

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Plants Committee
Online, 2-4, 21, 23 and 24 June 2021

SUMMARY RECORD

Opening of the meeting

Opening remarks of the Chair and the Secretary-General..... *No document*

The Chair of the Plants Committee and the Secretary-General gave opening addresses for this first online meeting of the Plants Committee.

The PC Chair (Ms. Koumba Pambo) then explained the procedure of the online meeting and reminded participants that this is the only meeting before the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19). The Secretary-General (Ms. Ivonne Higuero) provided an update on the Secretariat's activities, noting all the challenges overcome during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Administrative and financial matters

1. Confirmation of the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair..... *No document*

The Committee noted that, through intersessional decision-making, the Plants Committee confirmed the election of its Chair (Ms. Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo, representative for Africa) and Vice-Chair (Ms. Rosemarie Gnam, representative for North America).

2. Declaration of conflict of interest..... *No document*

The Secretariat invited the members of the Plants Committee to declare any conflict of interest. No conflict of interest was declared.

The Committee noted that no Member declared a financial interest that he or she considers calls into question his or her impartiality, objectivity or independence regarding any subject on the agenda for the meeting.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

3. Rules of Procedure..... PC25 Doc. 3

The PC Chair introduced the Rules of Procedure of the Committee in document PC25 Doc. 3, as amended at its 24th meeting (Geneva, July 2018). These Rules of Procedure remain valid for this meeting. She drew attention to information document AC31/PC25 Inf. 1 that provides guidance on the application of the Rules of Procedure in an online meeting.

The Committee noted that its Rules of Procedure, as amended at its 24th meeting (Geneva, July 2018) and set out in the Annex to document PC25 Doc. 3, remain valid for this meeting.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

4. Agenda

4.1 Adoption of the agenda..... PC25 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1)

The PC Chair introduced the agenda for this meeting, presented in document PC25 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1).

The Committee adopted its agenda as set out in document PC25 Doc. 4.1 (Rev. 1).

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

4.2 Annotated agenda..... PC25 Doc. 4.2

The PC Chair introduced the annotated agenda for this meeting, presented in document PC25 Doc. 4.2.

The Committee noted the annotated agenda as set out in document PC25 Doc. 4.2.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

5. Working programme PC25 Doc. 5

The PC Chair introduced the working programme as set out in document PC25 Doc. 5.

The Committee adopted its working programme as set out in document PC25 Doc. 5.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

6. Admission of observers PC25 Doc. 6

The PC Chair invited the Committee to note the list of observer organizations that have been invited to participate in the meeting, as presented in document PC25 Doc. 6.

The Committee noted the list of observer organizations that had been invited to participate in the meeting as set out in document PC25 Doc. 6.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

Strategic matters

7. Plants Committee strategic planning for 2020-2022 (CoP18-CoP19)

7.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Plants Committee PC25 Doc. 7.1

The PC Chair introduced the two Annexes on Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Plants Committee, of document PC25 Doc. 7.1. Annex 1 provides an overview of the Resolutions in effect containing instructions that are directed or relevant to the Plants Committee. Annex 2 provides a list of all Decisions in effect directed to the Plants Committee that might require its inputs or assistance.

The Committee noted document PC25 Doc. 7.1.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

7.2 Plants Committee workplan..... PC25 Doc. 7.2

The PC Chair introduced document PC25 Doc. 7.2 that presents a list of instructions directed to the Plants Committee, or that may require that it be consulted or informed as articulated in the currently valid Resolutions (Annex 1) and Decisions (Annex 2). The document also identifies a lead or co-lead among the members of the Plants Committee for each of the instructions. These were agreed upon through intersessional decision-making. Through this process, the Committee had furthermore established six intersessional working groups and agreed that several items could benefit from informal discussions between members and invited experts prior to the meeting.

The Committee noted the 2020-2022 workplan, including the identified leads or co-leads among the members of the Plants Committee, as shown in Annexes 1 and 2 to document PC25 Doc. 7.2.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

7.3 Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Plants Committee for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties *No document*

The PC Chair informed the Committee of her intention to contact the leads or co-leads to provide an update on the progress made, which the Chair will then use to produce the report for CoP19.

