

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

SUMMARY RECORD

Opening of the meeting

The CITES Secretariat Officer-in-Charge (Mr. Morgan) welcomed participants and noted how the Convention needs to show that it can make a difference and the Plants Committee needs to equip itself with the knowledge to provide sound scientific advice on tree species that can guide the policy makers in the Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties.

The Officer-in-Charge welcomed the new colleagues in the CITES Secretariat (Isabel Camarena, Dejana Radisavljevic and Martin Hitziger), as well as consultants and interns who had joined during the summer.

The Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms. Adrienne Sinclair) welcomed Committee Members, Parties, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and welcomed the new staff of the Secretariat. Additionally, she thanked all intersessional working groups and chairs.

1. Agenda

The Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms. Sinclair) introduced document PC24 Doc. 1.

The Committee adopted the agenda in document PC24 Doc. 1.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

2. Working programme

The Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms. Sinclair) introduced document PC24 Doc. 2.

The Committee adopted the working programme in document PC24 Doc. 2.

Pursuant to Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat asked Committee members to state any conflict of interest.

The Secretariat noted that no member present declared any financial interests that he or she considered calling into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the meeting agenda.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

3. Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 3 (Rev. 1) noting that a previous draft had been circulated to the Committee members for further feedback.

The Committee noted the Rules of Procedure of the Plants Committee contained in Annex 2 of document PC24 Doc. 3 (Rev. 1).

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

4. Admission of observers

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1).

The Committee noted the list of observers provided in document PC24 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1).

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

5. Plants Committee work plan for 2017-2019 (CoP17-CoP18)

5.1 Implementation of the work plan for 2017-2019

The Chair gave an oral update on the implementation of the work plan for 2017-2019.

The Committee noted the oral update by the Chair of the Plants Committee.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

5.2 Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Plants Committee for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Committee noted that the Chair is responsible for preparing a report on the activities of the Committee for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and that she will seek the input from all Committee members in compiling this report.

No other intervention was made during the discussion of this item.

6. Review of Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17)

The Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) introduced document AC30 Doc. 6/PC24 Doc. 6.

Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on Rules of Procedure, was requested to make comments regarding where the Standing Committee stands and how she envisions progress.

Regarding the amendments proposed to Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat noted that it would be important that the scientific committees and the Standing Committee collaborate to have one revised resolution moving forward to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Additionally, it noted the omission in the proposed revision of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) of a process for replacing members and alternate members that are resigning during an intersessional period, and drew attention in this regard to changes made in paragraph 7 of Annex 2.

Concerns were voiced on the wording of the proposal made by the Secretariat.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 6/PC24 Doc. 6 and established an in-session working group on the terms of reference of the Animals and Plants Committees with the following mandate:

The in-session working group shall discuss and agree the proposed amendments to Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) on *Establishment of committees* as set out in the annexes to document AC30 Doc. 6/PC24 Doc. 6 for endorsement by the Animals and Plants Committees. In doing so, the working group shall take into account the discussions in plenary of the joint session and any additional information about the progress of the work in the relevant Standing Committee's intersessional working group.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: The Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) and the Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms. Sinclair);

Parties: Austria, Canada, Japan, United States of America and Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: Humane Society International and IWMC-World Conservation Trust.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) introduced document AC30/PC24 Com. 3.

The Committees agreed to the amendments to Annex 2 of Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) in document AC30/PC24 Com. 3.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Africa (Mr. Mensah), AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov), the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz), the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk), the PC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. McCough); Canada, China, the United States of America; and World Conservation Trust.

7. CITES Strategic vision

Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on the Strategic Vision, provided an update on the progress made, noting that the working group had started to review the current strategic vision while waiting for it to be renewed at CoP18, and in light of other developments, such as the post-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity under the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), and the Sustainable Development Goals. The majority of the working group members thought that the current strategic vision was a good place to start but recognised that some additional work on the presentation of the vision, goals and objectives was yet to be done.

Committee members voiced concern that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the post-2020 biodiversity framework had been omitted from objective 4.1, and noted that there was a need to try to achieve more balances between the objectives in terms of the goals set (i.e. some objectives had many goals while others only had a few)

The Committees noted an oral update of the Chair of the Standing Committee, and provided feedback on the draft CITES Strategic Vision for the period after 2020 to the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, as the Committees' representatives on the Standing Committee's working group on the Strategic Vision.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); and Canada.

8. Appendix I-listed species

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc. 8, noting that it had been unable to identify donors interested in partially or fully funding the large research project envisaged. It had therefore not yet enlisted the assistance of the advisory group that had been established at AC29/PC23. The Secretariat outlined a series of steps that it felt would need to be undertaken in order to complete the work envisaged in Decision 17.22 and sought the views of the Animals and Plants Committees on whether they saw any merit in continuing this work after CoP18.

Interventions made indicated that there was support for the continuation of the work.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc. 8 and requested the Secretariat to submit draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting in order to continue the work called for in Decisions 17.22 to 17.25, taking into account the steps outlined in paragraph 11 of document AC30 Doc. 8/PC24 Doc. 8.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtzov); and Mexico.

9. Capacity building and identification materials

9.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 9.1/PC24 Doc. 9.1, noting that there are two main issues that may require a mandate to continue with an intersessional working group on capacity building

and identification materials: (1) work under Decision 17.161 c) on improving the accessibility of the identification sheets from the CITES identification manual and (2) the review of Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical cooperation* and Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev CoP16) on *Identification manual*.

