

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 17 and 20-23 July 2020

Strategic matters

Plants Committee strategic planning for 2019-2022 (CoP18-CoP19)

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Annex 1 to this document provides an overview of the currently valid Resolutions that require actions from, or contain references to, the Plants Committee.
3. Annex 2 lists all currently valid Decisions of the Conference of the Parties directed to the Plants Committee, or that may need consultation with, or assistance from the Committee.
4. The Plants Committee is invited to take these instructions into consideration in developing its working programme for 2019-2022 (see document PC25 Doc. 7.2).

RESOLUTIONS CONTAINING INSTRUCTIONS THAT ARE DIRECTED OR RELEVANT
TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

Resolution	Instruction
<p>Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes</p>	<p>Annex 3: Role of the Secretariat</p> <p>1. RESOLVES that the Secretariat shall perform the following functions:</p> <p>d) receive and review reports on registered nurseries, provided by the Parties, and present summary conclusions to the Plants Committee;</p>
<p>Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II</p>	<p>5. URGES Parties that are considering the submission of a proposal to amend the Appendices, in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, to consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee as early as possible in advance of submitting the proposal;</p> <p>9. RESOLVES that, to monitor the effectiveness of protection offered by the Convention, the status of species included in Appendices I and II should be regularly reviewed by the range States and proponents, in collaboration with the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, subject to the availability of funds;</p> <p>Annex 4: Precautionary measures</p> <p>B. The following review procedures shall apply when a species is transferred to Appendix II pursuant to paragraph A. 2. iii) above.</p> <p>1. Where the Plants Committee, the Animals Committee or a Party becomes aware of problems in compliance with the management measures and export quotas of another Party, the Secretariat shall be informed and, if the Secretariat fails to resolve the matter satisfactorily, it shall inform the Standing Committee which may, after consultation with the Party concerned, recommend to all Parties that they suspend trade with that Party in specimens of CITES-listed species, and/or request the Depositary Government to prepare a proposal to transfer the population back to Appendix I.</p> <p>2. If, on review of a quota and its supporting management measures, the Animals or Plants Committee encounters any problems with compliance or potential detriment to a species, the relevant Committee shall request the Depositary Government to prepare a proposal for appropriate remedial action.</p> <p>Annex 6: Format for proposals to amend the Appendices</p> <p>10. <u>Consultations</u></p> <p>Provide details of the consultation undertaken to secure comments on the proposal from the range States of the species, either through direct contact or via the CITES Secretariat. Comments received from each country should be provided. Where comments were sought but not received in sufficient time to enable their inclusion in the supporting statement, this should be noted, as well as the date of the request.</p> <p>In cases of proposals to transfer Appendix-II species that are subject to the Review of Significant Trade to Appendix I, the proponent should consult the affected range State(s) and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee. The proponent should state the reasons to justify why the amendment proposal was made. In cases of consultation with Parties via the CITES Secretariat, information from range States and non-range States should be separated.</p>

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	<p>In the case of species that are also managed through other international agreements or intergovernmental bodies, provide details of the consultations undertaken to obtain the comments of those organizations or bodies, and indicate how those comments have been addressed in the supporting statement. Where comments were sought but not received in sufficient time to enable their inclusion in the supporting statement, this should be noted, as well as the date of the request.</p>
<p>Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III</p>	<p><i>Inclusion of species in Appendix III</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RECOMMENDS that, when considering the inclusion of a species in Appendix III, a Party: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c) inform the Management Authorities of other range States, the known major importing countries, the Secretariat and the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee that it is considering the inclusion of the species in Appendix III and seek their opinion on the potential effects of such inclusion; h) consult with the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee, to ensure that any proposed annotation that is part of a request to include a species in Appendix III (and any definitions developed that define terms in the annotation, as appropriate) is clear and unambiguous, and likely to be understood by enforcement personnel and user groups; 5. REQUESTS that, upon request by a Party, the Animals or Plants Committee assist Parties in reviewing the status of species in Appendix III, subject to available resources; 6. URGES Parties having included species in Appendix III to review periodically the status of these species, seek assistance of the Animals or Plants Committee in undertaking the review mentioned in paragraph 5 of this Resolution, if necessary, and taking into account these guidelines and any recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, to consider the necessity to maintain the species in Appendix III;
<p>Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) Transport of live specimens</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DIRECTS the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees to deal with matters related to the transport of live specimens; 2. RECOMMENDS that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> e) the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and IATA, regularly review, revise and approve amendments to the <i>CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants</i>; 3. DIRECTS the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) to participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA in order to amplify or update the <i>IATA Live Animals Regulations</i> and the <i>IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations</i> and the <i>CITES guidelines for the non-air transport of live animals and plants</i>; b) to examine new or additional references for transport of live specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; c) to examine developments related to the transport of live plant specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; and d) to examine when appropriate, any high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future;
<p>Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) Identification Manual</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DIRECTS the Secretariat to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> h) inform the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees on the progress made whenever appropriate;

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<p>Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) Use of annotations in Appendices I and II</p>	<p>1. AGREES that:</p> <p>h) annotations that include time limits or other references that may with time cease to apply should, on a regular basis, be considered for deletion or revision by the Standing Committee and as appropriate, by the Animals Committee or Plants Committee.</p> <p>7. URGES Parties submitting proposals that contain substantive annotations to consult with the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and, as appropriate, the Animals Committee or Plants Committee, to ensure that the annotation is appropriate and can be readily implemented;</p> <p>8. DIRECTS:</p> <p>a) the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, to agree on interim definitions between meetings of the Conference of the Parties in cases where significant differences in the interpretation of terms in annotations exist among trading countries and are causing implementation difficulties, and then include these definitions in its report to the Conference of the Parties for adoption;</p>
<p>Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species</p>	<p><i>Regarding conduct of the Review of Significant Trade</i></p> <p>1. DIRECTS the Animals and Plants Committees, in cooperation with the Secretariat and experts, and in consultation with range States, to review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species subject to significant levels of trade, to identify problems and solutions concerning the implementation of Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a), in accordance with the following procedure and as outlined in Annex 1 of this Resolution:</p> <p>Stage 1: Selection of species/country combinations to be reviewed</p> <p>a) the Secretariat shall, within 90 days after each meeting of the Conference of Parties, commence, or appoint consultants to commence, preparation of a summary from the CITES Trade Database of annual report statistics showing the recorded level of direct exports for Appendix-II species over the five most recent years, and an extended analysis of trade to inform the preliminary selection of species/country combinations, to be completed in sufficient time for the first regular meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee following that meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see Annex 2 of this Resolution);</p> <p>b) on the basis of recorded levels of direct exports and information available to the Animals or Plants Committee, the Secretariat, Parties or other relevant experts, a limited number of species/country combinations of greatest concern shall be included in Stage 2 of the review process by the Animals or Plants Committee at their first regular meeting following a meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and</p> <p>c) in exceptional cases, outside of steps 1 a) and b) above, and where new information provided to the Secretariat by a proponent indicates that rapid action may be needed concerning problems relating to the implementation of Article IV (for a species/country combination), the Secretariat:</p> <p>i) will verify that the proponent has provided a justification for the exceptional case, including supporting information;</p> <p>ii) may produce, or request a consultant produce a summary of trade from the CITES Trade Database in relation to the species/country combination concerned as necessary; and</p> <p>iii) will, as soon as possible, provide the justification and, if appropriate, a trade summary to the Animals or Plants Committee for their intersessional review and decision on whether or not to include the species/country combination in Stage 2 of the review process;</p>

Stage 2: Consultation with the range States and compilation of information

- d) the Secretariat shall:
 - i) within 30 days after the meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee at which species/country combinations are selected, or within 30 days after the Committee has selected a species/country combination on an exceptional basis, notify selected range States that their species has been selected, providing an overview of the review process and an explanation for the selection. The Secretariat shall request range States to provide the scientific basis by which it is established that exports from their country are not detrimental to the survival of the species concerned and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention. In its letter, the Secretariat shall provide guidance to range States on how to respond, explain the consequences of not responding to the request, and inform the range States that the responses will be made available on the CITES website as part of the agenda for meetings of the Animals or Plants Committee. Range States shall be given 60 days to respond; and
 - ii) compile, or appoint consultants to compile, a report about the biology and management of and trade in the species, including any relevant information provided by the range States, to be made available for the next meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee. In doing so, the Secretariat (or consultants) shall actively engage with the range States and relevant experts in the compilation of the report;
- e) the report required under subparagraph 1 d) ii) shall include conclusions about the effects of international trade on the selected species/country combinations, the basis on which such conclusions are made and problems concerning the implementation of Article IV, and shall provisionally divide the selected species/country combinations into three categories:
 - i) 'action is needed' shall include species/country combinations for which the available information suggests that the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), are not being implemented;
 - ii) 'unknown status' shall include species/country combinations for which the Secretariat (or consultants) could not determine whether or not these provisions are being implemented; and
 - iii) 'less concern' shall include species/country combinations for which the available information appears to indicate that these provisions are being met; and
- f) once the report is completed, the Secretariat shall draw the attention of the relevant range States to the report prepared under subparagraph d) ii) and invite them to provide any additional information for consideration at the second meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee following the Conference of the Parties;

Stage 3: Categorization and Recommendations by the Animals or Plants Committee

- g) the Animals or Plants Committee shall, at their second meeting following the Conference of the Parties, review the report of the Secretariat or the consultants, and the responses and additional information received from the range States concerned. For each selected species/country combination the Animals or Plants Committee shall recategorize species/country combinations of 'unknown status' as either 'action is needed' or 'less concern' and provide a justification for such recategorization. Additionally, if appropriate, the Animals and Plants Committee shall revise the preliminary categorization proposed for species/country combinations of those where 'action is needed' or those of 'less concern' and provide a justification for the revision;
- i) species/country combinations determined by the Animals or Plants Committee to be of less concern shall be removed from the review process and the Secretariat shall notify the range States

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	<p>accordingly within 30 days; in cases where the species/country combination is of less concern due to the establishment of a zero export quota, any change to this quota should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and the Chair of the relevant Committee along with a justification; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) species/country combinations determined by the Animals or Plants Committee to be those for which 'action is needed' shall be retained in the review process. The Animals or Plants Committee shall, in consultation with the Secretariat, formulate time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, and transparent recommendations directed to the range States retained in the review process, using the principles outlined in Annex 3 of this Resolution. The recommendations should aim to build the range State's long term capacity to implement Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a), 3 and 6 (a) of the Convention; h) the Secretariat shall, within 30 days of the meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee, transmit these recommendations to the range States concerned; and i) the Animals or Plants Committee shall 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 this Resolution; <p>Stage 4: Measures to be taken regarding the implementation of recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) the Secretariat shall monitor progress against the recommendations, taking account of the different deadlines; k) once the range State has reported on the implementation of recommendations or the deadlines have passed, whichever is first and, following timely intersessional consultation with members of the Animals or Plants Committee through the Chairs, the Secretariat shall determine whether the recommendations referred to above have been implemented; i) where the recommendations have been met, the Secretariat shall, following consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, notify the range States concerned that the species/country combination was removed from the review process and include the rationale for its evaluation, noting where relevant, specific commitments made by the range States in question and, 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 relevant Committee along with a justification, for their agreement; or ii) when the recommendations are not deemed to have been met (and no new information is provided), the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the members of the Animals or Plants Committee through the Chairs, recommend to the Standing Committee appropriate action, which may include, as a last resort, a suspension of trade in the affected species with that State; or iii) where the recommendations are not deemed to have been met or have been partially met, and there is new information suggesting the recommendation may require updating, the Secretariat shall, in a timely fashion, request the members of the Animals or Plants Committee, through the Chairs, to prepare a revised recommendation, keeping in mind the principles that recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should promote capacity building.

