

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

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

BOSWELLIA TREES (BOSWELLIA SPP.)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Members: representatives for Africa (Ms. Khayota and M. Mahamane), representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) (Chair), alternate representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng);
- Parties: China, Germany, India, Ireland, Kenya, Oman, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and
- Observers: American Herbal Products Association, doTERRA, Forest Trends, International Federation for Essential Oils and Aroma Trades, Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall:

- a) consider the information in document PC25 Doc. 25 and its Addendum and Annexes;
- b) discuss key gaps in knowledge. propose recommendations to address the sustainable use and conservation of these species, and consider whether any *Boswellia* species could meet the criteria for listing in the Appendices;
- c) consider the pertinence of extending or revising Decisions 18.205 to 18.208; and
- d) report its recommendations to the Committee.

Recommendations

The working group recommends that the Plants Committee agrees to the following:

1. a) To acknowledge that there are remaining gaps in knowledge and that the addendum outlines gaps comprehensively. A high volume of information was gathered that could lend itself to some deep analysis. That also would require some country-specific follow-up.
- b) There are conservation concerns for several species that are currently most traded and, noting that there is potential for trade to shift to other species, that further work is needed to better understand and address look-alike considerations with other *Boswellia* species as well as *Commiphora* species.
- c) Considerable work is ongoing regarding identification, systematics, distribution, legislation and trade. Good knowledge exists about particular *Boswellia* species in certain places, but the level of knowledge varies and is not consistent across all species and range States.

- d) Pressure on the species due to cosmetics and personal care, medicinal, religious and other uses is evolving. There are no specific HS codes for any part or derivative of *Boswellia* species and species are also traded in mixtures, making analysis of trade difficult.
  - e) To take into account the concern for communities who depend on these species and recognize that national working groups could be a way forward to consider international trade-related issues because needs and uses are country-specific.
  - f) Conservation issues of *Boswellia* spp. woodlands as an ecosystem should be considered.
  - g) Harvest of many species for international trade is often not sustainable and several species currently traded meet the listing criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.
  - h) Range States may wish to consider including *Boswellia* species in CITES Appendix III where the cooperation of other Parties is required to support national regulation.
2. a) The working group recommends proposing the replacement of current Decisions 18.205 to 18.208 to focus more on supporting the Secretariat and the consultant, and not undertake any further generic compilation of data. The extension of CoP18 Decisions should be able to capture the work of the external consultant since there will not be another meeting of the Plants Committee before CoP19. The suggestion of “national working groups” could be a good option. The draft decisions should include the question whether a genus listing might be appropriate.
- b) The working group would welcome the continuation of the work and hopes that with the consultancy a further step will be taken. The work of the consultant could be submitted as an information document for CoP19, if available, or by Notification to the Parties, as appropriate to facilitate the timeliest dissemination of the information.

Therefore, the current Decisions 18.205 to 18.208 are proposed to be replaced with the following draft decisions:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 19.AA The Secretariat shall share the information received through the consultancy on *Boswellia* trees, and other information provided by Parties and stakeholders, with the Plants Committee, in particular related to identification of *Boswellia* species and potential look-alikes, and to species and specimens in trade and trade volumes of *Boswellia* specimens. The Secretariat shall also identify meetings or other venues that might provide opportunities to collaborate or share information regarding harvest and management of these species.

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 19.BB The Plants Committee shall review the available information submitted to the Secretariat and the gaps in knowledge identified in document PC25 Doc. 25 on *Boswellia* trees (*Boswellia* spp.) to inform possible listing proposals for *Boswellia* species, including consideration of appropriate annotations consistent with the guidance in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*.

***Directed to the Parties***

- 19.CC Range States and Parties are encouraged to provide information to the Secretariat, as mentioned in Decision 19.AA, and are encouraged to consider including *Boswellia* species to which they are range States in Appendix III, if these species meet the provisions in Article XVI of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III*.