The Chair of the intersessional working group, the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson), noted the receipt of only two responses out of more than fifty participants in the intersessional working group. He highlighted that one of the comments received was on the importance of training tools and identification materials as part of capacity building.

There was consensus that the proposed Decision on capacity building should go forward, and that decisions on identification materials could be kept separate.

Concern was raised on the challenge of finding educational materials on the CITES website due to the limited functions of the search tool.

The Committees agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting:

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

The Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a joint working group on identification materials that are used by Parties to identify CITES-listed species and undertake the following tasks, in consultation with the Secretariat:

- a) review selected identification materials and assess the need for their revision and improvement, taking into account the materials that are being developed or have already been developed by Parties and materials requested in Decisions;
- b) review Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual* and make recommendations, including possible amendments to this Resolution if appropriate, to promote accuracy and availability of identification materials;
- c) provide input to the Secretariat to improve the accuracy and availability of identification materials on CITES-listed species; and
- d) report on progress with these activities at the next meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees, as well as the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to support the efforts of the working group on identification materials by providing to the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance materials that are used by Parties, and particularly by enforcement and inspection officers, to facilitate implementation of the Convention.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); the Republic of Korea and the United States of America (on behalf of Canada, North America region and Mexico).

9.2 The CITES tree species programme: Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 9.2, noting that the project will end in June 2021.

The presentation of the programme was well received, and the programme was regarded as very important for the implementation of CITES with respect to trade in trees.

Parties asked for a broadening of the eligibility criteria for applying for funds under the programme, and were appreciative to donors and the coordination support at a regional and CITES level. Parties also expressed support for the programme being long-term.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 9.2 and encouraged the Secretariat to explore the future of the CITES tree species programme to ensure its continuation.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo), the PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee), the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacon); Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, the United States of America; the International Tropical Timber Organization; and Species Survival Network.

10. Non-detriment findings

10.1 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 10.1/PC24 Doc. 10.1, noting that it has two sections: the first dealing with instructions emanating from the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and the second proposing a set of draft decisions on non-detriment findings (NDFs) for consideration at CoP18. These draft decisions include proposals to inventory and review the materials and guidance for the making of NDFs that are available to the Parties, identify any apparent gaps or needs, identify priorities for additional or improved guidance and address these by developing new guidance materials in collaboration with experts, Parties and organizations and organise one or more interdisciplinary workshops, as appropriate.

The acting PC representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Díaz), supported by several Parties and an NGO, stressed the importance of a second international workshop for experts, and to develop updates to the NDF guidance for species case studies derived from the first International Expert Workshop on CITES NDFs (Cancun, 2008), as well as for specimens traded under W, F and R source codes.

Parties expressed support for the continuation of the process moving forward and stressed the importance of sharing NDFs.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 10.1/PC24 Doc. 10.1 and established an in-session working group on non-detriment findings with the following mandate:

The in-session working group shall review and revise the edits proposed during the plenary by the representative of North America of the Plants Committee and the Chair of the Plants Committee to the set of Decisions presented in document AC30 Doc. 10.1/PC24 Doc. 10.1 to be submitted by the Secretariat to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the acting representative of North America of the Plants Committee (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and the representative of Africa of the Animals Committee (Mr. Mensah);

Members: the representative of Oceania of the Animals Committee (Mr. Robertson);

Parties: China, Colombia, European Union, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America;

IGOs and NGOs: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for Biological Diversity, Environmental Investigation Agency United States of America, Save our Seas Foundation and Species Survival Network.

Later in the meeting, the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) presented AC30/PC24 Com. 2.

The Committees adopted the recommendations in document AC30/PC24 Com. 2 with the following amendments:

– in draft decision 18.AA, paragraph c) subparagraph ii) should read as follows:

- ii) organising one or more interdisciplinary expert workshops on NDFs, including the 2nd international expert workshop on non-detriment findings, with assistance of the Animals and Plants Committees, where draft guidance materials on NDFs are to be reviewed, advanced or completed;

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Germany, Mexico, Peru; and TRAFFIC.

10.2 Draft version of the "Information Guide on the development of sustainable forest management programmes and standardized technical documents for harvesting mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) under CITES"

Mexico introduced document PC24 Doc. 10.2, noting that the goal was to include technical information that will facilitate forest technicians and help authorities to analyze information and prepare NDFs.

The Committee congratulated Mexico for developing and making available the Guide as a tool for reinforcing the development of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for mahogany and invited Parties and other relevant players to review the Guide, and send their feedback to the Mexican Scientific Authority (CONABIO), before 28 September 2018 at: ac-cites@conabio.gob.mx.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by Mexico and the United States of America.

10.3 Guidance on making non-detriment findings for plants

Germany introduced document PC24 Doc. 10.3, noting that in November 2017 the guidance on the making of NDFs for plants had been discussed with international experts in a workshop, and that revised guidance would be available soon. Germany also noted the availability of funding for organising two workshops to further apply the guidance for trade in timber species, and to develop e-learning tools to facilitate application of the guidance.

The Committee congratulated Germany for its *9-Steps Guidance for making non-detriment findings for perennial plants and for tree species* and encouraged all Parties to continue sharing guidance on making non-detriment findings with the Secretariat and the Plants Committee.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacon), the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); China, Germany, and the United States of America.

11. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES)

The PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz), who represented CITES at the 6th plenary meeting of IPBES, gave an oral update on the meeting, noting the adoption of four decisions. He explained that there was agreement at that meeting to commence a thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species. The assessment will be undertaken over three to four years and will have a total budget of approximately 1.4 million USD. The Secretariat reported on the workshop held in Rome 14-15 June on sustainable use of wildlife species and explained the opportunities of the partnership to provide input on completed or ongoing materials that could help the IPBES assessment.

The Secretariat explained that the Plenary of IPBES had requested the IPBES Secretariat to consult appropriate multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations partners with respect to ongoing work on sustainable use. In this context, the IPBES Secretariat presented the scope of the assessment during a meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management held on 14 June 2018, at which the Secretariat was represented. At this meeting, the IPBES Secretariat explained to the members of the Partnership what opportunities there would be to provide inputs to the process.

The Chair of the Animals Committee (Mr. Lörtscher) reported on the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel meeting in Bonn on 26-28 June 2018, noting that the issues tackled included the selection of experts (which had already been submitted by Parties) and proposals for co-leads of the assessment. He also noted that a letter received by IPBES was contained in information document AC30 Inf. 34. In this letter, IPBES seeks information in relation to the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species on the following:

- a) ongoing work and existing decisions, publications or other materials under CITES relevant to the assessment;
- b) issues and questions which the IPBES assessment could assess, within its agreed scope, to make the assessment most useful for CITES;

- c) processes under CITES for the consideration of the key messages of the assessment once completed; and, more broadly:
- d) requesting inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer term strategic needs [of CITES] that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme.

There was consensus among participants for continued collaboration between CITES and IPBES.

The Committees noted the oral updates of the acting representative of North America of the Plants Committee (Mr. Benítez Díaz), of the Secretariat, of the Chair of the Animals Committee and Canada, in their capacity as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on IPBES.

The Committees requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification transmitting IPBES' call for requests, inputs and suggestions on short-term priorities and longer term strategic needs that require attention and action by IPBES as part of its future work programme and the IPBES assessment of the sustainable use of wild species, issues and questions which the IPBES assessment could address to make the assessment most useful for CITES. The Committee further requested the Secretariat to compile Parties' responses for transmittal to the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on IPBES.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the alternate AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemptzov), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); and France.

12. Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 12, highlighting the draft decisions contained in it, as well as the analysis contained in information document PC24 Inf. 6.

The PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee) and Austria expressed the need of strengthening the analysis in information document PC24 Inf. 6 through a qualitative evaluation for consideration of the Parties at CoP18. The importance of maintaining an updated report was stressed, as well as the need for close collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and CITES about the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC).

The PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Hesiquio) proposed amendments to the draft decisions under paragraph 12 of the document and updated the Committee on his participation in a GSPC meeting in August 2018.

The Committee noted the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 17.53 and 17.54, as outlined in paragraphs 6 to 8, and the analysis on a potential contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to CITES-flora activities included under information document PC24 Inf. 6.

The Committee agreed to submit the draft decisions below to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting:

Decision 18 AA

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) publish and maintain updated on its website the summary of the Periodic Review proposals submitted to Conference of the Parties for amendments to Appendices I and II, taxa selected for Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II, and Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species, including relevant updates derived from the Plants Committee and the Conference of the Parties;
- b) in collaboration with Plants Committee update the report on the contribution of CITES to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) until the end of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for further consideration by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at its 15 meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

- c) present progress in paragraphs a) and b) to the Plants Committee for consideration at its 25th meeting.

Decision 18.BB

Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall revise the updated report on the contribution of CITES to the implementation of the GSPC, at its 25th meeting in order to be considered by the CBD at its 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee also agreed to submit the draft decisions proposed in paragraph 12 of document PC24 Doc. 12 to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); and Austria.

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

13.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 13.1, noting that the funding for the report was provided by Switzerland and the European Union (EU).

Argentina thanked the Secretariat and the EU for the financial support, and gave an update on *Bulnesia sarmientoi* management, reminding that it will provide further reports to the Plants Committee. Argentina also noted that there will be a meeting in September on the Central and South America and the Caribbean CITES tree species which will give an opportunity for planning future activities.

The United Republic of Tanzania provided an update on the status of *Prunus africana*, as well as on the trade suspension that has been in place since February 2009, and voiced concern on the lack of clear criteria for removing a species from trade suspension.

The United States reminded that Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) provided a clause in paragraph 1, k) i) stipulating that in the case 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 Plants Committee along with a justification. The United States noted that some countries that reported zero quota were subsequently removed from the RST, but the quota either had not been published on the CITES website, or trade resumed without publishing a quota.

The United States also noted that on page 10 of the Summary Records of PC23, under PC23 Com. 5, there was a discussion on the "...need for clarification regarding 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. Members and Parties highlighted a need for the Secretariat to provide additional information on this issue for the next meeting of the Plants Committee". The United States understood that an update on this matter would be provided to the Standing Committee.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 13.1 and the update on the Review of Significant Trade (RST) tracking and management database. The Committee invited Parties and observer bodies and agencies interested in participating in the informal advisory group on the RST database to contact the Secretariat, outlining their relevant experience.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo); Argentina, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

13.2 Species selected following CoP17

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 13.2, noting the close work with the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). UNEP-WCMC presented their report in Annex 2 of the document.

The PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee) underlined the urgent need to have regional coordination for the species that have been selected for review and the weak system in place.