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	<p>The Secretariat shall provide the revised recommendation to the range States within 30 days of its drafting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> l) the Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee on its evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations, including the rationale for its evaluation and, where relevant, specific commitments made by the range States in question, and a summary of the views expressed by the Animals or Plants Committees. The Secretariat shall additionally report on any further actions taken by the Animals or Plants Committee in the case of range States where new information has resulted in revised recommendations; m) for range States where recommendations are not deemed to have been met, the Standing Committee shall decide, at its next regular meeting or intersessionally as appropriate, on necessary action and make recommendations to the range State concerned, or to all Parties, keeping in mind that these recommendations should be time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, transparent, and should promote capacity building. In exceptional circumstances, where the range State under consideration provides new information on the implementation of the recommendations to the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee through the Secretariat, shall consult in a timely fashion with the members of the Animals or Plants Committee through the Chair, prior to making a decision on necessary action; n) the Secretariat shall notify all Parties of any recommendations or actions taken by the Standing Committee; o) a recommendation to suspend trade in the affected species with the range State concerned should be withdrawn only when that range State demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the members of the Animals or Plants Committee, through the relevant Chair, compliance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a); and p) the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals or Plants Committee, shall review recommendations to suspend trade that have been in place for longer than two years, evaluate the reasons why this is the case in consultation with the range State, and, if appropriate, take measures to address the situation; <p><i>Regarding capacity building, monitoring, reporting, and evaluating the review process</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. DIRECTS the Secretariat, for the purpose of monitoring and facilitating the implementation of this Resolution and the relevant paragraphs of Article IV: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to report at each meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee on the implementation by the range States concerned of the recommendations made by the Committee; and b) to maintain a database of species/country combinations that are included in the review process set out in this Resolution including a record of progress with the implementation of recommendations; 6. DIRECTS the Secretariat to include training on the Review of Significant Trade process as part of its capacity building activities related to the making of non-detriment findings; 7. DIRECTS the Animals or Plants Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, to undertake a regular review of the outcomes of the Review of Significant Trade by, for example, examining a sample of past species/country combinations to assess whether implementation of Article IV paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a) was improved. The Animals or Plants Committee should consider the results of this review and revise the Review of Significant Trade process as necessary. In doing so, feedback should be obtained from range States (including their Scientific Authorities) who have been through the review process;

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<p>Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) Standard nomenclature</p>	<p>2. RECOMMENDS that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) where there are domesticated forms of listed taxa, the Animals and Plants Committees recommend names for the wild and domestic forms; e) upon receiving proposals to amend the Appendices to the Convention, the Secretariat seek, where appropriate, the advice of the Animals and Plants Committees on the correct names to use for the species or other taxa in question; f) whenever a change in the name of a taxon included in the Appendices is proposed, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, determine whether this change would alter the scope of protection for fauna or flora under the Convention. In the case where the scope of a taxon is redefined, the Animals or Plants Committee shall evaluate whether acceptance of the taxonomic change would cause additional species to be included in the Appendices or listed species to be deleted from the Appendices and, if that is the case, the Depository Government should be requested to submit a proposal to amend the Appendices in accordance with the recommendation of the Animals or Plants Committee, so that the original intent of the listing is retained. Such proposals should be submitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees will be considered; g) if the Animals or Plants Committee proposes nomenclatural changes relating to taxa included in Appendix-III, they should advise the Secretariat whether these changes would also result in changes in distribution that would affect the determination of which countries would be required to issue certificates of origin; h) if there is conflict regarding the choice of taxonomic authority for taxa for which no standard references have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties, countries authorizing export of animals or plants (or parts or derivatives thereof) of such taxa inform the CITES Secretariat and prospective importing countries of their preferred published taxonomic authority. 'Taxonomic authority' means a recent published paper or monograph that reviews the nomenclature of the taxon being exported and that has been reviewed by professionals in the pertinent discipline. In cases where specimens of the taxon are exported from several countries and the exporting countries do not agree, or the exporting and importing countries do not agree, on the taxonomic authority, the Animals or Plants Committee should determine the most appropriate taxonomic authority, until a formal recommendation to the Conference of the Parties is made. The Animals or Plants Committee shall include this interim decision in its report to the Conference of the Parties, for adoption. The Secretariat shall notify the Parties about the interim decision; k) when the Animals or Plants Committee recommends a change in the name of a taxon to be used in the Appendices, it also provide an evaluation of the implications for the implementation of the Convention; <p>3. RECOMMENDS the following procedure for updating current standard nomenclatural references and adoption of new ones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the process for updating current standard nomenclatural references and adoption of new ones shall be initiated directly by the Animals or Plants Committee on their own initiative or by the submission of a proposal to the Committees by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) one or more Parties; or ii) the Secretariat, on its own initiative or in response to information it has received from the Parties; and b) proposed changes shall be based on recognized taxonomic publications. In the case where a proposed amendment to the

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	<p>nomenclatural status of a taxon is still under discussion, the new taxonomy should not be adopted;</p> <p>4. RESOLVES that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, may make orthographical changes in the lists of species included in the Appendices to the Convention, without consulting the Conference of the Parties, and shall inform the Parties of those changes;</p> <p>5. DIRECTS the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, and in the implementation of its memoranda of understanding or cooperation, or programmes of work with other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, to consider ways of harmonizing the taxonomy and nomenclature of species included in their respective provisions;</p> <p>7. RECOGNIZES the <i>Checklist of CITES species</i>, compiled by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 2005, and its updates, as an official digest of scientific names contained in the standard references, that fully reflects the taxonomy and nomenclature contained in the original species proposals, the recommendations of the Animals or Plants Committee and all accepted names included in the standard references that have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties for species included in the Appendices;</p> <p>9. URGES Parties to assign to their Scientific Authorities the principal responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) interpretation of the listings; b) consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee as appropriate; c) identification of nomenclatural issues that may warrant further review by the appropriate CITES committee and preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices if appropriate; and d) supporting and cooperating in the development and maintenance of the checklists; <p>11. DIRECTS the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, to promote harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature used by biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements;</p>
<p>Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines</p>	<p>1. URGES the Parties to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) make use of the <i>Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity</i>, also taking into account scientific, trade and enforcement considerations determined by national circumstances, as well as the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees (see Annex 2) when adopting non-detriment-making processes and making CITES non-detriment findings;
<p>Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) CITES compliance procedures</p>	<p>Annex: Guide to CITES compliance procedures <i>The various bodies and their compliance-related tasks</i></p> <p>13. The Animals and Plants Committees, acting in accordance with instructions from and authority delegated by the Conference of the Parties, advise and assist the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties with regard to compliance matters, inter alia, by undertaking necessary reviews, consultations, assessments and reporting. These Committees are entrusted with specific tasks in the handling of matters related to the Review of Significant Trade.</p>
<p>Conf. 14.4 Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber</p>	<p>5. URGES Parties to support and contribute to work, guided by the CITES Plants Committee, to develop appropriate listing proposals based on the best available science to ensure the conservation of timber species and help ensure that trade does not threaten their survival;</p>
<p>Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)</p>	<p>1. AGREES that the Animals and Plants Committees shall conduct a periodic review of species listed in Appendix I and II, seeking information, participation and support from the range States. The regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees shall seek</p>

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<p>Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II</p>	<p>assistance from range States within their region to support the taxon reviews;</p> <p>2. FURTHER AGREES that the review will be conducted in accordance to the following process:</p> <p>a) normally, after every second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees shall establish a schedule for the periodic review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods. The list should be established at the first meetings of the Committees after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) that initiates the review period;</p> <p>b) the Animals and Plants Committees shall select a practical sub-subset of CITES-listed species of flora or fauna for analysis pursuant to the following methods and guidance:</p> <p>i) the Secretariat shall, subject to availability of funding, undertake or appoint consultants to undertake the assessment outlined in the Annex and prepare the resulting outputs for consideration by the Scientific Committees at their first meeting after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties that initiates the review period (Note: if no funding is available, the Secretariat shall inform the Parties and the Scientific Committees' Chairs);</p> <p>ii) the following taxa should not be considered for review:</p> <p>A. species that were the subject of listing proposals at the previous three meetings of the Conference of the Parties (whether or not the proposals were adopted);</p> <p>B. species subject to ongoing reviews, under the Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)], or periodic reviews conducted within the last 10 years; or</p> <p>C. species subject to other reviews targeted by valid Decisions and Resolutions of the CoP; and</p> <p>D. species for which it is clear that there has been no change in the status, range or trade and for which there is no possibility to need to amend the Appendices; and</p> <p>iii) outputs resulting from the assessment conducted in accordance with the Annex to this Resolution shall contain the following information in summary tables that include:</p> <p>A. a summary of trade data since the initial inclusion of that taxon in the Appendices;</p> <p>B. current conservation status, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category of the species, if assessed;</p> <p>C. current listing in the CITES Appendices, criteria under which it was listed (if known), date of first listing; and</p> <p>D. the distribution of the species (range States);</p> <p>c) at the first meetings of the Committees after the meeting of the CoP that initiates the review period and based on the outputs prepared in subparagraph 2 b) above, the Animals and Plants Committees will identify the list of taxa to be considered for periodic review;</p> <p>d) the Secretariat shall send a copy of the proposed list of taxa to be reviewed to all Parties, and request range States of the taxa to comment within 60 days on whether they support a review of the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the reviews. The responses shall be relayed by the Secretariat to the Animals or Plants Committee. If no volunteer offers to undertake a review within two intersessional periods between CoPs, those taxa shall be deleted from the list of species to be reviewed;</p> <p>e) each review (ideally in the format of a proposal used to amend the Appendices) is to be submitted as a working document to the Animals</p>

