

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
THURSDAY 24 JUNE 2021

**Interpretation and implementation matters**

General compliance and enforcement

15. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species  
**[Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)]**

15.5 Inclusion of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from all range States  
in the Review of Significant Trade  
**[Decision 18.92, paragraph b)]** ..... PC25 Doc. 15.5 and Addendum

Based on document PC25 Com. 8 as amended by Belgium and the United States of America, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee agreed to categorise the following *Pterocarpus erinaceus*/country combinations as '**action is needed**', and therefore included in Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process:

Species	Country	Justification
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Benin	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Burkina Faso	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1. Changed from less concern to action is needed based on the information presented in PC25 Inf. 21.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Gambia	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Ghana	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Guinea Bissau	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Mali	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Nigeria	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Sierra Leone	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.

- b) The Committee agreed to categorise the following *Pterocarpus erinaceus*/country combinations as '**less concern**'.

Species	Country	Justification
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Cameroon	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.

<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Central African Republic	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Chad	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1. The Committee further noted that Chad is a range State of <i>P. erinaceus</i> .
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Côte d'Ivoire	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Guinea	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Liberia	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1. The Committee further noted that Liberia is not a range State of <i>P. erinaceus</i> .
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Niger	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Senegal	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.
<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	Togo	See Table 1.2 in PC25 Doc. 15.5 Annex 1.

- c) The Committee agreed to refer all *Pterocarpus erinaceus* range States (which does not include Liberia; see table above) to the Standing Committee for further consideration under Decision 18.92, based on documented, widespread and pervasive illegal trade.
- d) The Committee agreed that the indicative timeline and procedure for the *Pterocarpus erinaceus*/range States selected for inclusion in Stage 2 of the RST process as shown in the table below. Recognizing the urgency of the matter, this includes an agreement for the Plants Committee to proceed via intersessional decision-making, in accordance with Rule 19 of its Rules of Procedure, once the relevant consultations with range States have taken place and the report to be commissioned by the Secretariat is available.

Indicative timeline

<b>Date or meeting</b>	<b>Stage (Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18))</b>	<b>Activity* *Paraphrased from Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)</b>
24 June 2021 (PC25 Plenary).	<b>Stage 1</b> (paragraph 1 c), exceptional case)	<b>Plants Committee</b> selects Stage 2 range States.
No later than 23 July 2021.	<b>Stage 2</b> [paragraph 1 d) i)]	<b>Secretariat</b> notifies selected range States.
No later than 23 September 2021.	<b>Stage 2</b> [paragraph 1d) i)]	<b>Range States</b> respond to Secretariat concerning scientific basis of exports from their country.
From 23 July 2021 to a deadline agreed by inter-sessional decision-making procedure (Rule 19 of the <i>Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Plants Committee</i> ), since this relates to an exceptional case under the RST process.	<b>Stage 2</b> [paragraph 1 d) ii), and 1 f)]	<b>Secretariat commissions consultants</b> to update the report on <i>P. erinaceus</i> , based on range States additional information, as it becomes available, and within the deadlines established in the step above, and submits it for consideration of the Plants Committee, to initiate Stage 3 of the process.

- e) The Committee strongly encouraged those range States which may be removed from the RST process at this stage to publish their zero quotas, harvest or trade ban information on the CITES website, as recommended in Resolution Conf 12.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Permits and certificates* and as recommended in Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of national export quotas*.
- f) The Committee recommended that, should trade resume, any change to this quota should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification (such as the basis for their non-detriment finding), as recommended in Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of national export quotas*.

## Species specific matters

### 30. Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species

**[Decision 18.302]** ..... PC25 Doc. 30 and Addendum

Based on document PC25 Com. 9, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the following draft decisions:

#### ***Directed to the Secretariat***

19.AA The Secretariat shall, in close collaboration with the Plants Committee:

- a) develop informational materials for raising awareness of CITES regulations for the medicinal and aromatic plant industry stakeholders and consumers;
- b) publish a notification to ask Parties to:
  - i) liaise with key stakeholders along medicinal and aromatic plant trade value chains, including consumers, to enhance awareness of CITES regulations and to encourage sustainable use and legal trade CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plants; and
  - ii) review their non-detriment findings (NDFs) for medicinal and aromatic plants and consider sharing such with the Secretariat to be included on the NDF page of the CITES website;
- c) subject to external funding, commission an in-depth analysis of e-commerce value chains in products of CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species, including a stakeholder analysis of key producers, intermediate traders, manufacturers or distribution platforms to end consumers, and of institutions influencing the demand for CITES-regulated medicinal and aromatic plant products in biomedical, traditional and alternative medical systems, cosmetic and personal care, food industries (as appropriate), and including an assessment whether existing annotations focus on first products in trade or main products in trade;
- d) assess the possibilities of using the Medicinal Plant Names Service (MPNS) database in the analysis as per Decision 19.AA, paragraph c), and invite Parties representing different regions, cultures, and languages, through a notification, to assess the utility of the MPNS database in their routine work to see if it can contribute to the expansion of the Species+ database;
- e) review the Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional medicines* in relation to medicinal and aromatic plants and make suggestions as appropriate; and
- f) report to the Plants Committee.