Several Parties supported the continuation of the Review of Significant Trade and asked for a stronger relationship between them and the Secretariat.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 13.2 and established an in-session working group on the Review of Significant Trade with the following mandate:

In accordance with paragraphs 1) g) and i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), and for the species/country combinations selected following the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17), at the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC23), the in-session working group shall:

- a) review the responses received from range States contained in Annex 1 of document PC24 Doc. 13.2 (and any additional information presented in plenary) and the report in Annex 2 of document PC24 Doc. 13.2 and, if appropriate, revise the preliminary categorizations proposed by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) for the species/range State concerned, providing a justification for such re-categorization;
- b) formulate recommendations directed to the range States retained in the review process, using the principles outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33; and
- c) formulate separate recommendations directed to the Standing Committee for problems identified in the course of the review that are not directly related to the implementation of Article IV paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a), following the principles outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17).

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo) and the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);

Parties: Belgium, Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, France, Germany, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency United States of America, Global Eye, International Wood Products Association, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund and ForestBased Solutions Llc.

Later in the meeting, the Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. McGough) introduced document PC24 Com. 4.

Committee members and Parties discussed the purpose of the "justification" column and further agreed to use it for reasoning behind the selection of such species/country combination selection.

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”. Furthermore, 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 conversion rates should read as follows: “Outline how conversion rates (of volumes of processed products into round wood equivalent volumes), based on sound scientific studies are calculated and provide associated information.” Furthermore, the associated justification for choice of recommended action should read “Ensure data are accurate and science-based”;
 - for *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*/Viet Nam, correct the spelling of *Dalbergia* and the justification for choice of 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, that regarding *Pterocarpus santalinus*/India, to inform the Plants Committee once 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.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee), the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacon), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Belgium, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the United States of America; UNEP-WCMC; Center for Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency USA (on behalf of Center for International Environmental Law and World Wildlife Fund), World Conservation Trust; and F.C. Martin and Co., Inc.

13.3 Country-wide significant trade reviews

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3, drawing attention to the report in the Annex.

UNEP-WCMC presented an overview of the report, noting that Madagascar was the only country to be subjected to a country-wide significant trade review between 2001 and 2008, and the challenges of undertaking such a review.

The Chair of the intersessional working group, the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), presented the working group's views on the report and made some recommendations to be considered during an in-session working group.

A Committee member underlined concerns on some inconsistencies in the technical review, especially on the progress made through the country-wide review, the inappropriate use of some of the indicators chosen in the review, and pointing at the need to provide an estimate of the cost of undertaking a country-wide significant trade review in comparison with the costs of undertaking reviews on a species-by-species basis.

Madagascar presented an update on the progress made since the review, and expressed its views on the challenges of having limited capacity in place and its dependency on external support. Madagascar welcomed future assessments and reviews.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3 and established an in-session working group on country-wide significant trade reviews with the following mandate:

Pursuant to Decision 17.111, the in-session working group shall, based on document AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3 and its Annex, undertake the following:

- a) consider the outcomes of the report in the Annex to AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3, and any other relevant findings;
- b) draft conclusions and recommendations as appropriate; and
- c) draft a way forward to bring the results of the implementation of Decision 17.111, and its conclusions, to the attention of the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting and/or of the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

- Chair: the representative of Europe of the Animals Committee (Mr. Fleming);
- Members: the representative of Africa of the Plants Committee (Ms. Koumba Pambo), the representative of Europe of the Plants Committee (Mr. Carmo) and the botanical nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);
- Parties: Canada, European Union, Hungary, Madagascar, South Africa and United States of America; and
- IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC and World Wildlife Fund.

Later in the meeting, the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming) introduced document AC30/PC24 Com. 1.

The Committees adopted the recommendations in document AC30/PC24 Com. 1 with the following amendments:

- include the representative of Africa of the Plants Committee (Mr. Mahamane) and specify that Mr. Beltetón Chacon is the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean of the Plants Committee;
- spell out RST as Review of Significant Trade in paragraphs 1 and 5 and spell out MG as Madagascar in paragraph 5;
- in paragraph 5, replace “paragraph iii) and iv)” by “paragraph 3) and 4)”;
- in the Spanish version, include a comma after “párrafos iii) and iv) anteriores”.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Belletón Chacon), the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); and Madagascar.

14. Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA

The Secretariat introduced document AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc. 14 (Rev. 1).

The consultant of the study "*Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA*" presented findings and results, noting that the study was not yet finalized, and was divided in three main parts. The consultant noted issues with the terminology used in the relevant Decisions and the title of the study.

Committee members and Parties were concerned about the specificity of the study, and stressed the need to review the final version. Additionally, concerns were raised about overlapping or similar activities undertaken by different organizations, and the need for effective collaboration with them. Moreover, Committee members, Parties and NGOs agreed on broadening the scope of the study to include other biotechnologies used, and to focus on all final products and not only on the production of synthetic animal horn and its possible consequences for trade in wild-sourced products.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 14/PC24 Doc. 14 (Rev. 1) and agreed that the title of this subject matter should be changed from "specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA" to "specimens produced through biotechnology".

The Committees agreed that decisions should be drafted and submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting so that the study on specimens produced through biotechnology can be presented to the Animals and Plants Committees at their next joint session in 2020.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee), the AC representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming), the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Austria, China, France; Lewis & Clark Law School (on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and the Natural Resources Defense Council) and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

15. Timber identification

15.1 Report of the intersessional working group

The co-chairs of the intersessional working group on timber identification (the PC representative of Central and South American and the Caribbean, Ms. Rauber Coradin), and Canada (Mr. Farr) introduced document PC24 Doc. 15.1, noting that the two ITTO-CITES research projects concerning identification of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros*, mentioned in paragraph 10, require USD 250,000. They pointed out that the report from the Nomenclature Specialist provided additional information regarding the research on resource requirements associated with the preparation of a full checklist for the genus *Dalbergia*.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Central and South America and Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin); and Canada.