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	<p>or Plants Committee for review, clearly specifying the recommendation with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). The Secretariat shall notify the relevant range States of these working documents in advance of the meeting of the Committee;</p> <p>f) the Animals or Plants Committees may also evaluate reviews undertaken independently by Parties and submitted for their consideration;</p> <p>g) based on the information as per subparagraph 2 e) above, the Animals or Plants Committee is to make a recommendation on whether it would be appropriate to retain a taxon in the Appendix in which it is currently listed, transfer a taxon from one Appendix to another, or to delete a taxon from the Appendices;</p> <p>h) the Animals or Plants Committee shall draft its recommendation with reference to the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). The Committee shall report its conclusions to the Conference of the Parties, and the Secretariat shall inform the range State(s) for the species reviewed of the conclusion of the Committee; and</p> <p>i) in the event that the Committee recommends a change in the CITES listing status for the species reviewed:</p> <p>i) the Secretariat shall invite the range State(s) of the species reviewed to submit a proposal to the next Conference of the Parties; and</p> <p>ii) if no range State expresses a willingness to submit the proposal, the Secretariat may request the Depository Government to submit it as specified in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) and to include the comments of the range States in the supporting statement, if so requested by the Animals or Plants Committee;</p> <p>3. RECOMMENDS the Animals and Plants Committees should share their experience, especially during joint meetings, regarding the undertaking of periodic reviews of taxa included in the Appendices (including financing of reviews, processes, format and outputs);</p> <p>4. ENCOURAGES the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties to facilitate periodic reviews by:</p> <p>a) collaborating with university graduate students, including those from the CITES Master's Programme at the International University of Andalusia;</p> <p>b) collaborating with other non-Party reviewers including species experts such as IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Groups;</p> <p>c) using readily available information on species' conservation status from organizations (e.g. IUCN, BirdLife, etc.) and Parties;</p> <p>d) seeking financial support for reviews, including from importing countries, as appropriate; and</p> <p>e) increasing communication between the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and suggest coordination with Parties when animal and plant species' ranges overlap;</p> <p>5. DIRECTS the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees to keep the Standing Committee informed about the conduct of periodic reviews, noting that Standing Committee approval is not required to initiate the process;</p>
<p>Conf. 16.5 Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p>2. DIRECTS the Secretariat to encourage the exchange of information related to the GSPC and other plant conservation and sustainable use initiatives, by:</p> <p>a) promoting awareness of ongoing CITES activities that contribute to the achievement of GSPC Targets, by communicating information among CITES bodies and Parties on the operations and outcomes of CITES processes, such as the Review of Significant Trade, Periodic Review of the Appendices, proposals to amend the CITES Appendices, and formulation of Non-detriment Findings (NDFs), among others;</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) collaborating with the CBD Secretariat to streamline reporting on relevant CITES activities related to the GSPC Targets; c) including the GSPC in any work plans developed under the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat of CBD; and d) inviting a CBD representative to participate as an observer at Plants Committee meetings that address GSPC; <p>3. DIRECTS the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to promote CITES collaboration with CBD on the implementation of the GSPC by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) representing the CITES Plants Committee at meetings of CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and other GSPC meetings subject to the availability of external funding; and b) providing contributions for CBD documents regarding the implementation of the GSPC.
<p>Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) Non-detriment findings</p>	<p>3. DIRECTS the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to maintain a prominent section for non-detriment findings on the CITES website and to update it regularly with information from the Animals and Plants Committees, Parties and other sources; b) to implement a user-friendly mechanism on the CITES website that would allow Parties to easily submit relevant information to be considered for inclusion in the website; c) to ensure that this information is accessible in the appropriate sections of the CITES Virtual College; and d) to assist in identifying possible funding sources to help Parties implementing capacity-building activities related to the making of non-detriment findings.
<p>Conf. 16.10 Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa</p>	<p><i>Regarding management and trade control</i></p> <p>9. ENCOURAGES Parties to make use of the Glossary as a reference while inspecting and controlling specimens of agarwood products. The Glossary was adopted by the Plants Committee at its 20th meeting (Geneva and Dublin, March 2012) and is presented in document CoP16 Inf. 3, in which the images illustrate samples of products but do not represent the whole range of products of agarwood.</p>
<p>Conf. 18.1 Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2020-2022</p>	<p>26. FURTHER DECIDES that the standard participation charge for all observer organizations other than the United Nations and its specialized agencies at meetings of the Standing Committee and the Animals and Plants Committees shall be set at a minimum of USD 100 for each observer participant (except as otherwise decided by the Secretariat as required and following consultation with the Finance and Budget Subcommittee);</p> <p>27. AFFIRMS that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) all meetings of the Conference of the Parties and all regular meetings of the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee should be held in the Host country of the Secretariat unless a candidate host country pays the difference in costs between its proposed venue and the Host country; and b) candidate host country is to sign the Host Country Agreement no later than six months after the decision is made by the Conference of the Parties or 60 days after the decision is made by the Committees to hold the meeting outside the host country of the Secretariat; and c) no more than two regular meetings each of the Standing Committee, and the Animals and Plants Committees should be convened between regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties; <p>28. DIRECTS the Secretariat to make provision for the payment, if requested, of reasonable and justifiable travel expenses of members, including attendance at the relevant committee meetings, and other expenses of the Chairs of the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, other than members from developed countries;</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>30. REQUESTS the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to make provisions for all the costs the Secretariat incurs, including costs associated with the hiring of temporary staff and consultants, when seeking funds for the implementation of externally funded projects; b) to seek the most cost effective translation and interpretation services; c) in consultation with proponent Parties, when necessary, to advise the Conference of the Parties on proposals with budgetary implications, including staff costs; and d) in consultation with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, to assign scientific consultants and define terms of reference for specific science-based projects. Such a process should be implemented in a fashion that would not have a negative impact on the budget, but rather effectively utilize the scientific expertise of the Parties which is available to the Secretariat via the Chairs of the technical committees;
<p>Conf.18.2 Establishment of Committees</p>	<p>3. ESTABLISHES the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee as its scientific advisory bodies, which shall report to the Conference of the Parties at its meetings and, if so requested, to the Standing Committee between meetings of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with their Terms of Reference as found in Annex 2 of this Resolution;</p> <p><i>Regarding regional sessions at meetings of the Conference of the Parties</i></p> <p>7. AGREES that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) regional sessions should be held at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties; such sessions should have an official character and should have an agenda; b) the Chair of each regional session should be the representative of a regional Member of the Standing Committee; c) each region has specific tasks to fulfil, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) selection, as appropriate, of Parties as Members and alternate Members of the Standing Committee, and experts as Members and alternate Members of the Animals and Plants Committees; ii) the regions with more than one Member on a committee should review at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties the way the representation should be exercised; and iii) other tasks depending to a large extent on the agenda of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. <p><i>Regarding conflict of Interest in committees where the membership consists of individuals</i></p> <p>8. AGREES that a “conflict of interest” refers to any current financial interest which could significantly impair an individual’s impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a Member of a committee. A candidate’s employment by itself does not automatically constitute a conflict of interest. For committees where individuals are elected as Members, such as the Animals Committee and Plants Committee, the following procedures apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parties proposing candidates as Members or alternate Members are to request that, together with their names and <i>curricula vitae</i>, each candidate provides a Declaration of Interest which should be circulated to the Parties of the region concerned before the meeting of the Conference by the Parties at which the Members will be elected. In that declaration in the standard disclosure form agreed by the Standing Committee, the candidate should disclose any current financial interest that might call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence in carrying out his or her duties as a Member or alternate Member of the committee; b) Following an election, the declaration of interest and the <i>curriculum vitae</i> of each Member and alternate Member shall be made available

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>by the Secretariat to the Chair and the Members of the committee concerned, and to the Chair of the Standing Committee; and</p> <p>c) Each Member and acting Member shall, at the beginning of each meeting of the committee using the standard disclosure form agreed by the Standing Committee, declare whether they have any financial interests that he or she considers call into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the agenda for that meeting of the committee. A conflict of interest may also be identified by any credible source and brought to the attention of the Chair of the committee through the Secretariat. If a Member has such a financial interest, he or she may take part in discussions but not in the decision-making regarding the agenda item in question. If the Member is the subject of the potential conflict of interest, he or she shall not chair the meeting or sub-meeting for the agenda item in question.</p> <p>Annex 2 – Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees of the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>Purpose</p> <p>1. As the scientific advisory committees of the Conference of the Parties, the Animals and Plants Committees play an important role in providing scientific and technical expertise and advice for the implementation of a broad range of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. This is evidenced in the adoption of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on the <i>Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II</i>, Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on the <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species</i> and Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Standard nomenclature</i>, for example. Further, Parties have recognized the importance of making available the best technical and scientific advice regarding CITES-listed species from different sources, origins and production systems, as well as the importance of assisting Parties in making non-detriment findings, and supporting their Scientific Authorities in accordance with Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Non-detriment findings</i>. Parties have additionally recognized that nomenclature used in the Appendices or for proposals for listing new species in the Appendices will be most useful to the Parties if standardized through adoption of standard nomenclatural references, which also facilitates identification and tracking of specimens of CITES-listed species in trade and harmonises cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements.</p> <p>Functions</p> <p>2. The Animals and Plants Committee shall, in accordance with instructions from and authority delegated by the Conference of the Parties in its resolutions and decisions:</p> <p>a) provide scientific advice and guidance to the Conference of the Parties, the other committees, the Secretariat and Parties on matters relevant to international trade in animal and plant species included in the Appendices;</p> <p>b) undertake the tasks which are directed to them by the Conference of the Parties through relevant resolutions or decisions including:</p> <p>i) review the biological, trade and other relevant information on Appendix-II species, subject to significant levels of trade in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species</i>;</p> <p>ii) conduct periodic reviews of species included in Appendix I and II in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Periodic Reviews of species included in Appendix I and II</i>;</p> <p>iii) identify and address nomenclatural issues in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Standard nomenclature</i>; and</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>iv) for the Animals Committee review biological, trade and other relevant information regarding animal species subject to significant levels of trade using source codes C, D, F or R in accordance with Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity</i>;</p> <p>c) upon request by Parties or the Secretariat, provide advice on the making of non-detriment findings in the context of Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Non-detriment findings</i>, and on the management of quotas in the context of Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on <i>Management of nationally established export quotas</i>;</p> <p>d) provide scientific advice on identification issues, and on training and other capacity-building materials, tools and guides to promote their accuracy and availability;</p> <p>e) upon request by Parties, provide advice related to scientific, technical and nomenclatural aspects of proposals to amend the Appendices;</p> <p>f) upon request by Parties, provide technical, scientific and nomenclatural advice to Parties concerning the management of trade in specimens of CITES-listed species from different sources, origins and production systems, including captive breeding and artificial propagation;</p> <p>g) draft resolutions or decisions on scientific matters related to animals or plants, for consideration by the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, with a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding;</p> <p>h) perform any other functions that may be entrusted to them by the Conference of the Parties or the Standing Committee; and</p> <p>i) report to the Conference of the Parties and, if so requested, to the Standing Committee, on the activities they have carried out or supervised between meetings of the Conference.</p> <p>3. In giving instructions to the Animals and Plants Committees, the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee agree to pay due attention to whether the nature of the work is within their mandate as set out in paragraph 2, and whether the committees have the resources, time and expertise to undertake such work.</p> <p>4. When making requests in the context of paragraph 2 c), e) and f) above, Parties should be mindful of the limited resources of the committees.</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>5. The membership of the Animals and Plants Committee shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties and consist of:</p> <p>a) one person selected by each of the major geographic regions consisting of North America and Oceania based on candidates nominated by Parties from these regions;</p> <p>b) two persons selected by each of the major geographic regions consisting of Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, and Europe based on candidates nominated by Parties from these regions; and</p> <p>c) a specialist on zoological nomenclature (Animals Committee) and a specialist on botanical nomenclature (Plants Committee) selected by their respective Committees based on candidates nominated by Parties, and who are <i>ex-officio</i> and non-voting.</p> <p>6. One person shall also be selected and elected as an alternate Member for each of the Members listed in paragraph 5 above to serve as an acting Member at meetings only in the absence of the Member for whom he/she is the alternate.</p> <p>7. The membership of the Committees shall be reviewed at every regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The terms of office of the Members shall commence at the close of the regular meeting at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second regular meeting thereafter.</p>

