinctorius* (Mukula) in the testing of the 9 Step process for tree species and notes that identification is only reliable at genus level - which should be reflected in any future CITES listing proposal

Notes the importance of considering local communities in the overall conservation of tree species.

Sessions 6, 7 & 8: CITES Timber: Identification & Trade Control

Acknowledges the vital importance of adequately resourced and expertly curated, institutionally held global wood collections in the development of identification methods and techniques for CITES woods

Emphasizes the urgent need to collect and share samples of CITES woods with the institutions holding global wood collections

Urges Parties considering putting forward listing proposals for tree species to review relevant ID material in, *inter alia*, wood collections

Recommends that scientific institutions in Europe share experience on the CITES Scientific Registration system with partners institutions in range States to encourage and assist them in becoming registered

Commends the excellent work and leadership of UK Border Force on CITES enforcement for plants and note that their confiscations of CITES plant and plant products comprises 56% of total UK confiscations

Notes that UK Border force has seen an expansion of illegal trade in plant nutrient supplements and plant products containing CITES species such as *Aloe ferox*, *Prunus africana* and *Hoodia gordonii*

Recognises the challenges in dealing with trade in musical instruments and note the move to the use of engineered non-regulated sustainably sourced woods for fingerboards and the overall increasing compliance with CITES controls following wider engagement with the industry and music community

Informs the Parties of the Excel guide “Musical Instruments Weights”, produced by the Scientific Authority of Austria, as a useful tool when assessing the weights of CITES material in musical instruments

Commends Germany on their development, sustained support of, and ongoing updates of CITESwoodID (Version 2017 now covers 44 CITES taxa & 34 lookalike taxa, & is available in 4 languages), which has now established itself as one of the leading tools used globally in the identification of CITES wood

Encourages Germany to further enhance CITESwoodID on the internet and as a APP for SMART Phones and to continue their programme of highly successful training workshops, with special reference to the participation of CITES tree species range States

Encourages the CITES Secretariat to prepare a Notification with regard to informing Parties on the issue of *Pericopsis elata* from DRC and other issues relating to compliance arising from SC69

Recognizing the coming into effect of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) in March 2013, encourages close co-operation and interaction between CITES authorities in the region and equivalent authorities in EUTR implementing countries

Encourages Parties in the region and the CITES Secretariat, to provide technical support and guidance to authorities in CITES tree species range States, on the issue of legal acquisition findings

Notes the large number of musical instrument items imported into the region (e.g. some 300,000 guitars were imported into the Netherlands in 2012, of which 60% were re-exported, USA produces 2,46 million guitars/year)

Recommends that the Netherlands coordinate the preparation of a document based on information collected by Parties in the region, on imports of musical instruments and materials used to produce same, for presentation to the next meeting of the CITES Plants Committee to the May 21st deadline

That the European Regional Representatives garner views of Parties in the region on a potential CITES exemption for musical instruments and small finished products (e.g. knife handles).

Preparation for Plants Committee 24 and CoP18

Notes that the Region will need to elect a new Representative to replace Prof. Maurizio Sajeve and the meeting agreed that Germany has a well - qualified candidate. Further discussions will be required with regard to overall European representation on the Committee

Notes that a replacement will be required for the Plants Committee Nomenclature Specialist and that Prof. Michael Kiehn of Austria is a well-qualified candidate from the Region

Notes that the Nomenclature work has been funded in the past from the core CITES budget and that Parties may wish to consider proposing this as a future option to support the increasing workload – especially in relation to the preparation of Standard References for tree species.

Open Session – Tracking Trade, Enforcement & Capacity Building

Notes the issue of cyber-crime and encourages research into illegal trade in the most highly threatened CITES listed species (e.g. FloraGuard) and the utilisation of venues such as the CITES Committees and CoP, including side-events, to communicate details, seek input and share results of such projects

Welcomes the publication of *Succulent Plants, a Guide to CITES-listed Species* and compliments Sweden on this work and encourages further work of this type

Notes the value of EU-Twix and its global partner networks and encourages CITES Authorities to contribute and share data on this network

Welcomes the advancements in marking of CITES plants and encourages dissemination of information on these advances to Parties in the region and encourages Austria to produce a document and consider hosting a possible side event on this issue for the next meeting of the Plants Committee

Priorities & Challenges in the European Region

Notes the priorities identified in session 2 (table in annex), and

Identifies the following as the major challenges for the European region

NDF (including the preparation of a “Cancún II” meeting)

Trade in artificial propagated specimens

Orchids

Annotation- possible exemption of some finished products

illegal trade in European species

compliance

Trade in *Dalbergia* specimens / Annotation #15

Musical instruments

Other finished products

New tree species listings

Wood ID