15.2 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 15.2, noting that it complemented both document PC24 Doc.15.1 and the work of the intersessional working group.

Committee members agreed on the need to facilitate the exchange of material between CITES authorities and between Parties, on the development of techniques for timber identification and the sharing of these technologies with customs officials, as well as the review of relevant identification material in the case of proposals for new species to be listed in the CITES Appendices.

Committee members also agreed on the revised draft decision proposed in Annex 2 of document PC24 Doc. 15.1 to focus on future tasks instead of ones already addressed, and to make further changes in Annex 3 of the same document.

The Committee noted documents PC24 Doc. 15.1 and PC24 Doc. 15.2 and requested the Secretariat to make the currently available wood identification materials accessible to Parties on a dedicated webpage of the CITES website.

The Committee established an in-session working group on timber identification with the following 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 PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz), taking into consideration the points raised in plenary by the Chair of the Plants Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

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 Orchestras, 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.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the in-session working group (Mr. Farr) introduced document PC24 Com. 3.

The PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) suggested that further information will be required for a resolution to be adopted in the future.

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).

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee), the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the PC acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser), the acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Canada, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America; World Conservation Trust and World Resources Institute.

16. Definition of the term ‘artificially propagated’

16.1 Report of the intersessional working group

The PC representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach), as chair of the intersessional working group on the definition of the term ‘artificially propagated’, introduced document PC24 Doc. 16.1.

Committee members and Parties supported the creation of a new source code with a clear definition, including a better defined boundary between source codes. For trade in specimens under the new source code, an NDF would need to be formulated.

A Party and an NGO raised a concern on the implementation of a new source code and on the need for customs officials to have guidance for the differentiation of the various codes. Further concerns related to trade in wild specimens from non-range States.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 16.1 and agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the draft decision in paragraph 19 of document PC24 Doc. 16.1.

The Committee established an in-session working group on artificial propagation with the following mandate:

The in-session working group shall:

- discuss the information presented by the intersessional working group, in particular the new source code;
- if the new source code is supported, then the Committee should comment on the proposed draft text to amend Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) in Annex 3 and note whether other Resolutions, in particular Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes*, Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species* and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on *Permits and certificates* need to be revised as directed in Decision 17.176; and
- discuss the options for consolidation of some of the definitions into Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) as outlined in paragraphs 15-16 of document PC24 Doc. 16.1 and determine any actions required.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach);

Parties: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, European Union, France, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Republic of Korea, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, Center for International Environmental Law, Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE), International Wood Products Association, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund, American Herbal Products Association (AHPA), ForestBased Solutions Llc. and Overseas Traders.

Later in the meeting, the PC representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach) introduced document PC24 Com. 6, reporting that the working group considered that the expansion of a definition, as proposed by Netherlands, might be a solution, and that there remained concerns about developing an additional source code, but that the majority preferred to continue with the creation of a new intermediate source code.

Committee members and Parties agreed on the importance of substituting “tended plants” with a proper term, and the challenges for the changes to make in national legislations.

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’ plants;
- 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

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Austria, China, the European Union, France, Georgia, the Netherlands, South Africa, the Republic of Korea; and Species Survival Network.

16.2 Definition of plantation

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced document PC24 Doc. 16.2.

Indonesia noted that issues discussed under this agenda item should be in accordance with artificial propagation.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 16.2 and agreed that a definition of plantation was not needed.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the PC representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo), the PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee), the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Canada, Chile, the European Union, France, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Zimbabwe; and Species Survival Network.

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

The Chair provided context on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10, and of Decisions 16.157 (Rev. CoP17) and 17.194 to 17.200 on *Agarwood-producing taxa*.

The PC alternate representative of Asia (Ms. Al-Salem), Indonesia, Qatar and the United States of America pointed out the difficulty of understanding the benefits and challenges of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10, as no documents had been provided for consideration at the present meeting and noted that if the decisions were to be renewed, they would need to be narrowed down to specific issues and needs. Additionally, it was suggested that the Secretariat draft a document or circulate a questionnaire on the implementation Resolution Conf. 16.10. IUCN and TRAFFIC offered their expertise in the development of a new assessment of agarwood species in trade.

The Committee requested the Chair of the Plants Committee and the PC representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach) to revise Decision 16.157 (Rev. CoP17) and draft a new decision in order to identify the best way for the Plants Committee to obtain data on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10.

Later in the meeting, the PC representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach) introduced document PC24 Com. 10.

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

* This does not apply for Appendix III species.

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.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the PC alternate representative of Asia (Ms. Al-Salem), the PC representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach); Indonesia, Qatar, the United States of America; and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

17.2 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 17.2.

The United States of America agreed that all Decisions had been implemented, proposed their deletion, and furthermore noted that some enforcement issues relating to the identification of agarwood powder remained.

The Committee agreed that Decisions 17.194, 17.197, 17.198 and 17.199 can be considered implemented and be proposed for deletion at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC alternate representative of Asia (Ms. Al-Salem); and the United States of America.

