

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

RESOLUTION CONF. 10.13 (REV. COP15) ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR TIMBER SPECIES

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair: the acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez);

Parties: Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, European Union, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Slovakia, Spain, Uganda, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: IUCN, Center for International Environmental Law, International Wood Products Association, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, Fender Musical Instrument Corp and ForestBased Solutions Llc.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall:

- a) review the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) suggested in documents PC24 Doc. 24, paragraph 12 c) and Annex 3 of document PC24 Doc. 15.1, and paragraph 18 d) of document PC24 Doc. 21, as well as considerations of the results of a possible new source code as proposed in paragraph 16 of document PC24 Doc. 16.1, and make recommendations accordingly; and
- b) advise the Plants Committee on the way forward with respect to amending Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15), and reporting to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendations

1. The working group recommends the Plants Committee adopt the changes to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) as shown in the Annex.
2. The working group recommends that the Plants Committee agree to examine further the matter brought up in document PC24 Doc 21 paragraph 18d) on permitting the use of Annual Allowable Cuts instead of the year of harvest, and implications for Resolutions Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on the management of nationally established export quotas.
3. The working group also noted lack of clarity in paragraph f) of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and recommends that the Plants Committee invite the Secretariat to examine further how this paragraph can be made more intelligible.
4. The working group recommends the chair of the Plants Committee, in collaboration with the Secretariat present the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting, for the Standing Committee to submit amendments to CoP18, as appropriate.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10.13 (REV. COP15) ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR TIMBER SPECIES
(track changes)

Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18)
Implementation of the Convention for tree species

RECOGNIZING that amendment proposals should contain the maximum amount of biological and trade information on the taxon concerned;

AWARE that such information is frequently available from international organizations that have expertise related to timber trade or forest management;

RECOGNIZING that parts and derivatives mentioned in the Interpretation of Appendices I, II and III should be clearly defined;

EMPHASIZING the need for Parties to report adequately on their annual trade in timber and to use agreed units of measurement;

AWARE that unambiguous identification of timber, by its nature, can be a complex procedure, requiring particular expertise;

RECOGNIZING that the development of timber identification materials is essential for the effective implementation of the Convention and that the cost of production will be considerable;

NOTING that the approach that authorities of some countries have taken, whereby they meet with timber trade groups and enforcement officers and agree to use standard nomenclature for vernacular and corresponding scientific names of tree species, appears to be a useful one;

NOTING further that the objective of the Convention is to ensure the conservation of wild fauna and flora for this and future generations through the protection of certain species against over-exploitation through international trade;

NOTING also that the Convention can play a positive role in promoting the conservation of animals and plants, including tree species, through trade in accordance with the requirements of Articles III, IV and V of the Convention and through improving trade monitoring for evaluation of biological status and effective enforcement;

RECOGNIZING that commercial trade may be beneficial to the conservation of species and ecosystems when carried out at levels that are not detrimental to the survival of the species in question;

RECOGNIZING also that Parties have the right to take stricter domestic measures concerning any species included in the Appendices;

AWARE that such measures can have effects unrelated to the conservation of listed species and could be taken for purposes not directly related to the purpose for which the species concerned were included in the CITES Appendices;

NOTING also that there are misconceptions that inclusion of a species in Appendix II or III represents a ban on trade in that species;

RECOGNIZING that such misconceptions can have negative impacts including the prohibition of or restriction on the use of CITES-listed tree species by architects, engineers, commercial businesses and others, and reduced use of such items by consumers;

ACKNOWLEDGING that education is an important tool in the effective implementation of the Convention;

NOTING that many internationally traded tree species, boreal, temperate and tropical, can be managed on a sustainable basis through the application of appropriate silvicultural techniques, but that for other tree species such knowledge is currently lacking;

NOTING that some tree species may be under threat because of detrimental levels of use and international trade;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. RECOMMENDS that:

Regarding international organizations

- a) any Party that intends to present an amendment proposal for a tree species (irrespective of other agreed procedures) should consult with at least four different organizations listed in the table below [two from each of the two types (B and T)], to verify or request biological and trade data, and should include any relevant information in the amendment proposal before this is sent to the Secretariat for distribution to the Parties; and

Acronym	International organization	Data	
		B = Biological data	T = Trade data
ATO	African Timber Organization		T
ATTO	Asian-Pacific Timber Trade Organization		T
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research	B	
FAO*	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations; Forestry Department	B	T
IBFRA	International Boreal Forest Research Association	B	
ITTO*	International Tropical Timber Organization	B	T
IUFRO	International Union for Forest Research Organizations	B	
IUCN*	International Union for Conservation of Nature	B	
IWPA	The International Wood Products Association		T
SPT-TCA	Pro-tempore Secretariat of the Treaty for Amazonian Cooperation	B	
TRAFFIC	Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna In Commerce	B	T
UCBD	Union pour le Commerce des Bois Durs dans l'U.E. (European Hardwood Federation)		T
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre	B	
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature	B	

* *International organizations from which the CITES Secretariat should seek views on proposals to amend the CITES Appendices for tree species, as appropriate.*

- b) when any proposal is submitted to amend the CITES Appendices for tree species, including for the implementation of paragraph 3 h) of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)¹, the Secretariat should seek the views of FAO, ITTO and IUCN and present these to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate;

¹ Corrected by the Secretariat following the 16th and 17th meetings of the Conference of the Parties: originally referred to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15).

