

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
(Thursday 26 July 2018)

28. Annotations for Appendix II orchids:  
Report of the intersessional working group ..... PC24 Doc. 28

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 1 with the following amendments:

- include France as a member of the working group
- renumber the draft decisions and delete references to the working group in the draft decisions as follows:

**Decisions 18.AA to 18. DD on *Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids***

**18.AA Directed to the Plants Committee**

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) seek information on the trade in orchid parts and derivatives (wild and artificially propagated) in consideration of the potential conservation impact of exempting orchid products from CITES controls, completing the work already initiated on orchids used in the production of cosmetics and personal care products and then considering orchids used in other commodities (e.g. medicinals and foodstuffs), subject to the availability of funding;
- b) seek information from Parties and relevant other stakeholder groups, including industry, on: the trade in orchid products from source to final product, including the identification of the major industry sectors involved in the trade; how non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings are made; traceability along the trade chain; and trade reporting. It should also request information on orchid parts and derivatives used in products, sectors involved, and conservation concerns for wild populations;
- c) undertake an analysis of the potential conservation impact of orchid exemptions, subject to the availability of funding. This may include developing case studies on key orchid species identified in trade as finished products, including but not limited to, the species identified in the Annex to Document PC22 Doc. 22.1, Annex 2 to Document PC23 Doc. 32, and Annex 3 to Document PC24 Doc. 28, as well as the two case studies of orchid foodstuffs outlined in Document PC22 Inf. 6, workshop(s), or a study on trade data sources;
- d) based on the information obtained from Parties, as well as from other sources, analyse the risks of trade in products containing parts or derivatives of orchids to conservation and provide its conclusions about such risks. Based on the findings and the analyses, the working group shall highlight any knowledge gaps, review the current annotation for Appendix II-listed orchids, and suggest amendments, as it considers appropriate;

- e) where relevant, work in close consultation with the Standing Committee, including its Working Group on Annotations; and
- f) report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

**18.BB Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall consider the findings and recommendations of the Plants Committee and provide the results of the work and its recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**18.CC Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall

- a) provide support to the Plants Committee for implementation of Decision 18.AA; and
- b) seek funding to implement Decision 18.AA.

**18.DD Directed to the Parties**

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) submit to the Plants Committee, through the Secretariat, information on the trade in orchid products from source to final products; and
- b) provide funding for Decision 18.AA, and provide assistance to the Secretariat in reaching out to other stakeholders and user groups that may be able to provide funding to support this work.

18. Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)

18.1 Report of Madagascar ..... PC24 Doc. 18.1

and

18.2 Report of the Secretariat..... PC24 Doc. 18.2

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 2 with the following amendments:

- include (Rev. CoP18) after the number of each decision;
- remove the text in square brackets in Decision 17.205, paragraph b); and
- in the French version, at the top of page 2, replace “nouvelles espèces” by “espèces supplémentaires”.

15. Timber identification

15.1 Report of the intersessional working group..... PC24 Doc. 15.1

and

15.2 Report of the Secretariat..... PC24 Doc. 15.2

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 3 with the following amendments:

- in Decision 18.AA, paragraph e), delete “at the 7Xth meeting of the Standing Committee” and replace “Decisions 18.XX-XX” by “Decisions 18.AA-CC”;

- in Decision 18.CC, amend the chapeau by replacing “is requested to” by “shall”.
- delete Decision 18.DD;
- make the following editorial changes: in Decision 18.AA, delete “and” at the end of paragraph c) and include it at the end of paragraph d); in Decision 18.BB, delete “and” at the end of paragraph c) and include it at the end of paragraph d); and in Decision CC, in paragraph a), replace “with” by “having” in the first line, include “the” before “Global Timber Tracking Network” and include “and” before “World Resources Institute”.
- in the French version, in Decision 18.CC, delete “est invité à” and replace the first verbs in each paragraph as follows: replace “prendre” by “prendra” in paragraph a); replace “mettre” by “mettra” in paragraph b); and replace “rendre” by “rendra” in paragraph c).