The Committee noted the oral update by the Chair of the Plants Committee.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

8. Tree species programme [Decision 18.15] PC25 Doc. 8 and Addendum

The PC Chair introduced document PC25 Doc. 8 and its addendum that outline progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.14 to 18.17 on the *CITES Tree Species Programme* (CTSP) and feedback thus far received from the Committee on its implementation.

The representatives for Africa (Mr. Mahamane), Asia (Ms. Dewi Atikah), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez Neyra and Mr. Belteton Chacon) and North America (Ms. Gnam), the alternate representatives for Africa (Ms. Khayota) and Europe (Mr. Wolf), Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala and Peru, echoed by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Species Survival Network recognized the benefits of the CITES Tree Species Programme and highlighted the importance of continuing the programme.

The representatives for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez Neyra and Mr. Belteton Chacon), the alternate representative for Africa (Ms. Khayota), Argentina and Peru called for the expansion of the programme to include a greater number of species and provide more countries with capacity-building. The representatives for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez Neyra) and North America (Ms. Gnam) agreed that the Decisions had been implemented and could be deleted.

The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) invited the Secretariat to monitor the implementation of the CTSP and see whether its small grants structure was efficient or whether other modalities should be explored. ITTO highlighted its role in the implementation of the CTSP, in particular for agarwood. The alternate representative for Europe (Mr. Wolf) highlighted the strong links between this agenda item and agenda item on *Towards a resolution on CITES and forests* (PC25 Doc. 12 and its addendum), noting that the CTSP could be incorporated into such a resolution.

The representatives for Africa (Mr. Mahamane), Asia (Ms. Dewi Atikah) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez Neyra and Mr. Belteton Chacon) expressed an interest in establishing an in-session working group to develop recommendations for the Standing Committee, but agreed with the proposed way put forward by the PC Chair, as per the recommendations below.

The Committee recommended that the Secretariat brings to the attention of the Plants Committee the future relevant technical and scientific results of the CITES Tree Species Programme for its review.

The Committee recognized the value of the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP) and recommended that the Standing Committee, in its implementation of Decision 18.16, take into account the Plants Committee's support for the further implementation of the programme.

9. CITES Strategic Vision* [Decision 18.25] PC25 Doc. 9

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document AC31 Doc. 8/PC25 Doc. 9 that contains a mapping of the CITES Strategic Vision's objectives against valid CITES Resolutions and Decisions in Annex 1 and a list of reporting requirements in Annex 2. The document also provides an overview of the process used and the results of the mapping exercise.

The PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez), Brazil, China and the United States of America noted the importance of this work and agreed that the mapping captured the CITES policies that support the Strategic Vision. They supported the onward submission of this mapping exercise to the Standing Committee to support its work on the drafting of new indicators for the Strategic Vision. China suggested specific edits to the mapping that were endorsed by the Committees. China and the United States highlighted the importance of objective 3.7 and noted that the mapping showed a gap that the Parties would need to focus on. Brazil noted that the list of reporting requirements in Annex 2 was more than 20 pages long and questioned whether Parties could indeed comply to all these requirements and whether they all contributed to the Strategic Vision.

The Committees endorsed the mapping of the *CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 objectives* against the CITES Resolutions and Decisions, as presented in Annex 1 to document AC31 Doc. 8/ PC25 Doc. 9 with the addition of Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on *Identification Manual* and Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* under objectives 2.2 and 2.3, and in particular the placement of the species-specific Resolutions and Decisions under objective 2.5 and objective 3.5. The Committees requested the Secretariat to submit Annex 1 as revised above and Annex 2 to document AC31 Doc. 8/PC25 Doc. 9 to the Standing Committee for its consideration.

10. Appendix-I listed species* [Decision 18.29] PC25 Doc. 10 and Addendum

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10 that provides updates on the implementation of Decision 18.28. The Annex to the document presents a technical report by the United Nations Environment Programme-Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on the criteria and methodology used for the *Rapid assessment of the conservation status of, and legal and illegal trade in, species and subspecies included in Appendix I*. The addendum by the Secretariat presents the results of the rapid assessment conducted by UNEP-WCMC, in the form of a list of 31 Appendix-I listed species that are proposed to be selected for further assessment.

