

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

Interpretation and implementation matters

Regulation of trade

SPECIMENS GROWN FROM WILD-COLLECTED SEEDS OR SPORES
THAT ARE DEEMED TO BE ARTIFICIALLY PROPAGATED

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee.*
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.179 to 18.181 on *Specimens grown from wild-collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated*, as follows:

18.179 Directed to the Plants Committee

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.

18.180 Directed to the Plants Committee

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.

18.181 Directed to the Standing Committee

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.

3. Paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) reads as follows:
 4. **RECOMMENDS** that, for populations of Appendix-I listed species, an exception to paragraphs 2 and 3 may be granted and specimens deemed to be artificially propagated if, for the taxon involved:

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

- a) i) *the establishment of a cultivated parental stock presents significant difficulties in practice because specimens take a long time to reach reproductive age, as for many tree species;*
- ii) *the propagules are collected from the wild and grown under controlled conditions within a range State, which must also be the country of origin of the propagules;*
- iii) *the relevant Management Authority of that range State has determined that the collection of propagules was legal and consistent with relevant national laws for the protection and conservation of the species; and*
- iv) *the relevant Scientific Authority of that range State has determined that:*
 - A. *collection of propagules was in a manner not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild in accordance with Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings; and*
 - B. *allowing trade in such specimens has a positive effect on the conservation of wild populations;*
- b) *at a minimum, to comply with subparagraphs 4 a) iv) A. and B. above:*
 - i) *collection of propagules for this purpose is limited in such a manner such as to allow regeneration of the wild population;*
 - ii) *a portion of the plants produced under such circumstances is used to establish plantations to serve as cultivated parental stock in the future and become an additional source of propagules and thus reduce or eliminate the need to collect propagules from the wild; and*
 - iii) *if appropriate, a portion of the plants produced under such circumstances is used for replanting in the wild, to enhance recovery of existing populations or to re-establish populations that have been extirpated; and*
- c) *in the case of operations propagating Appendix-I species for commercial purposes under such conditions they are registered with the CITES Secretariat in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes;*

Recommendations

4. The Plants Committee is invited to establish an intersessional working group on wild collected seeds and spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated to:
 - a) review the implementation of paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18);
 - b) consider 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;
 - c) on the basis of the above, consider the pertinence of changing paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) and draft possible editorial amendments to improve its clarity;
 - d) report on the outcomes of this work to the Plants Committee at its 26th meeting.