

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

TIMBER IDENTIFICATION

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair: the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin) and Canada;

Parties: Austria, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, European Union, Germany, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), European Forest Institute, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International Wood Product Association, League of American Orchestrans, Species Survival Network, World Resources Institutes; C.F. Martin & Co., Inc., Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale (CSFI), Confédération des Industries Musicales Européennes (CAFIM), Fender Musical Instrument Corp., ForestBased Solutions, Llc., Ghent University, International Association of Violin and Bow Makers, Madinter Trade, S.L., Overseas Traders, Paul Reed Smith Guitars, Limited Partnership and Taylor Guitars.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall:

- a) assess the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 17.166 to 17.169 on *Identification of timber*, and consider the recommendations under paragraph 12 a) and d) of document PC24 Doc. 15.1 and paragraph 10 of document PC24 Doc. 15.2, as well as points specified in plenary; and
- b) based on the above, develop an updated set of draft decisions on timber identification, using as a basis the draft decisions as read in plenary by the representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz), taking into consideration the points raised in plenary by the Chair of the Plants Committee.

1. The working group has discussed the elements of the mandate as expressed above and makes the following recommendations in response.

Recommendations

2. The Working Group recommends the following:
 - a) Deletion of Decision 17.166, noting that the focus of this decision is a long-term instruction to Parties and its direction would be better placed within Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*.
 - b) Replacement of current Decisions 17.167 to 17.169 with the following draft decisions:

Identification of Timber and Other Wood Products

Decision 18.AA Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and building on information on existing initiatives:

- a) determine gaps and complementarities in various tools and knowledge sources for timber identification, such as existing field identification guidelines and keys, and on their availability and usefulness;
- b) develop standardized information templates and other tools that could be used by Parties to facilitate sharing information on the content and status of wood sample collections, and exchange with research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities;
- c) assist Parties to identify existing laboratory services for the identification of timber and wood products and to strengthen screening and forensic capacity to identify CITES-listed tree species in trade;
- d) determine methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties; and
- e) update the Standing Committee on progress made on the implementation of Decisions 18.AA-CC; and report its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Decision 18.BB Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to collaborate with the Plants Committee, with relevant stakeholders and with existing initiatives in the implementation of Decision 18.AA, by:

- a) working with institutions having wood identification expertise, share information related to timber identification methods, tools and protocols for enforcement and customs officers;
- b) identifying existing laboratory services for the identification of timber and wood products, and strengthening screening and forensic capacity to identify CITES-listed tree species in trade;
- c) identifying effective wood identification training methods, tools and protocols for enforcement and customs officers;
- d) prioritizing the species of rosewoods and palisanders that would most benefit from the development of timber identification tools, protocols and materials; and
- e) reporting information on existing laboratories, effective wood identification training methods, tools and protocols for enforcement and customs officers, and the priority species of rosewoods and palisanders to the Secretariat

Decision 18.CC Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) liaise with organizations having relevant expertise on timber identification, including the Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN), International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Thünen Centre of Competence on the Origin of Timber, European Forest Institute (EFI), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the World Resources Institute (WRI) to identify shared priorities, in consultation with the Plants Committee, including priority species, emerging techniques, standardized procedures, and collection and sharing of wood samples applicable to timber tracking tools;
- b) make the currently available guidance on wood identification accessible to Parties on a dedicated webpage of the CITES website; and
- c) report to the Plants Committee progress and updates of the paragraph supra.