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

18.1 Report of Madagascar

Madagascar introduced document PC24 18.1, noting progress made in the country regarding the implementation of Decision 17.204. It also mentioned that further updates would be presented at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. McGough) congratulated Madagascar on the work carried out in the implementation of Decision 17.204, and highlighted links with relevant nomenclature issues contained in document PC24 Doc. 27.

18.2 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 18.2.

The Committee noted documents PC24 Doc. 18.1 and PC24 Doc. 18.2 and established an in-session working group on Malagasy ebonies, palisanders and rosewoods with the following mandate:

The in-session working group shall:

- a) review the report by Madagascar in document PC24 Doc. 18.1 and the report of the Secretariat in document PC24 Doc. 18.2;
- b) assist Madagascar in the identification of technical resources in support of its implementation of Decision 17.204 paragraphs a) to d); and
- c) as appropriate, provide recommendations to Madagascar, the Standing Committee and other bodies and organizations concerning the determination of commercially valuable species of *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* occurring in Madagascar, the establishment of non-detriment findings and export quotas for trade in these species, and the production of relevant identification materials.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo);

Parties: Belgium, China, European Union, Madagascar, Mozambique, Norway and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Environmental Investigation Agency United States of America, Global Eye, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund, and ForestBased Solutions Llc.

Later in the meeting, the PC representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo) introduced document PC24 Com. 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”.

During the discussion of this agenda item, an intervention was made by the World Conservation Trust.

19. Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

19.1 Report of the Plants Committee

The Chair introduced document PC24 Doc. 19.1.

The United States supported efforts to undertake a study on trade in rosewood species, and provided further recommendations on its content and scope, including narrowing it down to particular genera and regions.

In response to the call in paragraph 7 of the document for Parties to provide updates on their work on rosewood timber species, the Republic of Korea stated that it will develop and launch a DNA barcode database.

India presented progress made in the country with regard to studies on two species of *Dalbergia*, and expressed challenges faced relating to species identification.

The PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo) and France raised concerns regarding annotation #15 and the identification of different species and reminded that the genus was listed due to conservation issues.

There was support for undertaking the study, as recommended in paragraph 9 of the document, and NGOs recognized the importance of the involvement of different industries to look at the impacts that the listing of the genus could have for trade controls.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 19.1 and established an in-session working group on rosewood timber species with the following mandate:

The in-session working shall review document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) on *International trade in rosewood timber species [LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae)]* and the draft decisions in its Annex, results of deliberations at the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee and feedback received at this present meeting and, based on this review, draft a revised decision that focuses on listed species.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms. Sinclair);

Parties: Australia, Canada, China, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Environmental Investigation Agency United States of America, Global Eye, International Wood Products Association, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, League of American Orchestras, Species Survival Network, World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund, C.F. Martin & Co., Inc., CSFI, CAFIM, Fender Musical Instrument Corp., ForestBased Solutions, Llc., International Association of Violin and Bow Makers, Madinter Trade, S.L., Overseas Traders, Paul Reed Smith Guitars, Limited Partnership and Taylor Guitars.

Later in the meeting, the Chair introduced document PC24 Com. 7.

The Committee agreed to submit the draft decisions included in document PC24 Com. 7 for consideration by the Standing Committee, in order to invite it to consider additions of elements to the study related to enforcement and implementation and bring a draft decision to CoP18 accordingly.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Australia, France, India, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America; Global Eye (on behalf of World Resources Institute), the International Association of Violin and Bow Makers (on behalf of Confederation of European Music Industries, International Wood Product Association, League of American Orchestras, Fender Musical Instruments Corp., the French Musical Instrument Organization, ForestBased Solution Llc, Madinter Trade S.L., C.F. Martin & Co. Inc., Paul Reed Smith Guitars, Limited Partnership, and Taylor Guitars) and the World Wildlife Fund.

19.2 International trade in the timber producing species "Mukula" (*Pterocarpus* spp.) from dry miombo forests (central / Southern Africa)

Belgium introduced document PC24 Doc. 19.2, noting that in the translations there were minor errors that could affect the interpretation of the document. It pointed out that in the English version, in paragraph 7, a word is missing: the French version mentions "several tens of thousands"; in English, "tens" is missing. The "sustainability" of a forest has been translated as "*duración*" in Spanish, which might not be the correct term as it reflects a notion of time. Belgium suggested that "*sostenibilidad*" might be a better word.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 19.2 and encouraged those Parties and organisations that had any comments or useful information to send it directly to the authors of the document, Belgium and Germany.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo); Belgium, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Global Eye (on behalf of World Resources Institute), World Conservation Trust; and Ghent University.

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

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 20.

The Committee requested the Chair of the Plants Committee to review and amend Decisions 17.250 to 17.252 for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document PC24 Com. 11.

The Committee adopted the draft decisions contained in document PC24 Com. 11 and agreed to submit them to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by Germany and the United States of America.

21. African tree species: Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 21 (Rev. 1).

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 21 (Rev. 1) and agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting the retention of Decision 17.302.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) and the United States of America.

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

The PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacon), as Chair of the intersessional working group on neotropical tree species, introduced document PC24 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1).

The PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) suggested the inclusion of a summary table to facilitate the comparison of the situation in the range States concerned, which could be further analysed in the second international workshop on NDFs (in relation to agenda item 10.1).

