

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Online, 2-4, 21 and 23 June 2021

Strategic matters

ADDENDUM TO TREE SPECIES PROGRAMME

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Progress since May 2020 on considerations by the Plants Committee of Secretariat reports on the CTSP (Decision 18.15)

2. Following the postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic of the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC25), scheduled to take place from 17 to 23 July 2020, the Committee took several intersessional decisions (see Notification No. 2020/056 of 21 September 2020), including the approval of its workplan for 2020-2022 as outlined in document PC25 Doc. 7.2. Through its workplan, the Plants Committee agreed on the leads for the implementation of Decision 18.15 on *Tree species programme* as follows: Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo, representative of Africa and PC Chair; Cesar Augusto Beltetón Chacón, representative of Central South America and the Caribbean; and Daniel Wolf, alternate representative of Europe.
3. Following an online briefing to the Plants Committee held on 23 November 2020, it was agreed that the Secretariat will collaborate with the PC Chair (Ms. Koumba Pambo) to further consider with the Plants Committee the implementation of Decision 18.15 and the recommendations contained in document PC25 Doc. 8 in preparation for PC25.
4. In February 2021, the Chair and the Secretariat initiated a consultation with the Plants Committee regarding PC25 Doc. 8 and the CITES Trees Species Programme (CTSP).
5. Although the feedback to the consultation has remained limited to date, the input received so far has been positive. Combining that with information provided by the project beneficiaries to the Secretariat, the overall *modus operandi* of the CTSP has allowed good progress with the activities on the ground, which will provide countries opportunities for potential learning and experience-sharing.
6. Feedback received to date also acknowledges that the programme enabled the collection of available information on target species in participating countries in relation to their propagation, occurrence, and taxonomy, among others. Threats to the conservation and sustainable management of the species, including illegal extractions or uncontrolled harvesting, have been identified. In addition, information has increasingly become available to support better decision-making on regeneration, harvesting and extraction approaches for target species and for developing policy recommendations to improve the management of the species overall.
7. The Secretariat will liaise with the Members of the Committee and the Chair to continue the consultation and collect further inputs prior to PC25. The Plants Committee Chair may provide an oral update at PC25 and suggest a way forward for implementing Decision 18.15 and formulate recommendations to the Secretariat and the Standing Committee about the CSTP.

Progress since May 2020 on CTSP implementation (Decision 18.17).

8. On 20 November 2020, the Secretariat requested the European Commission for a no-cost extension of 18 months of the project *Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant* due to delays in implementation of the national projects. On 12 April 2021, the European Commission formally approved the no-cost extension of the duration of the project until 30 November 2022.
9. All 17 CTSP projects are ongoing and have been adjusted to accommodate national and international COVID-19 sanitary measures. The three regional coordinators continue to support their implementation and to monitor their progress. Reports, project outputs and images are published on the CTSP website ([www.cites-tsp.com](http://www.cites-tsp.com)) as they become available.
10. The Secretariat plans to provide support to a few new projects under the CTSP. The activities will be selected from those that had been reviewed and approved by the Advisory Committee at the time of making the original call of project proposals in 2017, but were put on hold, to be considered upon the availability of further funding.
11. The Secretariat has also started collecting materials that highlight the EU contribution to the CTSP and how it has supported the beneficiary Parties to improve their implementation of the Convention for tree species.
12. Finally, an Advisory Committee meeting will be organized in the near future. In accordance with its terms of reference<sup>1</sup>, that Committee will be invited to support the implementation of CTSP and provide non-binding strategic and technical advice. The Secretariat will report the Advisory Committee findings and recommendations to the relevant CITES governing bodies as appropriate.

Revised recommendations

13. The Plants Committee is invited to:
  - a) take note of document PC25 Doc. 8 and the present addendum;
  - b) formulate recommendations as appropriate to the Secretariat and the Standing Committee for its 74th meeting; and
  - c) consider whether Decisions 18.14 and 18.15 have been implemented and, if that is the case, recommend that these Decisions be deleted at CoP19.

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex 3 to document CoP18 Doc. 16.