

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

COOPERATION WITH THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION - SUPPORTING
INFORMATION

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat in relation to agenda item 12.
2. The Annex contains an update on the contribution of CITES to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), as per Decision 18.49 paragraph b), which reads:

18.49 *Directed to the Secretariat*

The Secretariat shall:

[...]

- 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;*
3. The document in the Annex is based on the information contained in Annexes 2 and 3 of document [CoP17 Doc. 14.6 \(Rev. 1\)](#), relevant outcomes of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Geneva 2019), and updates from the Plant's Committee 2020-2021 ongoing intersessional work.
4. This information document is complementary to the information already contained in document [PC25 Comp.](#) and information document [PC24 Inf. 6](#) (*A first glance at CBD's contribution to CITES activities relating to flora: A qualitative analysis*), and is intended to contribute to the intersessional discussions the Plants Committee will hold on this topic, as per Decision 18.50 paragraph a).

CITES contributions to the implementation of GSPC 2011-2020

Last updated: January 2021

Objective I: Plant diversity is well understood, documented and recognized	
<p>Target 1: An online flora of all known plants</p>	<p>1.1. Of the available CITES resources, perhaps the most relevant for the purpose of the implementation of Target 1 are: the Appendices; the Checklist of CITES Species https://checklist.cites.org/#/en, and the Species+ database http://www.speciesplus.net/.</p> <p>1.2. Since 2016, the Checklist of CITES species and the Species+ database were updated on species that were newly listed at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, or whose listing status was amended (8 flora species and two additional flora genera).</p> <p>1.3. Of the 42 responding Parties (as per document CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 18 Parties reported that around 80-100% of their native CITES-listed plants have online descriptions [namely: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Madagascar, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, UK, and USA]. In most of these cases, hyperlinks provided represented nationally-managed online platforms. b) 2 Parties reported that around 50-70% of their native CITES-listed plants have online descriptions [Finland and Peru]. c) 13 Parties reported that either an unknown or up to 25% of their native CITES listed plants have online descriptions. [Argentina, Botswana, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Japan, Montenegro, Panama, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Seychelles and Spain].

<p>Target 2: An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation action</p>	<p>Taking into consideration relevant PC25 documents, these are the updated figures regarding assessments of conservation status of flora species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 50 Appendix I species have been selected under the Periodic Review of the Appendices process (PR), of which: 41 have completed reviews (with a PC document to support with the supporting statement); 1 review was submitted but is not yet completed, and 6 have ongoing reviews. Two reviews were stopped (for example because a listing proposal eliminated the need of a review before it could be completed). b) 65 Appendix II species have been selected under the PR, of which: 37 have completed reviews with a PC document or amendment proposal with the supporting statement; 22 were stopped, 1 was deleted from the review since no volunteer could be found for its implementation, three were submitted but not yet completed, and 2 are ongoing. c) An update of the flora species under the periodic review process is available in document AC31 Doc. 41.1/PC25 Doc. 39.1. d) A total of 105 plant taxa have been the target of a successfully adopted amendment proposal, as follows: 20 correspond to amendment proposals related solely to annotations (amendment of existing annotations, or merging thereof, inclusion of certain populations in App. II); 1 resulted in the deletion from App. I; 34 resulted in the deletion from App. II; 1 resulted in the transfer from Appendix II to I; 3 resulted in the transfer from Appendix I to II; 43 resulted in the inclusion under Appendix II. <p>The CITES Trade Database (https://trade.cites.org/) represents one of the main sources of information that serves as the basis of the analysis that guide the decision making processes for CITES plant listed species, mainly: Review of Significant Trade [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)], Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)], and Criteria for amendments of Appendices [Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)].</p>
<p>Target 3: Information, research and associated outputs, and methods necessary to implement the Strategy developed and shared</p>	<p>CITES Governing Bodies have made significant progress in making available the best scientific information in support of the implementation of mandates relevant to the sustainable use of flora-listed species.</p> <p>Of the available resources on the CITES website, it is important to take into account recent updates that can be found in the agenda of the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee https://cites.org/eng/com/pc/25/index.php and https://cites.org/eng/com/pc/25/inf/index.php, and the work undertaken by Parties in developing non-detriment findings. A good overview of the NDFs thus far available, in particular document AC31 Doc. 14.1/PC25 Doc. 17 on this matter, includes an analysis of the materials and guidance available to Parties. The CITES website also includes a platform for Parties to share their NDF materials: https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php</p> <p>Other resources to be made available in relevant pages of the website include identification of timber and other wood products. A provisional compilation on available identification resources is available in information document PC25 Inf. 11.</p>
<p>Assessment of CITES contribution to Objective I:</p>	<p>Good</p>