Regarding parts and derivatives

- c) the following definitions be applied with respect to annotations in the CITES Appendices:
- i) Logs
All wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared, for processing, notably into sawn wood, pulpwood or veneer sheets (HS code 44.032²);
 - ii) Sawn wood
Wood simply sawn lengthwise or produced by a profile-chipping process. Sawn wood normally exceeds 6 mm in thickness (HS code 44.06², HS code 44.07²);
 - iii) Veneer sheets
Thin layers or sheets of wood of uniform thickness, usually 6 mm or less, usually peeled or sliced, for use in making plywood, for veneering furniture, veneer containers, etc. (HS code 44.08²); and
 - iv) Plywood
Consisting of three or more sheets of wood glued and pressed one on the other and generally disposed so that the grains of successive layers are at an angle (HS code 44.12.13², HS code 44.12.14², and HS code 44.12.22²); and
- d) for the purpose of annotations in the Appendices for parts and derivatives of species traded as timber, definitions to be used should, to the extent possible, be based on the tariff classifications of the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization;

Regarding amendment proposals for tree species

- e) proposals for the inclusion of tree species in Appendix II or III indicate clearly which parts and derivatives should be regulated; and

² HS refers to the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization describing and coding goods in trade. The codes referred to in this document for timber include the following:

- 44.03 Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
- 44.06 Railway or tramway sleepers of wood
- 44.07 Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm
- 44.08 Veneer sheets and sheets for plywood (whether or not spliced) and other wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed, of a thickness not exceeding 6 mm
- 44.12.13 Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, each ply not exceeding 6 mm in thickness, and with at least one outer ply of tropical wood specified in Subheading Note 1 below[†]
- 44.12.14 Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, each ply not exceeding 6 mm in thickness, and with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood
- 44.12.22 Other (meaning one ply, or more, that is greater than 6 mm in thickness), with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood, and with at least one ply of tropical wood specified in Subheading Note 1 below[†]

[†] Subheading Note 1: For the purposes of subheadings 44.03.41 to 44.03.49, 44.07.24 to 44.07.29, 44.08.31 to 44.08.39, and 44.12.13 to 44.12.99, the expression 'tropical wood' means one of the following types of wood:

Abura, Acajou d'Afrique, Afrormosia, Ako, Alan, Andiroba, Aningré, Avodiré, Azobé, Balau, Balsa, Bossé clair, Bossé foncé, Cativo, Cedro, Dabema, Dark Red Meranti, Dibétou, Doussié, Framiré, Freijo, Fromager, Fuma, Geronggang, Ilomba, Imbuia, Ipé, Iroko, Jaboty, Jelutong, Jequitiba, Jongkong, Kapur, Kempas, Keruing, Kosipo, Kotibé, Koto, Light Red Meranti, Limba, Louro, Maçaranduba, Mahogany, Makoré, Mandioqueira, Mansonia, Mengkulang, Meranti Bakau, Merawan, Merbau, Merpauh, Mersawa, Moabi, Niangon, Nyatoh, Obeche, Okoumé, Onzabili, Orey, Ovengkol, Ozigo, Padauk, Paldao, Palissandre de Guatemala, Palissandre de Para, Palissandre de Rio, Palissandre de Rose, Pau Amarelo, Pau Marfim, Pulai, Punah, Quaruba, Ramin, Sapelli, Saqui-Saqui, Sepetir, Sipo, Sucupira, Suren, Teak, Tauari, Tiana, Tola, Virola, White Lauan, White Meranti, White Seraya, Yellow Meranti.

- f) where these parts and derivatives are not logs, sawn wood or veneer sheets, the proponent also propose the relevant amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17)¹ if the procedures for extending the period of validity of, and/or changing the destination on, the export permit or re-export certificate should apply;

Regarding the definition of 'artificially propagated'

- g) timber or other parts or derivatives of trees grown in monospecific plantations be considered as being artificially propagated in accordance with the definition contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17);

Regarding tree species of concern

- h) the range States pay particular attention to internationally traded tree species within their territories for which the knowledge of the biological status and silvicultural requirements gives cause for concern; and

Regarding the establishment of export quotas for tree species

- i) whilst fully respecting the requirements of paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 of Article IV of the Convention, Parties exporting timber specimens from species listed in Appendix II consider establishing voluntary annual national export quotas for such exports.

Regarding identification and forensics for tree species

- j) Parties acknowledge the fundamental importance of timber identification and continued development of advanced analytical wood identification techniques and operational tools to the successful implementation of CITES for timber species;

- k) Parties are encouraged to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to create and maintain wood sample collections and facilitate exchange of wood samples and associated database information, including guidelines for the collection of wood samples, and make these available to support timber identification and development of analytical methodologies and identification protocols for CITES-listed and look-alike tree species; and

- l) Parties are encouraged to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop shared priorities for timber identification, including priority species, and on developing identification techniques, such as DNA analysis, chemical analysis and imaging, Near Infrared Spectrometry (NIRS), Directed Analysis in Real Time mass spectrometry (DART), and macro- and microscopic identification of wood and fibre samples.

Regarding improvement of public understanding of the role of the Convention in the conservation of tree species

- m) Parties consider any possible deleterious conservation and trade impacts before they impose stricter domestic measures on trade in timber specimens of species included in Appendix II or III; and

- n) Management Authorities work with governmental agencies (including local governments), non-governmental organizations, industry and the general public to develop and provide information on the objectives, provisions and implementation of the Convention to counter the misconception that the inclusion of species in the Appendices represents a ban on the trade in specimens of these species, and to disseminate the message that international trade and utilization of tree species included in Appendices II and III are generally permitted and can be beneficial;