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>8. A Chair and a Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Committee from amongst the regional Members and shall normally serve until the close of the second regular meeting after being elected. In the absence of the Chair at a meeting, the Vice-Chair shall be acting as the Chair.</p> <p>9. The Chair should be replaced in his/her role of regional Member by his/her alternate. In the absence at a meeting of the alternate in question, the Chair shall serve also as regional Member for his/her region on an ad hoc basis.</p> <p>10. Regarding nomination of candidates, the following guidelines should be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parties proposing candidates as Members or alternate Members should confirm, at the time of nomination, that the candidate will be supported and that they will obtain the necessary means to undertake their activities; b) the names of the proposed candidates, and their <i>curricula vitae</i>, should be officially submitted to the Secretariat at least 120 days before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the representatives will be elected. These candidatures should be communicated to all the Parties of the region concerned as soon as possible thereafter by the Secretariat. In case of the nomenclature specialists, the names and their <i>curricula vitae</i> of the proposed candidates shall be circulated to the relevant committee; c) ideally the candidates should be associated with a Scientific Authority, have adequate knowledge of CITES and receive sufficient institutional support to carry out their duties. This information should also be included in the <i>curricula vitae</i>; and d) proposed candidates should be persons; a Party should not be accepted as a proposed candidate even if it plans to identify a person at a later time. <p>11. Regarding the timing of replacement of regional Members and alternate Members, the procedure should be the same as that described above for the Standing Committee and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) as alternate Members are alternates of specified Members, they should be elected at the same time as the Members; b) if a region wishes to re-elect a Member or alternate Member, there is nothing to prevent it from doing so; and c) in the event that no nominations have been received before the deadline the incumbent shall remain, if so willing and able, as a representative until a replacement is elected. <p>12. In the event of a vacancy arising amongst the Members or alternate Members of a committee between regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the following procedure shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Secretariat shall notify the vacancy to the committee concerned, the Chair of the Standing Committee and the regional Member(s) of the Standing Committee from the region concerned (which may be all regions in the case of a nomenclature specialist); b) the Secretariat shall immediately issue a Notification to the Parties calling for nominations from Parties in the region or regions concerned for a person to fill the vacancy on an interim basis; c) the Secretariat shall provide the names and <i>curricula vitae</i> of the candidates received to the Chair of the Standing Committee and to the Standing Committee's Regional Member(s) from the region concerned or, in the case of a vacancy for a nomenclature specialist, to the committee concerned. They will decide on the person to fill the vacancy on an interim basis until the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties; d) until a decision is reached in the case of a vacancy of a Member, the provisions of paragraph 6 above apply; and

Resolution	Instruction
	<p>e) At the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with paragraph 5 of the present Annex. Nothing shall prevent the person appointed on an interim basis from being later proposed to fill the position.</p> <p><i>Duties of the Members of the Animals and Plants Committees</i></p> <p>13. The duties of the Members elected to the Animals and Plants Committees and their alternates are as follows:</p> <p>a) each Member should, to the best of his/her abilities, act as impartially as possible and endeavour to base his/her judgements and opinions upon an objective, scientific assessment of the available evidence;</p> <p>b) each Member should collaborate with his/her alternate regarding the work to be done between the meetings of the committee;</p> <p>c) each Member should maintain regular communication with the Parties in his/her region;</p> <p>d) when a region has more than one representative, the representatives should also agree which Parties each represents. Contact should also be established with non-Parties in the region;</p> <p>e) each Member should increase the awareness of the role and function of the committee, its mandate and the issues of concern to his/her region through mechanisms such as participation in seminars or in related meetings organized by the Secretariat and by other organizations at regional or sub-regional level;</p> <p>f) before the meetings of the committee, the Members should inform and consult the Parties in their regions about the agenda and in particular on matters specifically relevant to the countries of the region;</p> <p>g) the Members should submit a written report, covering the preceding period, to each meeting of the committee;</p> <p>h) the Members should inform the Parties in their regions of the results of each meeting of the committee in particular on matters specifically relevant to the countries of the region;</p> <p>i) the Members must inform the alternates well in advance if they will not attend a forthcoming committee meeting; and</p> <p>j) the Members should provide to their successors all relevant information on the activities in the region.</p> <p>14. The zoological and botanical nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees shall coordinate, monitor and analyse the input needed from specialists in fulfilling their responsibilities as assigned by the Parties.</p> <p><i>Meeting Procedures</i></p> <p>15. When back-to-back meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees include a joint session, the duration of the separate committee meetings should be four days, but when not back-to-back, the length of each meeting should be five days, unless the Chair and the Secretariat consider that a shorter meeting may be sufficient.</p> <p><i>Financial Support</i></p> <p>16. The Conference of the Parties determines the budget of the Secretariat, including the financial resources provided to support meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees and associated eligible travel expenses. Each Member from a developing country and the nomenclature specialists are eligible to seek payment of travel expenses to attend each regular meeting of the Animals or Plants Committee.</p> <p>17. Parties and regions are urged to utilize or develop long-term sustainable funding mechanisms to support their representatives in the Committees, including the nomenclature specialists.</p>

Resolution	Instruction
<p>Conf. 18.3 CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030</p>	<p>The <i>CITES Strategic Vision</i> provides a framework for the future development of the CITES Resolutions and Decisions and provides guidance on goals and objectives to be achieved. The Conference of the Parties, through its Resolutions and Decisions, will determine actions to be taken by Parties, the Committees or the Secretariat, as appropriate. The Strategic Vision also serves the Parties as a tool for the prioritization of activities, and decisions on how best to fund them, in light of the need for the efficient and transparent use of resources.</p>
<p>Conf. 18.4 Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</p>	<p>3. Instructs the Standing Committee, working with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure that there is a two-way relationship between CITES and IPBES in which CITES is a user or beneficiary of IPBES, as well as a contributor to IPBES; b) ensure that communication between CITES and IPBES is effective; c) promote the needs of national Scientific and Management Authorities in the work of IPBES to foster the use of applied science for the implementation of CITES, including the making of non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings, and related trade resolutions and decisions; d) ensure that CITES requests and input to intersessional and regular work undertaken by IPBES are provided in accordance with relevant timelines; and e) ensure that any inputs are conveyed to IPBES, with the endorsement of the Chair of the Standing Committee after consultation with the Committee and the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees, by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee; <p>5. INSTRUCTS the Animals and Plants Committees, through their Chairs, to assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of this Resolution and, to participate, when relevant and subject to external resources, as observers in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and thereby reinforce linkages between the MEP and the CITES scientific committees; and</p> <p>6. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) assist the Standing Committee with the implementation of this Resolution; b) track the intersessional and regular work of IPBES bodies and, as appropriate and subject to external funding, participate as an observer in the governing body of IPBES and thereby reinforce linkages between that body and the governing bodies of CITES; and c) seek external funding to support attendance at IPBES meetings by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat.
<p>Conf. 18.6 Designation and role of Management Authorities</p>	<p>8. FURTHER REMINDS Parties that the specific reporting commitments implemented by their Management Authorities include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) coordinating the preparation of an annual illegal trade report and submitting this report to the Secretariat by 31 October each year covering actions in the preceding year, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>National reports</i> and with the <i>Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report</i>; and b) reporting, where appropriate, on specific issues concerning the implementation of the Convention as requested by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee, the Animals Committee, the Plants Committee or the Secretariat in accordance with relevant Resolutions, Decisions and Notifications to the Parties;

DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE
OR THAT MAY REQUIRE ITS INPUTS OR ASSISTANCE

Administrative and financial matters

Tree species programme

Directed to Parties

- 18.14 Parties are invited to provide information to the Secretariat regarding their experiences, lessons learned and recommendations on:
- a) past work under the ITTO-CITES programme for implementing CITES for tropical timber species and its contribution to their implementation of the Convention; and
 - b) work under the CITES Tree Species Programme for implementing CITES for tree species listed in Appendix II.