Speakers expressed support for the proposed way forward, and asked countries to share more information.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1). The Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting the renewal of Decision 16.159 (Rev. CoP17) and requested the Chair of the Plants Committee, the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacon) and the Secretariat to make any necessary changes to include in the draft decision the considerations outlined in paragraph 50 of document PC24 Doc. 22 (Rev. 1).

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document PC24 Com. 9 which was produced in collaboration with the Chair of the intersessional working group.

The Committee adopted the draft decisions included 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”.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacon), the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); and the United States of America.

23. East African sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*): Report of the intersessional working group

The PC representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo), as chair of the intersessional working group on East African sandalwood, provided an oral report on the progress of the working group and the implementation of ten different projects in the region.

The Committee noted the oral update of the representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo) and agreed to consider Decisions 16.153 (Rev. CoP17) and 16.154 (Rev. CoP17) as completed and propose their deletion to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo); and the United States of America.

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

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 24, and highlighted that it reflected the revisions to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) that had been agreed by the Plants Committee at its last meeting.

Committee members supported the draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15), and noted that in Annex 1, the footnote on page 5 should reflect the changes. Additionally, they suggested the Secretariat to consult with relevant experts as appropriate (FAO, ITTO and IUCN).

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 24 and established an in-session working group on Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) with the following 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.

The membership was decided as follows:

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

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.

Later in the meeting, the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) introduced document PC24 Com. 5, noting that he substituted the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo) as chair of the working group.

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.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo), the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin), the

PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz), the PC representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach); Germany, Peru; TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, and the Center for International Environmental Law

25. Periodic Review of the Appendices

25.1 Overview of species under Periodic Review

The Secretariat introduced document PC24 Doc. 25.1.

The PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) noted the lack of an updated database and underlined the importance of having it for the periodic review and for Parties to be able to look at the status of different species.

The United States of America reminded the Committee of the need to remove *Dioscorea deltoidea* from the list of species to be reviewed since no volunteer offered to undertake a review within two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 25.1 and agreed that, in accordance with paragraph 2 d) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*, *Dioscorea deltoidea* should be deleted from the list of species to be reviewed since no volunteer offered to undertake a review within two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to publish the updated overview of species under Periodic Review on the CITES website.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Mexico and the United States of America.

25.2 Species reviews

25.2.1 Lewisia serrata – Report of the United States of America

The United States of America introduced document PC24 Doc. 25.2.1, noting that the best action forward for the conservation of the species would be to retain it in Appendix II.

During a discussion on *Lewisia cantelovii*, the United States of America reassured the room of the soon available information on the status of the species (reports will be made by the Department in California) and that *Lewisia serrata* should not be subsumed to *Lewisia cantelovii* as *Lewisia serrata* is recognised as a valid species.

The Committee determined that, in accordance with subparagraphs 2 g) and h) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), *Lewisia serrata* reviewed by the United States of America meets the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) for retention in Appendix II, as outlined in document PC24 Doc. 25.2.1. The Committee agreed to report its conclusions to the Conference the Parties, and invited the Secretariat to inform the range State of the conclusions of the Committee.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); and the Republic of Korea.

26. Appendix-III listings

As co-chair of the intersessional working group, the AC representative of North America (Ms. Gnam), thanked all the participants in the working group for the hard work, and summarized the findings. Additionally, she expressed the wish of sending the report to the Standing Committee's working group, with record of the plenary discussions, for further consideration by the Standing Committee. This suggestion was broadly supported.

The Committees requested the AC/PC intersessional working group on Appendix III to transmit its report, as presented in document AC30 Doc. 31/PC24 Doc. 26, to the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on Appendix III after having incorporated comments made during the plenary meeting.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of Oceania (Mr. Robertson); Canada, the Republic of Korea; the German Society for Herpetology and Species360.

27. Report of the specialist on botanical nomenclature

The Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. McGough) introduced document PC24 Doc. 27 and drew attention to information documents PC24 Inf. 9 and 15 by the Secretariat, and PC24 Inf. 16 by Germany.

Parties noted the need for a taxonomic revision of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species, as well as an update of the standard nomenclature conifer checklist. Other speakers raised concerns on the status of the family Didiereaceae and the inclusion of names of taxa *Opuntia* subgenus *Opuntia*, that are exempted from CITES controls, in Species+ to facilitate the implementation of this exemption.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 27 and requested the Secretariat to check that the four genera originally included in the family Didiereaceae at the time of their listing are clearly indicated in Species+, and the CITES checklist as the only genera in the family Didiereaceae included in the CITES Appendices.

The Committee established an in-session working group on nomenclature with the following mandate:

The in-session working group shall:

- a) consider whether the cactus checklist should be the subject of a limited revision for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18), and if so, propose the most effective mechanism to update the checklist which ensures that the Parties will have the most practical, effective and up-to-date tool at their disposal for the implementation of this family listing. Noting that as the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC24) is the last meeting prior to the Conference of the Parties, the mechanism will need to be robust to deliver an update acceptable to the Parties;
- b) consider the review of Madagascan *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* and based on the timelines of this research make recommendations on when an update of the lists for CITES would be most practical. Noting that as the current research timelines are not compatible with the deadlines for the next Conference of the Parties an alternative option would be to issue a notification informing Parties that updates will be regularly available on the Madagascar Catalogue and although not formally adopted these updates could assist CITES Parties in decision making;
- c) review the recommendation that the *Aloe* and *Pachypodium* Checklist be updated for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and recommend funding sources;
- d) consider the proposal to delete the current standard general references for generic names and thereafter work on a case by case basis;
- e) confirm the adoption of a standard reference for *Paubrasilia echinata* and give a view whether the inclusion *Platymiscium pleiostachium* Donn. Sm. in *Platymiscium parviflorum* Benth. would expand the intent of the 1975 listing;
- f) review the proposed changes to Species+ for *Aloe* and *Gyrinops/Aquilaria*;
- g) review whether the current weblisting of CITES checklists is sufficient to meet the needs of the Parties;
- h) consider the issue of updating nomenclature between meetings of the Conference of the Parties and how written guidance could best be prepared on what is possible and to ensure the standard application of the process over time;
- i) review all relevant documents tabled at this meeting (e.g. PC24 Doc. 15.1 and PC24 Doc. 18.2) and make recommendations for options to produce a science based and practical *Dalbergia* checklist for the CITES Parties and consider funding options and timelines for same; and