### 13. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

#### 13.2 Species selected following CoP17 ..... PC24 Doc. 13.2

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 4 with the following amendments:

- for *Dalbergia retusa*/Nicaragua, under Long-term Actions, replace “Develop and implement a national management plan with proposed/actual forest inventories completed and plans for a monitoring process” by “Develop an analysis of the status of the population at the national level based on existing national forest inventories and forest inventories under development and plans for a monitoring process”;
- for *Dalbergia retusa*/Panama, under Short-term Action, the first sentence should read “Establish an interim zero export quota, and inform the CITES Secretariat of this quota so that it can be included in the national export quota section on the CITES website” and the justification for the choice of recommended action linked to this recommendation should read “Precautionary action in the absence of a response of Panama and of annual trade reports from Panama for the last two years”;
- for *Pericopsis elata*/Democratic Republic of the Congo, under Short-term Action, the paragraph on conversation rates should read as follows: “Outline how conversation rates (of volumes of processed products into round wood equivalent volumes) based on sound scientific studies are calculated and provide associated information.” and the associated justification should read “Ensure data are accurate and science-based”;
- for *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*/Viet Nam, correct the spelling of *Dalbergia* and the justification for the recommended action referring to a zero export quota should read as follows “Reinforce national controls and explain discrepancies in trade data”;
- throughout the document, replace “re-enforce” by “reinforce”; and
- in the French version, under *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*/Cambodia, replace “réinstaurer l’interdiction nationale d’exportation” by “renforcer l’interdiction nationale d’exportation”.

The Committee noted that, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), paragraph 1 k) i), where a species/country combination was removed from the review process on the basis of the establishment of an interim precautionary export quota (including a zero export quota) in the place of implementing the recommendations, any change to this quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and Chair of the relevant Committee along with a justification, for their agreement and that there may be cases where countries have not done so.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to explore cases where countries removed from the Review of Significant Trade process have not communicated changes to their quota to the Secretariat and Chair of the relevant Committee, and to report on those cases to the Standing Committee.

The Committee further requested the Secretariat, for *Pterocarpus santalinus*/India, to inform the Plants Committee whenever it gets clarification regarding the volumes of seized stock being gradually exported, the status of the material exported from plantations to ensure that these stocks meet the

provisions of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) on artificially propagated specimens and an assessment of the possible impacts on wild populations.

The Committee asked the Secretariat to include the guidance on the formulation of recommendations for the Review of Significant Trade contained in Annex 5 of document CoP17 Doc. 33 as an annex to its next report on the Review of Significant Trade.

### 30. Regional reports

30.1 Africa..... PC24 Doc. 30.1 (Rev. 1)

The Committee noted the report in document PC24 Doc. 30.1 (Rev. 1).

30.2 Asia..... PC24 Doc. 30.2 (Rev. 1)

The Committee noted the report in document PC24 Doc. 30.2 (Rev. 1).

30.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean ..... PC24 Doc. 30.3

The Committee noted the report in document PC24 Doc. 30.3.

30.4 Europe ..... PC24 Doc. 30.4

The Committee noted the report in document PC24 Doc. 30.4.

30.5 North America..... PC24 Doc. 30.5

The Committee noted the report in document PC24 Doc. 30.5.

30.6 Oceania ..... *No document*

The Committee noted the oral update by the representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach).

### 24. Possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*:

Report of the Secretariat ..... PC24 Doc. 24

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 5 with the following amendments:

- in recommendations 1 through 4, put verbs after “recommends” in subjunctive;
- integrate the changes highlighted in yellow on page 5; and
- correct the lettering of the paragraphs on the last page.

### 16. Definition of the term ‘artificially propagated’

16.1 Report of the intersessional working group..... PC24 Doc. 16.1

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 6 with the following amendments:

- include Zimbabwe as a member of the working group;
- in recommendation 3, replace tended plants by ‘assisted production’ plant;
- at the end of recommendation 5, include the following sentence “The issue could be addressed with better cross-referencing in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) and information included in the guidance document”;
- in the Annex containing Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17):

- paragraph 4 should read: “RECOMMENDS that, for populations of Appendix-I listed species, an exception may be granted and specimens deemed to be artificially propagated if, for the taxon involved:”;
- in paragraph 4 a) ii) and iii), replace “seeds or spores” by “propagules”;
- in paragraph 4 b) i) and ii), delete “or spores” after “propagules”;
- the new paragraphs X1 and X2 should read as follows:

***Regarding the definition of ‘plant obtained through assisted production’ (‘assisted production’)***

X1. ADOPTS the following definition for the terms used in this Resolution:

- a) ‘assisted production’ shall be used to refer to plants that:
  - i) do not comply with the definition of ‘artificially propagated’, and
  - ii) are considered not to be ‘wild’ because they are propagated or planted in an environment with some level of human intervention for the purpose of plant production;
- b) propagation material for ‘assisted production’ plant can be derived from plant material that is exempt from the provisions of the Convention, or derived from artificially propagated plants, or derived from plants grown in an environment with some level of human intervention or derived from plant materials collected sustainably from wild populations in accordance with the provisions of CITES and relevant national laws and in a manner not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild.

X2. AGREES that, for trade in specimens from ‘assisted production’ plants of species included in the Appendices, the provisions of Articles III, IV and V of the Convention shall continue to apply, in particular including:

- a) A Management Authority of the State of export is satisfied that the specimen to be exported was not obtained in contravention of the laws of the State for the protection of the species; and
- b) A Scientific Authority of the State of export has advised that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.\*

The Committee recommended that the Standing Committee propose to the Conference of the Parties the inclusion of a new source code Y in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates* and agreed to convey to the Standing Committee the suggestion that source code Y reads as follows:

Y specimens of plants that fulfill the definition for ‘assisted production’ in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) as well as parts and derivatives thereof

19. Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

19.1 Report of the Plants Committee ..... PC24 Doc. 19.1

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 7.

27. Report of the specialist on botanical nomenclature ..... PC24 Doc. 27

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 8 with the following additional paragraph:

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\* *This does not apply for Appendix III species.*

22. Recommends the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to liaise with the UK Scientific Authority for Flora and the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to explore options for firstly, generating an output for Orchidaceae from the *World Checklist of Selected Plant Families*, including accepted names, synonyms and country-level distribution information; secondly, undertaking a comparison between this output and the current CITES nomenclature standard references for Orchidaceae. If feasible, based on these two outputs, the UK Scientific Authority and UNEP-WCMC will prepare a checklist for Orchidaceae, presenting Appendix I and Appendix II species separately, with the intention to request that the nomenclature specialist for flora propose a standard reference on Appendix I Orchidaceae for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (CoP18). Regarding Appendix II species, a longer review period may be beneficial and therefore this could take place between 18th and 19th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

22. Neotropical tree species: Report of the intersessional working group ..... PC24 Doc. 22

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 9 with the following amendments:

- in the Spanish version, in paragraph a) i), replace “poniendo el acento” by “con énfasis”; and
- in the French version, in paragraph b), replace “16e “ by “19e”.

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

17.1 Implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa: Report of the Plants Committee ..... *No document*

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 10 as follows:

**Decision 18.AA Directed to the Plants Committee**

The Plants Committee shall

- a) monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, by:
  - i) developing a questionnaire to be circulated to the Parties through a Notification, and analysing the responses received.
  - ii) examining available trade data; and,
  - iii) analysing available data on the conservation status of agarwood-producing species.
- b) based on the responses to the questionnaire, analysis of available trade data, and analysis of available data on conservation status, advise on the need for a study to further assess any potential conservation impacts, and if so, request the Secretariat to commission a study; and
- c) *report* findings and recommendations, as appropriate at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**Decision 18.BB Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall assist the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decision 18.AA, including, subject to external funding, commissioning a study to assess any potential conservation impacts based on advice from the Plants Committee.

20. African cherry (*Prunus africana*): Report of the Secretariat ..... PC24 Doc. 20

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC24 Com. 11.

31. Any other business ..... *No document*

The United States of America drew the attention of the Committee to the new publication *Assessment of non-timber forest products in the United States under changing conditions* [www.srs.fs.usda.gov; Report No. 232].

The Committee thanked the outgoing representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin) and of Oceania (Mr. Leach) and the outgoing nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough) for their service.

32. Time and venue of the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee..... *No document*

The Committee noted that the Secretariat had provisionally booked a venue to hold back-to-back meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees (their 31st and 25th meetings respectively) from 6 to 16 January 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland.

33. Closing remarks

The Chair thanked the host country, Switzerland, Committee members, and in particular Party observers, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, the interpreters and the Secretariat, and closed the meeting.