Directed to the Plants Committees

- 18.15 The Plants Committee shall consider any reports by the Secretariat on the implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme and provide recommendations as appropriate to the Secretariat and the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.16 The Standing Committee shall consider reports by the Secretariat and the Plants Committee on the CITES Tree Species Programme, and, taking into account other discussions relating to capacity-building activities, provide recommendations to the Secretariat, Parties and organizations, on the CITES Tree Species Programme and its long-term future.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 18.17 The Secretariat shall:
- a) collect information on Decision 18.14 and make it available to the Plants Committee;
 - b) report progress made with the implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme to the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee;
 - c) report, in consultation with the Standing Committee, on progress made with the implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
 - d) continue cooperation with organizations working on forest related matters, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to strengthen the support to Parties for implementing the Convention for listed tree species.

CITES Strategic Vision

Directed to Parties

18.23 Parties' Management Authorities are encouraged to communicate with their national Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) focal points to seek to ensure CITES aims are reflected in the outcomes of their domestic processes to develop contributions to the post-2020 biodiversity framework anticipated to be adopted by the Parties to the CBD in 2020.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.24 The Secretariat shall:

- a) undertake a comparative analysis in order to illustrate the linkages between the adopted *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030* and the goals within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, once adopted, the post-2020 biodiversity framework, and present their analysis to the Standing Committee for their information; and
- b) review the objectives of *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030* against the current CITES Resolutions and Decisions and identify to the Animals and Plants Committee as appropriate, and to the Standing Committee those objectives (if any) where the current CITES policies as found in the Resolutions and Decisions do not appear to address activities in support of achieving that objective of the CITES Strategic Vision.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.25 The Animals and Plants Committees shall consider the review prepared by the Secretariat under Decision 18.24, paragraph b) and provide their recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.26 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) in consultation with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and taking into account the information provided by Parties via the Report on Implementation as well as the comparative analysis prepared by the Secretariat under Decision 18.24, paragraph a), make recommendations on new or revised indicators of progress to be included in the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030*, for consideration by the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- b) review the information provided by the Secretariat in Decision 18.24, as well as the views of the Animals and Plants Committees, and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Appendix-I listed species

Directed to the Secretariat

18.28 Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) contract consultants, as appropriate, to undertake the following:
 - i) conduct a rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal trade in, species included in Appendix I;
 - ii) in consultation with range States, produce detailed assessments on the conservation status, threats, relevance of trade, ongoing *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation strategies or recovery plans and funding/resources available or required for the species concerned and selected; and
 - iii) produce a report identifying and prioritizing those Appendix-I species that could potentially benefit from future action under CITES; and

- b) produce a report with its recommendations to the Animals and Plants Committees for consideration at their 32nd and 26th meetings, respectively.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.29 The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report and recommendations submitted by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision 18.28, paragraph b), and formulate recommendations, as appropriate, for communication to the range States and consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Capacity-building

Directed to Parties

18.39 Parties are invited to:

- a) provide information to the Secretariat regarding capacity-building materials and efforts that could be shared among Parties;
- b) utilize the CITES Virtual College to support capacity-building activities and provide the Secretariat with inputs and financial support to update and improve its services, including translation of the contents into national languages;
- c) use the CITES implementation reports, as well as direct expression of interest, to inform the Secretariat about their capacity needs;
- d) support the capacity-building efforts of other Parties by providing scholarships for in-person training or training opportunities, and by translating materials into non-working languages of the Convention; and
- e) share ideas, experiences, and information related to the development of a capacity building framework in response to the Notification to Parties issued by the Secretariat under Decision 18.46, paragraph a).

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.40 The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report of the Secretariat called for in Decision 18.46, paragraph c), and provide input and make recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.41 The Standing Committee shall establish a working group on capacity-building to advise the Standing Committee on the actions outlined in Decisions 18.42 and 18.43 for the development of an integrated capacity-building framework to improve implementation of the Convention. The working group shall include, but not be limited to, participation of: members of the Standing Committee, the Animals and Plants Committees, the Budget and Finance Subcommittee, and the Secretariat. The working group shall also include a balanced representation of Parties from each region, as well as Parties that are donors and Parties that are recipients of capacity support.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.42 The Standing Committee shall provide guidance to the Secretariat to refine and consolidate the areas of capacity-building efforts, taking into account the discussions on the Compliance Assistance Programme and Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews, as well as the discussion on the development of an integrated capacity building framework outlined in Decision 18.41.*

* *The Secretariat believes that the intention was to refer to Decision 18.41 and not 18.43.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.43 The Standing Committee shall undertake the following:

- a) review Resolution Conf. 3.4 on *Technical cooperation* with the view to incorporating capacity-building needs;
- b) consider the inputs and recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees pursuant to Decision 18.40; and
- c) make recommendations, including a possible new or revised draft resolution as well as models, tools and guiding documents on capacity building, as appropriate, based on the outcome of the work in Decision 18.46 as well as documents CoP18 Doc. 21.2 and Doc. 21.3, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.44 The Secretariat shall:

- a) collect information on capacity-building materials and efforts from Parties and others, and make them available to Parties through the CITES website;
- b) subject to the availability of external funding, undertake the revision and enhancement of the CITES website and of the CITES Virtual College, including selected online courses, to update the content and to improve their effectiveness in providing access to capacity-building resources to Parties;
- c) subject to the availability of external funding, provide compliance-related and other general capacity-building support to Parties;
- d) inform the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees when needs arise for their review or inputs on capacity-building materials; and
- e) subject to the availability of external funding, further cooperate with institutions and organizations to provide Parties with joint capacity-building assistance of relevance to CITES, and provide scholarships for in-person training or training opportunities, and translate materials into non-working languages of the Convention, for example through: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) (including each of its partners), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International University of Andalusia (UNIA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Directed to the Secretariat

18.45 In carrying out capacity-building activities, the Secretariat shall pay particular attention to the needs of Parties identified through compliance procedures, recently acceded Parties, developing country Parties, and Small Island Developing States.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.46 The Secretariat shall:

- a) based on document CoP18 Doc. 21.3 Annex 5 and in consultation with the Standing Committee, develop a questionnaire and issue a Notification to Parties transmitting the questionnaire to gather input to inform the development of an integrated capacity-building framework;
- b) liaise with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements to collect information regarding how their capacity-building efforts are targeted, accomplished, and tracked;

- c) prepare a report summarizing the outcomes of its implementation of Decision 18.46, paragraphs a) and b), the outcomes of the needs assessment working group summarized in document SC66 Doc. 20.2 (Rev.1), and the information on capacity-building needs provided by Parties through their implementation reports, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees; and
- d) subject to the availability of external funding and in consultation with the Standing Committee, Animals and Plants Committees, and the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee, organize a workshop that would facilitate the Standing Committee's tasks set out in Decisions 18.42 and 18.43.

Cooperation

Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Directed to the Secretariat

18.49 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, with relevant updates derived from the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Plants Committee and the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- b) in collaboration with the Plants Committee, update the report on the contribution of CITES to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) [see document CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1)], taking into account the analysis contained in information document PC24 Inf. 6, as well as the relevant outcomes of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and provide it to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for further consideration by the CBD at the 15th meeting of its Conference of the Parties;
- c) consult the Secretariat of CBD concerning the post-2020 future of the GSPC, and collaborate with the Plants Committee in drafting any required revision of Resolution Conf. 16.5 on Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020; and
- d) report on progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) to c) to the Plants Committee.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.50 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider the Secretariat's updated report as per Decision 18.49 above;
- b) in collaboration with the Secretariat and if considered appropriate, draft a revision to Resolution Conf. 16.5, taking into account the discussions under CBD regarding the post-2020 future of the GSPC, with a view to ensure that a two-way collaboration between both Conventions is reflected; and
- c) present its recommendations to the Standing Committee or the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.51 The Standing Committee shall consider any report prepared in response to Decision 18.50, and in coordination with the Plants Committee, convey its recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews

Directed to the Secretariat

18.71 The Secretariat shall:

- a) consider the 'Outlook and recommendations' regarding country-wide significant trade reviews, as articulated in the Annex to document AC30 Doc. 12.3/PC24 Doc. 13.3, and the resources required to undertake such reviews, and provide advice as to whether the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar can be integrated into other existing CITES mechanisms or programme activities, including capacity-building activities the proposed Compliance Assistance Programme, or whether a new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties at a national level;
- b) determine how Parties might qualify or apply for support under a 'country wide review' under existing mechanisms or any new mechanism; and
- c) prepare a report on its findings and recommendations, for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees at their 32nd and 26th meetings respectively, and subsequently for the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.72 The Animals and Plants Committees shall review the report by the Secretariat and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.73 The Standing Committee shall review the report and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees at its 74th meeting, and in consultation with the Secretariat, make recommendations for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which may include proposals for amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species* or other existing resolutions, or a new resolution.

Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa

Directed to Parties of West and Central Africa

18.88 Parties of West and Central Africa should:

- a) draw upon the information and recommendations provided in the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34 and the recommendations in Annex 2 of document CoP18 Doc. 34, to strengthen CITES implementation and address wildlife crime; and
- b) identify priority actions that could benefit from support and present these to the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC), donors and the development community, in order to seek support to implement them.

Directed to Parties of West and Central Africa

18.89 Parties in West and Central Africa identified as affected by illegal trade in wildlife within the region should engage in regional and bilateral activities to share information on their national legislative and regulatory measures to address such illegal trade, exchange experiences and best practices, and identify opportunities for regional and cross-border cooperation and joint actions, including where appropriate the formulation of national or regional action plans as anticipated by paragraph 14 a) ii) and 10 f) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, taking into consideration the provisions of paragraph 15 q) of the same Resolution.