Objective II: Plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved	
Target 7: At least 75 per cent of known threatened plant species conserved <i>in situ</i>	Regarding the approximately 300 plant species currently listed in Appendix I [and based solely on the 34 responding Parties, see CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1)]: a) Around 60 plant taxa are currently protected under <i>in situ</i> conservation schemes in any of the following 16 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Finland, Italy, Madagascar, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, UK, and USA. b) Furthermore, 6 Parties specifically mentioned having no native Appendix I species in their countries: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Norway and the UK.
Target 8: At least 75 per cent of threatened plant species in ex situ collections, preferably in the country of origin, and at least 20 per cent available for recovery and restoration programmes	Similarly, regarding the approximately 300 plant species currently listed in Appendix I, around 33 taxa are known to be protected under <i>ex situ</i> conservation schemes in any of the following 15 countries: Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Madagascar, Monaco, Panama, Peru, and the UK [taken from CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1)].
Assessment of CITES contribution to Objective II:	Perfectible

Objective III: Plant diversity is used in a sustainable and equitable manner	
<p>Target 11: No species of wild flora endangered by international trade</p>	<p>11.1. All the information reported under this Annex contributes to the implementation of Target 11.</p> <p>11.2. Listings under CITES Appendices (https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/app/2020/E-Appendices-2020-08-28.pdf), applicable to the 183 Parties to the Convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approximately 300 plant species are currently listed under Appendix I of CITES. Their trade is regulated by the applicable provisions of the Convention, in particular in Article III (and related Resolutions and Decisions; particularly Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings, or NDFs). b) Approximately 29,600 plant species are listed under Appendix II of CITES. Their trade is regulated by the applicable provisions of the Convention, in particular Article IV (and related Resolutions and Decisions; particularly Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings, or NDFs). c) Approximately 12 plant species are listed under Appendix III of CITES. Their trade is regulated by the applicable provisions of the Convention, in particular Article V (and other related Resolutions and Decisions).
<p>Target 12: All wild harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The CITES website hosts sections to aid compliance to its provisions, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDF Section, where Parties can find the most updated information and guidance on the formulation of NDFs for species listed under Appendices I and II: https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php • The CITES export quotas are available at: https://cites.org/eng/resources/quotas/index.php b) The annotations to the listings of flora species in the Appendices aim to ensure CITES controls are focused on the main specimens in trade. c) For the plant species listed in Appendix II, the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted a new set of Decisions (Decisions 18.132-134) to update and improve CITES guidance for making NDFs as a basis for the sustainable management and conservation of their populations in the wild. d) At its 18th meeting (CoP18), the Conference of the Parties also adopted taxa-specific Decisions to address the conservation status of agarwood-producing taxa (Decisions 18.203-204), <i>Boswellia</i> trees (18.205-208), rosewood tree species (18.232-237), African cherry (18.26-262), African tree species (13.302), Neotropical tree species (18.299), and medicinal and aromatic plant species (18.300-303), to mention a few. e) For an overview of all mandates in effect relevant to flora species, please refer to document PC25 Doc. 12 on <i>Towards a resolution on CITES and forests</i>. f) Of the 42 responding Parties [as per document CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1)], 15 specifically mentioned that under their domestic legislation, export of all Appendix I and II listed species is subject to the Conventions' provisions related to the formulation of non-detriment findings (NDFs) in compliance with the provisions of Articles III and IV of the Convention, as well as Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17); most of them specified that the formulation of NDFs is made on a case by case basis. These Parties were: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, UK and USA. g) 10 Parties explicitly mentioned the establishment of quotas for a total of around 400 Appendix I and II taxa. These countries were: Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Japan, Madagascar, Peru and the Republic of Moldova. However, given the number of responding Parties this might represent a strong underestimation of CITES plant species with established export quotas at a national level.
Assessment of CITES contribution to Objective III:	Good