- j) consider relevant issues raised at PC24 by China and the Republic of Republic of Korea, and make recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);

Parties: Austria, China, Germany, Madagascar, Republic of Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC and American Herbal Products Association.

Later in the meeting, the Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. McGough) introduced document PC24 Com. 8 underlining the key decisions in the report. UNEP-WCMC confirmed their availability to help in any way needed.

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

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.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee); China, Madagascar, the Republic of Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America; and UNEP-WCMC.

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

The PC acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser), as Chair of the intersessional working group on annotations for Appendix II orchids, introduced document PC24 Doc. 28.

Committee members and Parties supported the way forward and agreed on the continuation of the studies on the topic, as well as the exemption of some of the products from the CITES' regulations. They noted the non-exclusionary term "cosmetics", which may refer to animals as well, and might need the Standing Committee input for the draft definition.

A Party also noted the difficulties expressed by industries in implementing the Convention. These industries have used artificially propagated orchids and argued that it is hard to find a correlation between final products and wild orchids.

The Committee noted document PC24 Doc. 28 and requested the Secretariat to submit to the Standing Committee for inclusion in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* and in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report* the draft definition for "cosmetics" amended by the acting representative of North America as follows:

Any product or mixture of products which is applied to an external part of the body only (e.g. skin, lips, hair, nails, external genital organs, teeth or the mucous membranes of the oral cavity) with a view to clean, odourise, change the appearance or protect and/or keep these parts in good condition. Cosmetics may include the following: make-up, perfume, skin cream, nail polish, hair colourants, soap, shampoo, shaving cream, deodorant, sunscreens, toothpaste.

The Committee established an in-session working group on annotations for Appendix-II orchids with the following mandate:

The in-session working group shall review and make recommendations on the draft revisions to Decisions 17.318 to 17.319 on *Annotations for Appendix II orchids* contained in Annex 1 of document PC24 Doc. 28, with a view to retain the action elements as needed, rewrite the Decisions consistent with the standard format for decisions, and include views in plenary.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser);

Parties: Australia, China, Germany, Peru, Republic of Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology, IWMC – World Conservation Trust, TRAFFIC, American Herbal Products Association and Fédération des Entreprises de la Beauté.

Later in the meeting, the PC acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser) introduced document PC24 Com.1.

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

- include France as a member of the working group; and
- 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.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the PC acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Austria, France, Mexico, Peru and the Republic of Korea.

29. Annotations

Canada, as Chair of the intersessional working group on annotations, introduced document AC30 Doc. 33/PC24 Doc. 29.

Committee members raised concern about the proposed deletion of the words "live plants" in annotation #16. It was noted that live plants are always included in species listings, so that it is not necessary and redundant to include the terms in annotation #16.

The United States noted that the Animals Committee should consider whether it wished any fauna annotations to be included in a revised mandate for the intersessional period between CoP18 and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the Plants Committee should seek for additional issues to be included in a mandate for the intersessional working group.

Canada noted variability in the annotations in the Appendices, and that such inconsistency made annotations more difficult to interpret and enforce. Canada suggested a more standardized way of annotating listings.

It was discussed whether quotas should be included in the Appendices through annotations. There was agreement for the working group to focus mostly on plant annotations, with some exceptions.

The Committees noted document AC30 Doc. 33/PC24 Doc. 29 and provided feedback on the future mandate of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations.

During the discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the AC acting representative of Europe (Mr. Nemtsov), the AC Nomenclature Specialist (Mr. Van Dijk); Canada, United States of America; Humane Society International, the League of American Orchestras (on behalf of the International Association of Violin and Bow makers, the Confederation of European Music Industries, International Wood Product Association, Fender Musical Instrument Corp., the French Musical Instrument Organization, ForestBased Solutions, Taylor Guitars, Paul Reed Smith Guitars, Limited Partnership) and World Conservation Trust.

30. Regional reports

30.1 Africa

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

30.2 Asia

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

30.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean

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

30.4 Europe

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

30.5 North America

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

30.6 Oceania

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

No other intervention was made during discussion of these items.

31. Any other business

The United States 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 representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin) for her service.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin); and the United States of America.

32. Time and venue of the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee

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 of the Plants Committee (Ms. Sinclair) thanked the host country, Switzerland, Committee members, and in particular parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, the interpreters and the Secretariat, and closed the meeting.

The Committee thanked the outgoing representatives of Oceania (Mr. Leach) and the outgoing nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough) for their service.

During the discussion of this agenda item, interventions were made by the PC representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane), the PC representative of Asia (Mr. Lee), the PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacon), the PC representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), the PC acting representative of North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz); Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.