Directed to Parties importing CITES specimens from West and Central Africa

- 18.90 Parties importing CITES specimens from West and Central Africa are encouraged to assist their counterparts in West and Central Africa, by implementing measures that will address wildlife crime and support legal trade that is limited to sustainable levels, in particular by:
- a) supporting efforts to determine and ensure sustainable levels of trade through scientific studies that can facilitate the making of robust non-detriment findings;
 - b) closely scrutinizing consignments of CITES-listed species imported from West and Central Africa and accompanying CITES documents to ensure that illegal species are not laundered into legal trade; and
 - c) as a priority, raise any concerns about imports with the exporting State, or with the Animals Committee, Plants Committee, Standing Committee, or the Secretariat.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations

- 18.91 Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance to Parties in West and Central Africa and mobilize resources to address the matters identified in the *West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report* available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and any further recommendations made by the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.92 The Standing Committee shall:
- a) consider the report from the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.93, paragraph d) and progress made by Parties in West and Central Africa in strengthening CITES implementation and make further recommendations as appropriate; and
 - b) consider any report from the Plants Committee, in response to the recommendation agreed at its 70th meeting, concerning the inclusion of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from all range States in the Review of Significant Trade and make recommendations as required.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 18.93 The Secretariat shall:
- a) draw to the attention of relevant United Nations agencies, the African Union, the Commission of Central African Forests, the Global Environmental Facility, and development agencies, the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34 and the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, and the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and encourage these to be taken into consideration in the development of work programmes or activities initiated by these entities in the two subregions;
 - b) subject to external funding, work with its partners in the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to support Parties in West and Central Africa in addressing illegal trade in wildlife, including addressing the matters identified in the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34; the recommendations in Annex 2 to document CoP18 Doc. 34, the guidelines in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3; and any further recommendations made by the Standing Committee;
 - c) subject to the availability of external funds and upon request from Parties, undertake general and targeted capacity-building activities to strengthen the effective implementation of CITES in the two subregions, taking into consideration the contents of information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3;

- d) report, as appropriate, to the Standing Committee on the results of the activities conducted in accordance with Decision 18.93 paragraphs a) to c); and
- e) the Secretariat shall give priority to the guidelines agreed by West African parties as contained in information documents SC70 Inf. 2 and SC70 Inf. 3 in the course of the implementation of its capacity-building work.

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

Directed to source, transit and destination Parties for Malagasy Dalbergia spp. and Diospyros spp.

- 18.94 Source, transit and destination Parties for specimens of species of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* occurring in Madagascar are urged to:
- a) enforce all the measures that are recommended by the CITES Standing Committee concerning commercial trade in specimens of these species from Madagascar, including suspensions of such trade;
 - b) effectively manage timber stockpiles of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar; and
 - c) provide written reports describing progress made with implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of this Decision to the 73rd and 74th meetings of the Standing Committee.

Directed to Parties and other relevant partners

- 18.95 Parties and relevant partners, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are invited to:
- a) enforce all measures that are recommended by the CITES Standing Committee concerning commercial trade in specimens of Malagasy *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar;
 - b) collaborate with Madagascar in the implementation of the agreed parts of the use plan to manage stockpiles of timber of these species from Madagascar; and
 - c) provide technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of Decision 18.96.

Directed to Madagascar

- 18.96 Madagascar shall:
- a) continue to identify the main commercially valuable species in the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar, in cooperation with the Secretariat and relevant partners, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
 - b) continue to make progress in the development of non-detriment findings for commercially valuable species in the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros*, including implementation of appropriate monitoring mechanisms;
 - c) for those species identified under paragraph a) establish, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, a precautionary export quota based upon a scientifically robust non-detriment finding;
 - d) continue the production of identification materials for timber and timber products from species of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar;
 - e) for those species identified under paragraph a), strengthen control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and export at the national level, including seizures, investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and sanctions, regardless of the title and level of responsibility of the offenders;

- f) subject to available funding, secure the stockpiles (including undeclared and hidden stocks) of timber of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* in Madagascar, and submit regular updates on audited inventories thereof, and a use plan based on transparency and independent oversight mechanisms, for consideration, approval and further guidance from the Standing Committee;
- g) share with the Secretariat a proposed budget, to seek assistance from Parties and technical and financial partners for the implementation of this Decision; and
- h) provide reports on progress with the implementation of Decision 18.96 to the 25th and 26th meetings of the Plants Committee and the 73rd and 74th meetings of the Standing Committee;

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.97 The Plants Committee shall, at its 25th and 26th meetings:

- a) review reports from Madagascar and the Secretariat as appropriate on the implementation of Decision 18.96, and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee and the Secretariat; and
- b) provide assistance to Madagascar with the implementation of Decision 18.96.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.98 The Standing Committee shall, at its 73rd and 74th meetings:

- a) review reports from Madagascar and the Secretariat on the implementation of Decisions 18.96 and 18.97, and make recommendations to Madagascar, relevant Parties and the Secretariat as appropriate, and take measures in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on CITES compliance procedures if Madagascar fails to satisfactorily implement the actions directed to it in Decision 18.96.
- b) consider establishing a small intersessional advisory group of Parties to assist and advise Madagascar on the implementation of all measures regarding *Dalbergia* spp and *Diospyros* spp.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.99 The Secretariat shall:

- a) assist in the implementation of Decisions 18.94 to 18.97;
- b) subject to external funding, assist with relevant capacity-building activities in Madagascar and transit and destination countries concerned by the trade in specimens of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar;
- c) issue a Notification calling on potential destination countries, of shipments of illegal specimens of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar to take appropriate measures to ensure that such timber is not illegally transported or traded, including prohibiting entry, seizing such specimens upon arrival and apply appropriate sanctions against traffickers in accordance with the provisions of the Convention; and
- d) provide reports on progress with the implementation of this Decision to the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Non-detriment findings

Directed to the Secretariat

18.132 The Secretariat shall:

- a) inventory and review the materials and guidance for the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) that are available to the Parties, and identify any apparent gaps or needs (e.g regarding taxonomic or geographical coverage, form or format, comprehensiveness, accessibility, languages, updates,

- practicality, etc.), including guidance for making NDFs for trade in specimens from different sources (W, R and F), and NDFs for taxa prioritized/called for in Decisions or Resolutions;
- b) identify, in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties, and based on the analysis, priorities for additional or improved NDF guidance materials, and for addressing apparent gaps or needs;
 - c) subject to external funding, address the agreed priorities in capacity-building by:
 - i) undertaking targeted research in support of the development of new or updated NDF guidance materials in collaboration with relevant experts, Parties and organizations; and
 - 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;
 - d) present the results of the work to the Animals and Plants Committees for their review, and make suggestions on how best to use the outputs to assist Scientific Authorities in the making of NDFs; and
 - e) make available to Parties on the CITES website the NDF guidance materials resulting from the implementation of the present Decision.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.133 The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) review the Secretariat's gap analysis of NDF materials and guidance, and assist in identifying priorities for additional or improved NDF guidance materials, and for addressing apparent gaps or needs;
- b) participate as appropriate in the interdisciplinary expert workshops on NDFs where draft guidance materials are to be reviewed, advanced or completed;
- c) assist the Secretariat in preparing the 2nd international expert workshop on non-detriment findings as a follow up from Cancun 2008, based on the progress made since then;
- d) review and make recommendations concerning the outcomes of the interdisciplinary expert workshops on NDFs; the final draft guidance materials on NDFs; the use of these outputs in support of the making of NDFs by Scientific Authorities; and their publication on the CITES website; and
- e) report on these activities at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties

18.134 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide financial support for the implementation of Decision 18.132, including the 2nd international expert workshop on non-detriment findings;
- b) provide any help and information regarding methodologies, tools, scientific information, expertise and any other resources used to formulate NDFs in order to contribute to such a workshop, the results of which should be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 19th meeting; and
- c) make use of the guidance materials on NDFs resulting from the implementation of Decisions 18.132 and 18.133, and report experiences and findings to the Animals and Plants Committees.

Identification materials

Directed to the Secretariat

18.135 The Secretariat shall:

- a) continue collecting information on identification materials and share it through the CITES Website and the CITES Virtual College; and
- b) subject to the availability of external funding, and with input from the joint working group called for under Decision 18.137, revise and redesign the CITES Virtual College in order to make the identification materials available in a more user-friendly manner.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.136 The Secretariat shall undertake a review of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*. It shall:

- a) collect and compile information on the current state of species identification activities and needs, and assess their relevance for the review of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16);
- b) consider whether Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) would best be revised or replaced with a new resolution on *Identification of specimens of CITES-listed species*, and prepare a draft text of the revised or new resolution;
- c) propose a revised resolution in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and the Standing Committee; and
- d) report on the progress and make recommendations at the meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees, and the meeting of the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.137 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 provide inputs to the Secretariat based on the outcomes of the following working group tasks, in consultation with the Secretariat:

- a) review selected identification materials, including material compiled as per Decision 18.136 paragraph a), 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 or Resolutions;
- b) review Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual*, taking into account the review outlined in Decision 18.137 paragraphs a) and c), to promote accuracy and availability of identification materials;
- c) consider ways 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.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.138 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) provide inputs on the draft resolution text prepared by the Secretariat and revised by the Animals and Plants Committees, to ensure that the needs for identification materials expressed by Parties and authorities responsible for wildlife law enforcement are taken into account; and
- b) submit the revised draft resolution to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to Parties

18.139 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.

Identification of timber and other wood products

Directed to the Plants Committee

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

- a) determine gaps and complementarities in various tools and knowledge sources for timber identification, such as existing field identification guidelines and keys, and on their availability and usefulness;
- b) develop standardized information templates and other tools that could be used by Parties to facilitate sharing information on the content and status of wood sample collections, and exchange with research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities;
- c) assist Parties to identify existing laboratory services for the identification of timber and wood products and to strengthen screening and forensic capacity to identify CITES-listed tree species in trade;
- d) determine methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties; and
- e) update the Standing Committee, as appropriate, on progress made on the implementation of Decisions 18.140 to 18.142; and report its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Directed to Parties

18.141 Parties are encouraged to collaborate with the Plants Committee, with relevant stakeholders and with existing initiatives in the implementation of Decision 18.140, by:

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

Directed to the Secretariat

18.142 The Secretariat shall:

- a) liaise with organizations having relevant expertise on timber identification, including the Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN), the International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Thünen Centre of Competence on the Origin of Timber, the European Forest Institute (EFI), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(UNODC), and the World Resources Institute (WRI) to identify shared priorities, in consultation with the Plants Committee, including priority species, emerging techniques, standardized procedures, and collection and sharing of wood samples applicable to timber tracking tools;

- b) make the currently available guidance on wood identification accessible to Parties through the CITES website; and
- c) report to the Plants Committee on progress with the implementation of this Decision.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.143 The Standing Committee shall review any updates received from the Plants Committee on the implementation of Decisions 18.140 to 18.142, and provide recommendations to the Plants Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Secretariat

16.58 (Rev. CoP18)

The Secretariat shall:

- a) obtain information and materials from those Parties that have reported that they have developed tools and procedures for the identification and measurement of CITES-listed tree species, and the physical inspection of timber shipments;
- b) publish the information on the CITES website so that it can be accessed by CITES plant inspection and enforcement authorities; and
- c) incorporate this information into its capacity-building activities related to timber trade.