Objective IV: Education and awareness about plant diversity, its role in sustainable livelihoods and importance to all life on earth is promoted	
<p>Target 14: The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, education and public awareness programmes</p>	<p>a) Parties' capacities to implement CITES provisions and to conserve species <i>in situ</i> are strengthened through various mechanisms, including the CITES Tree Species Programme; see relevant updates in document PC25 Doc. 8.</p> <p>b) The CITES Virtual College Parties contains courses, reference materials and training slides that, although not specific to flora, can provide a strong platform to build capacity in Parties on how CITES works.</p> <p>c) The CITES Secretariat facilitates the implementation of annual World Wildlife Days that are held since 2015 on the day on which the Convention was signed in 1973 to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants. Public events in New York and Geneva, film festivals, as well as other activities are organized on an annual basis, the last of which were held on the topics <i>Big cats</i> (2018), <i>Life below water</i> (2019) and <i>Sustaining all life on earth</i> (2020). The theme of the 2021 World Wildlife Day is "Forests and livelihoods: sustaining people and planet", for which the Secretariat together with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other organizations, Member States and stakeholders will unroll a series of global virtual and national events and social media activities.</p>
<p>Target 15: The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities sufficient according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy</p>	
Assessment of CITES contribution to Objective IV:	Perfectible

Objective V: The capacities and public engagement necessary to implement the Strategy have been developed	
<p>Target 16: Institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels to achieve the targets of this Strategy.</p>	<p>Document PC25 Doc. 12 provides, <i>inter alia</i>, an overview of the past and ongoing partnerships relevant to forests, regarding recent developments, the following can be highlighted:</p> <p>In 2018, the Secretariat joined the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), an informal, voluntary arrangement among 15 international organizations, institutions and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests. Its mission is to help enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals; to promote the sustainable management for all types of forests; and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end.</p> <p>The 15 members of CPF are: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Secretariat); Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES Secretariat); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Global Environment Facility (GEF Secretariat); International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO); United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD Secretariat); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF Secretariat); United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC Secretariat); World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF); and the World Bank.</p> <p>On 27 January 2020 (FAO headquarters, Rome), the CPF Principals of the member organizations endorsed the “CPF Strategic Vision towards 2030”. The vision states that: <i>“By 2030 all types of forests and forest landscapes are sustainably managed, their multiple values are fully recognized, the potential of forests and their goods and services is fully unlocked, and the Global Forest Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global forest-related goals, targets and commitments are achieved. To support countries to achieve these aims, CPF will effectively enhance coherence and synergy on forest-related issues and values among its member organizations and help move from deforestation to restoration”</i>. The full strategic vision statement is available in information document PC25 Inf. 1.</p> <p>In October 2020, the CPF issued a joint statement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, titled “Towards sustainability: forest solutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic”. The statement is available here: http://www.cpfweb.org/49939-01432517605fa82d4a063efc442c48fe9.pdf</p> <p>Since the last assessment (CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1)), CITES’ contributions to the implementation of Target 16 have improved from ‘Perfectible’ to ‘Good’.</p>
Assessment of CITES contribution to Objective V:	Good