

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

Species specific matters

ADDENDUM TO AGARWOOD-PRODUCING TAXA  
(*AQUILARIA SPP. AND GYRINOPS SPP.*)

1. This addendum has been prepared by the Secretariat in collaboration with the regional representative of Asia (Ms. Tika Dewi Atikah), as the Plants Committee's co-lead for Decision 18.203 on *Agarwood-producing taxa (Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.)* (see PC25 Doc. 7.2).

Progress since May 2020

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 18.203, as follows: Tika Dewi Atikah, representative of Asia; Yan Zeng, alternate representative of Asia; and Shereefa Al-Salem, alternate representative of Asia.
3. Furthermore, following a virtual briefing of the Plants Committee held on 23 November 2020, it was agreed for the Secretariat to collaborate with Ms. Tika Dewi Atikah to coordinate with the Plants Committee the implementation of Decision 18.203 in preparation for PC25, focusing on the progress reported in document PC25 Doc. 24 and the recommendations in its paragraph 4 in particular. This coordination entailed informal consultations with CITES Authorities of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.
4. It was noted that most of the seeds or propagules for cultivation of agarwood-producing species are obtained from parental stock grown at home gardens or plantations, which is likely to be non-detrimental to wild populations. While there is a possibility that seeds are collected from wild populations, this threat is considered less detrimental than for example unsustainable harvesting.
5. The terms "under control conditions" and "artificial propagation" in paragraph 2 and 3 of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* were found to be useful for regulating the sustainable management of, and trade in, agarwood products. These definitions assist Parties in clarifying the different approaches for the propagation of agarwood-producing species, especially in the Indo-Malayan region, and determining how products, parts and derivatives are to be regulated under CITES.
6. Implications of replacing of the term "artificial propagation" with "assisted production" needs to be carefully considered. Exporting countries are of the view that the applicability and flexibility of the definitions "under controlled conditions" and "artificial propagation" in paragraph 2 and 3 of Resolution Conf. 16.10 are sufficiently described and could not be replaced by the term "assisted production" in Resolution Conf 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*. There also seems to be a perception that "assisted production" is a "subset of artificial propagation", and not a separate production method. Importing countries consider that the term "assisted production" is a potential replacement for the definitions in Resolution Conf 16.10.

“Assisted production” as a potential replacement of the definitions in Resolution Conf 16.10 would align with the definitions in the respective Resolutions and enhance clarity.

7. In the context of implementing Decision 18.178 on *Guidance on the term ‘artificially propagated’*, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) elaborated draft guidance on terms related to the artificial propagation of CITES-regulated plants. The draft also includes guidance related to the specific terms and definitions employed for regulating trade in artificially propagated agarwood. It is submitted for the consideration of the Plants Committee in the addendum PC25 Doc. 22 Addendum.

#### Revised recommendations

8. The Plants Committee is invited to:
  - a) take note of document PC25 Doc. 24 and its addendum;
  - b) note that the addendum PC25 Doc. 22 Addendum includes draft guidance on terms and definitions related to the artificial propagation of agarwood;
  - c) formulate recommendations regarding potential revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*, as well as the Agarwood glossary and the Agarwood NDF guidance; and
  - d) report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.