Specimens produced through biotechnology

Directed to Parties

18.147 Parties are invited to provide information to the Secretariat regarding:

- a) cases where they have issued, or received requests to issue, CITES permits and certificates for specimens produced through biotechnology;
- b) other situations when they have applied the interpretation of Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Trade in readily recognizable parts and derivatives* to fauna and flora products produced through biotechnology; and
- c) technological developments and applications taking place, particularly in their jurisdiction, that may result in the manufacture of specimens produced through biotechnology that may have impact on the interpretation and implementation of the Convention.

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.148 The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) review the complete study on “Wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA”, monitor the most recent scientific and technological advancements and applications that may lead to the synthetic production of specimens of CITES-listed species, and make recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee, including appropriate revisions to existing resolutions; and
- b) provide any relevant scientific advice and guidance on matters relevant to international trade in specimens produced through biotechnology and communicate it to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.149 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) discuss whether and how to apply the term “readily recognizable part or derivative” to trade in products of biotechnology, which might potentially affect international trade in CITES-listed specimens in a way that would threaten their survival, including enforcement of CITES provisions;
- b) communicate to the Animals and Plants Committees any matters that may require scientific advice and guidance, as appropriate; and
- c) make recommendations for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including appropriate revisions to existing resolutions or the development of a new resolution on trade in specimens produced from biotechnology.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.150 The Secretariat shall:

- a) present the study on “Wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA”, along with the Secretariat’s findings and recommendations, to the Animals and Plants Committees;
- b) collate information received from Parties in relation to Decision 18.147, as well as any other information received from Parties, governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and other entities related to the issue of specimens produced through biotechnology;
- c) communicate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other relevant organizations as appropriate, to keep abreast of the discussions taking place on other fora on issues that may be relevant to specimens produced through biotechnology; and
- d) share the information collated under paragraphs b) and c) and report progress on the implementation of this Decision to the Animals and Plants Committees, and the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Implications of the transfer of a species from one Appendix to another

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.151 The Standing Committee shall, with the assistance of the Secretariat, consider whether further guidance related to the period of transition, including the period between the adoption of a proposal to transfer a species from one Appendix to another and the entry into force of the new listing, should be developed and, if so, present amendments to an existing Resolution or a new draft resolution to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In this context, the Standing Committee shall consider, in consultation with the Plants Committee, as appropriate, whether special recommendations should apply in the case of a transfer of a tree species with Annotation #5 or other annotated plant species.

EXEMPTIONS AND SPECIAL TRADE PROVISIONS

Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.172 The Animals Committee, at its 31st meeting (AC31), and the Plants Committee, at its 25th meeting (PC25), shall consider the Secretariat’s update of the review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source in Annex 7 of document SC70 Doc. 31.1 and Parties’ comments and recommendations in document SC70 Doc. 31.1 Annex 8, identify the key scientific issues and challenges in the application of the Convention to non-wild specimens, and provide their recommendations to address these issues and challenges to the Standing Committee in time for its 73rd meeting (SC73).

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.173 The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider at SC73 the Secretariat's update of the review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source in Annex 7 of document SC70 Doc. 31.1 and Parties' comments and recommendations in document SC70 Doc. 31.1 Annex 8; the underlying CITES policy assumptions that may have contributed to the uneven application of Article VII, paragraphs 4 and 5; the Secretariat's recommendations in the Annexes to SC70 Doc. 31.1; and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees under Decision 18.172; and
- b) review the key issues and challenges in the application of the Convention to non-wild specimens and make appropriate recommendations, including amendments to existing Resolutions or development of a new Resolution or Decisions, to address these issues and challenges for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated'

Directed to the Secretariat

18.178 The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:

- a) commission the preparation of guidance materials for the Parties on aspects of artificial propagation including the terms 'under controlled conditions', 'cultivated parental stock' and the new source code or such terms as may be adopted at CoP18, to supplement the publication A Guide to the application of CITES source codes;
- b) report to the Plants Committee at its 26th meeting on progress on paragraph a); and
- c) after review and revision by the Plants Committee, if directed by the Plants Committee, publish the final guidance on the CITES website.

Specimens grown from wild-collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.179 The Plants Committee shall review the implementation of paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on Regulation of trade in plants and the trade in specimens of artificially propagated Appendix-I species. The report shall include consideration of conservation benefits to wild populations and any adverse effects on the conservation of Appendix-I species that have been subject to the implementation of paragraph 4.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.180 The Plants Committee, following the review under Decision 18.179, shall consider any changes to paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18), and as appropriate, propose such amendments for consideration of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.181 The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations of the Plants Committee made in accordance with Decisions 18.179 and 18.180, and make recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.203 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 on potential conservation issues in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa 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; and
- b) report findings and recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and advise on the need for a study to further assess impacts of harvest, management and trade in agarwood products on the conservation of agarwood-producing species in the wild.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.204 The Secretariat shall assist the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decision 18.203.

Boswellia trees (*Boswellia* spp.)

Directed to the Secretariat

18.205 The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties and, as appropriate, liaise with relevant stakeholders of *Boswellia* trade, requesting the following information:

- a) biological data on *Boswellia* species, including population size, distribution, status and population trends, identification information, and its role in the ecosystem in which it occurs;
- b) available information about harvest and exploitation levels, trade names, stakeholders close to the harvest of the species and supply chain characteristics for domestic consumption and international trade;
- c) information on threats to these species, especially as it pertains to the underlying causes of poor regeneration capability and the impact of harvest on these species;
- d) information on any initiatives to artificially propagate these species or produce plantations of them;
- e) existing regulations and ownership structures pertaining to the species, and their habitat, drivers of habitat trends and management measures in place or under development, including sustainable harvest practices; and
- f) suggestions for meetings or other venues that might provide opportunities to collaborate or share information regarding harvest and management of these species.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.206 The Secretariat shall compile and submit for consideration of the Plants Committee information received as per Decision 18.205.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.207 The Plants Committee shall review the information received and other relevant information available to it regarding the status, management, and trade in *Boswellia* species, highlighting key gaps in knowledge and making recommendations to inform further efforts to address the sustainable use and conservation of these species, including whether any of the species meet the criteria for listing under CITES.

Directed to Parties

18.208 Range States and Parties involved in management, propagation, or trade of *Boswellia* species are encouraged to provide information to the Secretariat, as requested in Decision 18.205.

Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

Directed to the Secretariat

18.234 The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external resources, undertake the following study:
 - i) provide or confirm, with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee, a reference list of genera that are commonly referred to as “rosewood tree species”, noting that at present the species from the following CITES and non-CITES listed genera have been assumed as such by the CITES community: *Caesalpinia*, *Cassia*, *Dalbergia*, *Dicorynia*, *Guibourtia*, *Machaerium*, *Millettia*, *Pterocarpus* and *Swartzia*;
 - ii) taking into consideration the existing information (including that developed under the ongoing CITES Tree Species Programme), and based on the available lists of species in trade, compile available data and information to address information gaps on the biology, population status, management, use and trade for CITES-listed rosewood tree species as a first priority; and as a second priority, non-CITES listed rosewood tree species, in particular those that are highly sought after for the timber trade;
 - iii) assess the effects of international trade on wild populations of the species concerned; and
 - iv) take into account the relevant work on timber identification to be carried out under Decisions 18.140 to 18.143 on Identification of timber and other wood products;
- b) issue a Notification seeking input from Parties, in particular exporting, re-exporting and importing countries, and relevant stakeholders to provide information to the Secretariat to share with the consultant for the purposes of completing the study outlined under paragraph a) above;
- c) report on progress regarding the study to the Plants Committee;
- d) taking into consideration the advice of the Plants Committee, and subject to external funding, organize an international workshop, inviting relevant range States, trading countries, relevant organizations, industry representatives and other experts, with a view to presenting and discussing the results, and develop recommendations;
- e) submit the final study for consideration by the Plants Committee, as well as the outcomes of the workshop if held; and
- f) seek external resources to support the study, and the workshop as appropriate.

Directed to Parties

18.235 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) respond to the Notification described in paragraph b) of Decision 18.234 in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders; and

- b) support the work of the consultancy, and the workshop as appropriate, including seeking external resources from relevant stakeholders.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.236 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider the progress reported by the Secretariat and make recommendations regarding the study and the need for the international workshop referred to under Decision 18.234;
- b) consider the final study, and outcomes of the workshop if held, and make recommendations on how to enhance implementation for CITES-listed rosewood tree species with a particular focus on non-detriment findings including with respect to capacity building; and make further recommendations regarding non-CITES listed rosewood tree species; and
- c) make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.237 The Standing Committee shall consider any report prepared in response to Decision 18.236 and identify any implementation and enforcement issues associated with the international trade in rosewood tree species, particularly those already listed in the Appendices, and develop recommendations for more effective implementation of the Convention for rosewood tree species. The Standing Committee shall furthermore take into account considerations related to revisions to annotations, and identification of terms in annotations that require further clarification and convey them for consideration by the working group on annotations.

African cherry (*Prunus africana*)

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.260 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) review the recommendations from the *Prunus africana*-related discussions within the 'CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Africa' and advise the range States of *Prunus africana* of appropriate actions; and
- b) submit a report on the outcomes of Decision 18.260, paragraph a), and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

African tree species

Directed to the Plants Committee

17.302 The Plants Committee shall form a working group on African tree species with the following terms of reference, as well as any other terms it deems appropriate:

- a) The working group will work primarily via electronic means;
- b) The working group will seek to facilitate the circulation and exchange of experiences among the range States, importing countries and other stakeholders on the sustainable use and management of CITES-listed African tree species;
- c) The working group will seek to identify gaps and weaknesses in the capacity of range States of African tree species to effectively implement CITES for these species;
- d) The working group will examine how the processes currently used by countries to develop annual export quotas compare with the processes recommended under CITES and develop recommendations for reconciling them;

- e) The working group will explore the conversion factors used for different commodities (e.g., logs, sawn wood, bark) and develop recommendations for improving such processes;
- f) The working group will seek to identify other African tree species that may benefit from inclusion in the CITES Appendices;
- g) The working group will bring any issues related to implementation and enforcement of CITES listings for African tree species to the attention of the Plants Committee; and
- h) The working group will report its findings and recommendations to the Plants Committee.