#### ***Directed to Parties***

19.BB Parties are invited to:

- a) liaise with key stakeholders along medicinal and aromatic plant trade value chains, including consumers as per Decision 19.AA, paragraph b), to enhance awareness of CITES regulations and to encourage sustainable use and legal trade in medicinal and aromatic plants; and
- b) assess the utility of the Medicinal Plant Names Service database in their routine work to see if it can contribute to the expansion of the Species+ database, and to provide feedback to the Plants Committee regarding the Decision 19.AA, paragraph d).

#### ***Directed to the Plants Committee***

19.CC The Plants Committee shall:

- a) inform and review the report of the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA, and the feedback from Parties regarding the utility of the Medicinal Plant Names Service as per Decision 19.BB;

- b) taking into consideration the information in document PC25 Doc. 30, information document CoP18 Inf. 11, the report of the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA, and other relevant information, and in consultation with the Animals Committee, as appropriate, undertake a review of Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional medicines*, and prepare recommendations for a revised Resolution on traditional medicines or a new Resolution on plant-based medicinal products; and
- c) submit its recommendations to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

### ***Directed to the Standing Committee***

19.DD The Standing Committee shall review any report from the Plants Committee as per Decision 19.CC, as appropriate, and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee noted the amendments to the draft decisions proposed by the alternate representative of Asia (Ms. Zeng) and by Germany and invited them to submit these amendments to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

## **Interpretation and implementation matters**

### Regulation of trade

23. Specimens grown from wild-collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated [Decision 18.179] ..... PC25 Doc. 23 and Addendum

Based on document PC25 Com. 10, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee accepted the report from the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and acknowledge its findings.
- b) The Committee noted that there currently is a limited number of examples of the implementation by Parties of paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, and any amendments of paragraph 4 at this stage are not necessary until a later date, at which more examples of its implementation are anticipated to have been identified.
- c) The Committee noted that any future revision of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) should also include a review of paragraph 4.
- d) The Committee also noted that certain revisions to Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) on *Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes* could be considered jointly with amendments to paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18).
- e) The Committee encouraged Parties to submit case studies and examples of non-detriment findings on the use of the exception in paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) to meetings of the Plants Committee, and report on best practice examples on implementation of paragraph 4 to the Plants Committee for the formulation of future guidance.
- f) The Committee invited the Secretariat to publish indications in the registry of nurseries to identify those registered nurseries that implement paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18).
- g) The Committee agreed to consider that Decisions 18.179 and 18.180 are completed.

## **Species specific matters**

### Maintenance of the Appendices

36. Annotation #15 [Decision 18.321] ..... PC25 Doc. 36 and Addendum

The Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the renewal of Decisions 18.321 and 18.322 as follows:

**18.321 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to available resources, undertake a study to assess the effect on *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species in international trade of the exemptions contained in annotation #15 for finished musical instruments, parts and accessories, and the conservation implications thereof;
- b) bring any scientific or technical issues to the attention of the Plants Committee and seek its advice; and
- c) report the results of its evaluation along with its recommendations to the Standing Committee.

**18.322 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall in the context of its work on annotations under the relevant Decisions, consider any report by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 18.321 (Rev. CoP19), undertake additional evaluation if necessary and report to the ~~19th~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. If warranted, the Standing Committee may work with relevant Parties in preparing an amendment proposal for the ~~19th~~ 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

29. Neotropical tree species [Decision 18.299]..... PC25 Doc. 29 and Addendum

The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the following draft decisions as amended by the Secretariat:

**19.AA Directed to the Plants Committee**

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) update the list of neotropical tree species and the related CITES processes included in the Annex to document PC25 Doc. 29, taking into consideration the recommendations included in document PC25 Doc. 29, Addenda;
- b) based on the above, establish priorities for strengthening the implementation of the Convention for the neotropical tree species concerned;
- c) cooperate with the Parties in making progress with the priorities identified; and
- d) report on the results of this work to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

**19.BB Directed to the Parties**

Parties are invited to cooperate with the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decision 19.AA.

**19.CC Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall, at the request of the Plants Committee, support the implementation of Decision 19.AA.

**19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall consider any reports of the Plants Committee on Decision 19.AA and, if it considers it appropriate, develop recommendations for consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

39. Periodic review of species included in Appendices I and II  
**[Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)]**

39.2 Periodic review of *Ariocarpus retusus*..... PC25 Doc. 39.2

and

39.3 Periodic review of *Ceratozamia hildae*..... PC25 Doc. 39.3

The Committee agreed to the recommendations in documents PC25 Doc. 39.2 and Doc. 39.2 to retain *Ariocarpus retusus* and *Ceratozamia hildae* listed in Appendix I.

### Regional matters

#### 41. Regional reports

41.1 Africa..... *No document*

41.2 Asia..... *No document*

41.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean..... PC25 Doc. 41.3

41.4 Europe..... PC25 Doc. 41.4

41.5 North America..... PC25 Doc. 41.5

41.6 Oceania..... PC25 Doc. 41.6

The Committee welcomed and noted the regional reports in documents PC25 Doc. 41.3 to Doc. 41.6.

### Concluding items

42. Any other business..... *No document*

There was no intervention.

43. Time and venue of the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee..... *No document*

The Committee noted that the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee should take place in 2023.

44. Closing remarks..... *No document*

The Secretary-General and the Chair thanked the Committee members, in particular those that chaired in-session working groups, as well as Party observers, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, the interpreters, the operators and the Secretariat; and the Chair closed the meeting.