Neotropical tree species

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.299 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) re-establish the intersessional neotropical tree species working group to work by electronic means to:
 - i) agree on a priority list of CITES-listed neotropical tree species, and decide on associated activities that will most significantly contribute to the implementation of the mandates in Resolutions relating to neotropical tree species and that are addressed to the Plants Committee;
 - ii) in the process of developing the priority list referred to in paragraph i) above, special consideration shall be given to neotropical tree species-listings in effect since the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; to neotropical tree species that are currently under the Review of Significant Trade (or other compliance mechanisms of the Convention); as well as those that are known to represent implementation challenges particularly in matters related to the formulation of non-detriment findings and identification of specimens in trade;
 - iii) exchange experiences, information and skills between countries on the priority neotropical tree species'; and
 - iv) report on progress made in the management and conservation of, and trade in, priority neotropical tree species, as well as on lessons learned, including on the generation of studies on the status of their populations; implementation of traceability and chain of custody systems, which strengthen the transparency and sustainable trade in timber species; and creation of materials for identification and training in the different existing methods, with an emphasis on those that can be used easily by authorities; and
- b) review the progress reported by the intersessional working group and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species

Directed to the Secretariat

18.300 The Secretariat shall:

- a) liaise with key players of medicinal and aromatic plant trade supply and value chains to raise awareness and understanding of CITES regulations for medicinal and aromatic plant species and of the impact of the trade in medicinal and aromatic plants on the conservation of CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species in the wild;
- b) subject to available resources, analyse challenges and opportunities in matters related to trade in medicinal and aromatic plants, including by:
 - i) providing an updated overview of the international trade in CITES-listed plant species traded as medicinal products, and assessing whether existing databases with trade names of CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species can be linked to the CITES Checklist database;

- ii) reviewing ongoing work on sustainable and traceable supply and value chains for medicinal and aromatic plant products, focusing on certification schemes, standards and guidelines;
 - iii) examining case studies involving local and traditional knowledge, and participatory assessments, monitoring and management of CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species; and
 - iv) Based on the findings of i) to iii), developing recommendations to inter alia complement existing tools relating to the implementation of the Convention for CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plants, and create synergies, as appropriate, with relevant intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders;
- c) report to the Plants Committee on the outcomes of the work outlined in paragraphs a) and b).

Directed to Parties

18.301 Parties are invited to take actions to raise awareness and understanding of CITES regulations for conservation of medicinal and aromatic plant species amongst those trading in species used for this purpose.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.302 The Plants Committee shall inform and advise the process as per Decision 18.300, taking into account information document CoP18 Inf.11 and other relevant information, and review the Secretariat's report as per Decision 18.300 and make recommendations to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.303 The Standing Committee shall review any report from the Plants Committee as per Decision 18.302 and make recommendations to Parties, as appropriate, and to the Conference of the Parties.

AMENDMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE APPENDICES

Nomenclature (Cactaceae Checklist and its Supplement)

Directed to Parties

18.304 Parties shall inform the Secretariat on their experience in using the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist* (3rd edition) and its *Supplement* (2018) and any issues that may arise as they apply these lists, including feedback to improve it in the light of relevant updates of cacti taxonomy.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.305 The Secretariat shall:

- a) liaise with the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to obtain feedback on the utility of the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist* (3rd edition) and its *Supplement* (2018) and any queries that arise as they update relevant databases, taking into account feedback provided by Parties as per Decision 18.304; and
- b) report to the Plants Committee of this feedback and any comments it receives from the Parties in order for the Committee to review this at its regular meetings.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.306 The Plants Committee shall review any report from the Secretariat related to the implementation of Decision 18.305 and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

Production of a CITES Checklist for *Dalbergia* spp.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.307 The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:

- a) subject to availability of external resources, undertake the development of an annotated CITES Checklist of *Dalbergia* spp., taking into consideration:
 - i) relevant elements of paragraph 7 of document CoP18 Doc. 99, as well as the pertinence of including a distinction between timber and non-timber species of *Dalbergia* spp.;
 - ii) the required research and other work needed for the production of such a Checklist; and
 - iii) aspects related to its publication; and
- b) report on progress or results of this process to the Plants Committee at its regular meetings and seek its advice and input.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.308 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 18.307; and
- b) make recommendations to the Secretariat and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

These recommendations could include timelines for completion of the Checklist, or the adoption of a standard nomenclature reference for *Dalbergia* spp., amongst others.

Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings

Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

18.313 The Animals and Plants Committees shall, taking into consideration the current guidance in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*, paragraph 2 g), evaluate how nomenclature changes affect Appendix-III listings and propose further guidance and recommendations as necessary, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting that address how such nomenclature changes are to be handled.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.314 The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, shall at its 73rd meeting take into account the guidance and recommendations from the Animals and Plants Committees and make recommendations to address nomenclature changes that affect an Appendix-III listing, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) or Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III*, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annotations

Directed to the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee

16.162 (Rev. CoP18)

The Standing Committee shall re-establish the working group on annotations, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees, recognizing that the Animals and Plants Committees are an important source of expertise and advice to Parties on such scientific and technical issues. The group shall include, but not be limited to, members from the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee, observer Parties, CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, enforcement authorities, including customs, and industry representatives. The Standing Committee shall particularly endeavour

to ensure balanced representation of importing and exporting Parties. The terms of reference for the working group shall be:

- a) in close collaboration with ongoing efforts in the Plants Committee, to continue reviewing the appropriateness and practical challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations to the Appendices, including but not limited to those on the tree species, of the agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi* and orchids, and to identify options to streamline these annotations taking into account the guidance provided by Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*;
- b) to develop or refine definitions of terms used in current annotations as appropriate, including but not limited to the terms “musical instruments” and “transformed wood”, and submit them for adoption by the Conference of the Parties and subsequent inclusion in the Interpretation section of the Appendices;
- c) to conduct any work related to annotations directed to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee; and
- d) to prepare reports on progress made in addressing the issues tasked to it and submit them for consideration at the 73rd and 74th meetings of the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.316 The Standing Committee shall, in collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees, determine requirements for development and adoption by the Conference of the Parties of:
- a) a mechanism for undertaking a periodic review of existing annotations; and
 - b) a mechanism for the *a priori* review of annotations proposed for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, to support consistent implementation of the guidance on annotations provided in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18).

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.317 The Standing Committee shall explore the feasibility of, and the requirements for developing an information system for the purpose of processing trade data associated with transactions in specimens of CITES-listed tree species authorized under the provisions of the Convention.

Directed to Parties

- 18.318 Parties are invited to consult with relevant stakeholders and provide to the Secretariat information regarding the mechanisms proposed in Decision 18.316; the definitions proposed in paragraph b) of Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18) and the practical challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations to the Appendices, including but not limited to those on the rosewood-tree species, agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi* and orchids proposed in paragraph a) of Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18), and provide examples of practical solutions identified when handling those challenges.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 18.319 The Standing Committee shall, in consideration of work under Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18) and the report submitted by the Secretariat required under Decision 18.320, if appropriate, make recommendations for submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

- 18.320 The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting input pursuant to Decision 18.318 and provide a summary of the responses received from Parties, and provide recommendations regarding the mechanisms and the information system proposed in Decision 18.316, the definitions to be developed under paragraph b) of Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18) and the challenges resulting from the implementation of the annotations to the Appendices to the Standing Committee.

Annotation #15

Directed to the Secretariat

18.321 The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to available resources, undertake a study to assess the effect on *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species in international trade of the exemptions contained in Annotation #15 for finished musical instruments, parts and accessories, and the conservation implications thereof;
- b) bring any scientific or technical issues to the attention of the Plants Committee and seek its advice; and
- c) report the results of its evaluation along with its recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Annotation of Cape aloe (*Aloe ferox*)

Directed to the Secretariat

18.323 The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties after one year of the conclusion of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties requesting the following information:

- a) whether, and if so how, the amended annotation #4 has impacted the international trade in *Aloe ferox* specimens; and
- b) whether, and if so how, the amended annotation #4 has affected the population size, distribution, status and harvest of *Aloe ferox*.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.324 The Secretariat shall compile responses from the Parties as requested under Decision 18.323 and provide these responses to the Plants Committee.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.325 The Plants Committee shall review the information received as requested under Decision 18.324 and other relevant information available regarding the status, management, and international trade in *Aloe ferox*, with a view to assessing whether the exemption of finished products of *Aloe ferox* packaged and ready for retail trade from CITES regulation have had any impacts on the natural populations of the species. Based on the outcome of this review, the Plants Committee shall formulate recommendations concerning the listing of *Aloe ferox* for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to Parties

18.326 Range countries, consumer countries, and other countries involved in the management, propagation, or trade of *Aloe ferox* are encouraged to provide information regarding the status, management, and trade in this species as requested under Decision 18.323.

Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids

Directed to the Secretariat

18.327 Subject to available resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) assess the potential conservation impact of exempting orchid products and derivatives (wild and artificially propagated) from CITES controls, thereby completing the work already initiated on orchids used in the production of cosmetics and personal care products, and considering orchids used in other commodities (e.g. medicinals);
- b) where necessary and appropriate to complement the assessment under paragraph a), seek pertinent information from Parties and relevant stakeholder groups, including industry, such as

- i) on the trade in orchid products from source to final product, including the identification of the major industry sectors involved in the trade;
 - ii) how non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings are made;
 - iii) traceability along the supply and value chains; and
 - iv) conservation concerns for wild populations; and
- c) analyse the information received under paragraphs a) and b) with a view towards potential conservation impacts of trade in products containing orchids and derivatives of orchids, highlight any knowledge gaps, and report to the Plants Committee.

Directed to Parties

18.328 Parties are encouraged to:

- a) submit pertinent information as requested in Decision 18.327 to the Secretariat; and
- b) provide assistance to the Secretariat in reaching out to other stakeholders and user groups that may be able to support this work.

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.329 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider the outcomes of Decision 18.327;
- b) in consultation with the Standing Committee, as appropriate, review the current annotation for Appendix II-listed orchids, and suggest amendments; and
- c) make recommendations to the Standing Committee.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.330 The Standing Committee shall consider the recommendations of the Plants Committee and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Guidance for the publication of the Appendices

Directed to the Secretariat

18.331 Based on its experience, in consideration of the issues raised in document CoP18 Doc. 103, its discussions with Parties (especially those that amend legislation after each Conference of the Parties), and the recommendations of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on this subject, the Secretariat shall:

- a) in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees, develop guidance for improved clarity and predictability in the presentation of the Appendices;
- b) distribute the draft guidance by Notification to seek comments from Parties, and consider and incorporate comments as appropriate into a revised draft; and
- c) submit the draft guidance for consideration by the Standing Committee, incorporate comments from the Standing Committee into the guidance, and publish the guidance on the CITES website.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.332 The Standing Committee shall review the draft guidance and provide comments and recommendations to the Secretariat for finalization of the document.