The AC representative for Europe (Ms. Zíková), echoed by China, Israel and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, supported the creation of an in-session working group that should focus on examining the criteria and methodology for the rapid assessment. Canada, China, Mexico and Conservation Analytics supported the proposed working group's focus and noted that it was premature at this stage to establish a list of priority taxa based on information document AC31 Inf. 6/PC25 Inf. 8.

The AC representative for Europe (Ms. Zíková) noted that the work for the Appendix-I assessment should not simply focus on trade restrictions but should include active work to improve the conservation status of the species. She also raised the issue of including non-wild sources in the study, while the United Kingdom suggested further work on the criterion of scale of trade vs. population. The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) noted that the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees should consult their members when they prepare their report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on this issue.

The Committees established an in-session working group on Appendix-I listed species with the mandate to:

- a) review the criteria and methodology used for the rapid assessment presented in information document AC31 Inf. 6/PC25 Inf. 8 and its Annexes 1 and 2, together with the additional criterion mentioned in paragraph 9 to the addendum of document AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10; and
- b) provide guidance to the Secretariat on its further implementation of Decision 18.28, as outlined in paragraphs 7 to 9 of document AC31 Doc. 9/PC25 Doc. 10 and its addendum.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Africa of the Plants Committee (Mr. Mahamane), representative for Asia of the Plants Committee (Ms. Atikah), alternate representative of the Plants Committee for Asia (Ms. Zeng) (**co-Chair**), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), representatives for Europe of the Animals Committee [Mr. Loertscher (**co-Chair**) and Ms. Zikova], alternate representative for Asia of the Animals Committee (Ms. Terada), nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: Argentina, Austria, Canada, China, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

Observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature; Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Center for Biological Diversity, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Conservation Analytics, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, Natural Resources Defense Council, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern Africa, Safari Club International, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Parrot Trust, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document AC31/PC25 Com. 1. The Chair thanked the alternate representative for Asia of the Animals Committee (Ms. Terada) for her role as vice-Chair of the working group. The Secretariat proposed two edits that were endorsed by the Committees: the replacement of “request” with “invite” in the chapeau of the recommendations and the replacement of “the Conference of the Parties” with “CITES” in paragraph a). The AC representative for Europe (Ms. Zikova) and the PC representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) proposed different texts to replace “including the possible development of an ongoing Appendix-I assessment process to validate the efficacy of listings” in paragraph b) ii). Humane Society International and the Wildlife Conservation Society noted that it would indeed be useful to delete the reference to the “efficacy of listings”. After discussion between the two representatives, Israel and the Cheetah Conservation Fund, Humane Society International and the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Committees agreed on the compromise text of “including the possible development of an ongoing assessment for Appendix-I listings under the CITES provisions”.

The Committees adopted the recommendations in document AC31/PC25 Com. 1 amended as follows.

The Committees agreed to invite the Secretariat to undertake the following:

- a) to continue the collaboration with the University of Applied Sciences Van Hall Larenstein (Netherlands) in carrying out the analysis of a selection of Appendix-I species and use these case studies to compile possible measures that CITES could adopt within its mandate to improve the conservation status of potential species of concern; and
- b) in consultation with the Plants and Animals Committees, through their chairs, and invited experts to:
 - i) further refine the methodology and its criteria for carrying out an assessment of species listed in Appendix I that might benefit from measures adopted by the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the suggestions from the working group; and
 - ii) draft decisions for submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to ensure the further advancement of this work, including the possible development of an ongoing assessment for Appendix-I listings under the CITES provisions.

11. Capacity-building* [Decision 18.40]PC25 Doc.11 and Addendum (Rev. 1)

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc. 11 that provides an overview of the implementation of the Decisions on capacity-building and updates on the *Master’s course on Management and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework*; the CITES website; the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP); and the work of the Standing Committee’s intersessional working group on capacity-building, where the Animals and Plants Committees are represented by four members.

The addendum by the Secretariat presents an analysis of the information collected in support of the implementation of Decision 18.46, which includes information from other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their capacity-building efforts, the responses to the questionnaire in Notification to the Parties No. 2020/027, and information on capacity-building needs provided by Parties.

The PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez) agreed with the proposed recommendations and stated that the implementation of a conceptual framework for capacity-building was fundamental for the Convention.

Mexico noted that Parties should be able to do their own assessment of their capacity-building needs to avoid increasing the reporting burden of Parties. It proposed the following edits to paragraph 6 b) of the revised addendum AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc. 11 Add. (Rev. 1): “6. b) A CITES capacity-building conceptual

framework or strategy encompassing a wide variety of elements and developed with wide stakeholder consultation is needed. The framework or strategy should consist mainly in a simple needs-gathering system, consider elements for both face-to-face and online means of capacity building delivery and take into account the concerns raised by Parties in the Annexes of AC31 Doc. 10/PC32 Doc. 11.”

The United States of America highlighted that Parties supported the establishment of a capacity-building framework and announced that they would financially support a workshop. The United States proposed the following edits to the revised recommendation in paragraph 6 b) of the revised recommendations in the Addendum (Rev. 1) to document AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc. 11 (new text is underlined; text to be deleted is shown in ~~strike-through~~): “The CITES Parties, collectively and individually, face a significant and diverse set of capacity-building challenges. In order to meet the goals of the CITES Strategic Vision (2021-2030), there is great need for coordination, transparency, and accountability in capacity building activities which can be achieved through the development and use of a A-CITES capacity-building conceptual framework to prioritize and guide capacity building efforts or and from which targeted capacity building strategies can be developed strategy. The conceptual framework should encompass encompassing a wide variety of elements enabling conditions that are prerequisite for the functioning of CITES, and which should be collaboratively developed by Parties, and with additional stakeholder consultation asis-needed. The framework or strategy Implementation strategies should consider elements for both face-to-face and online means of capacity building delivery, must be considered in the framework.”

The Committees noted the edits to paragraph 6 b) of the revised addendum AC31 Doc. 10/PC25 Doc. 11 Add. (Rev. 1) proposed by Mexico and the United States of America:

The Committees agreed that:

- a) some form of CITES capacity-building conceptual framework (strategy) is needed;
- b) a wide variety of elements must be considered when developing the capacity-building conceptual framework;
- c) wide stakeholder consultation is needed for the development of the capacity-building framework; and
- d) elements for both face-to-face and online means of capacity building delivery must be considered in the framework.

The Committees invited the Standing Committee to consider the views of the Animals and Plants Committees in its discussions through the continued participation of their four representatives in the Standing Committee’s intersessional working group on capacity-building.

Cooperation with organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

12. Towards a resolution on CITES and forests PC25 Doc. 12 and Addendum

The Secretariat introduced document PC25 Doc. 12 and its addendum that propose the development of a new resolution on *CITES and forests*. The resolution would provide strategic guidance on: a) ensuring coherence between CITES and the international governance framework on forests; and b) increasing visibility and resource mobilization in support of the Convention’s role in ensuring the long-term conservation of species of wild fauna and flora occurring in, and dependent upon, forests. The addendum provides some preliminary feedback received from the Plants Committee.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez Neyra), echoed by Algeria, Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Malaysia and Peru, welcomed the Secretariat’s proposal and suggested that the resolution focus on cooperation on forests and synergies with other Conventions and on resource mobilization. Colombia further suggested including the issue of non-detriment findings in the resolution, while Peru suggested that the role of forests as an ecosystem source of biodiversity should be considered in the draft resolution. Malaysia noted that the draft resolution should not duplicate existing resolutions.

The representatives for Europe (Mr. Carmo) and for North America (Ms. Gnam), Germany and the United States of America stated that they were uncertain that the objectives of a resolution on forests have been fully considered and suggested drafting a decision directing the Plants Committee to assess the value and implication of such a resolution for submission to CoP19.

The Committee established an in-session working group on a resolution on *CITES and forests* with the mandate to:

- a) consider document PC25 Doc. 12 and its addendum;
- b) consider the value of developing a new resolution on CITES and forests;
- c) explore the pertinence of developing draft decisions that could be put forward by the Secretariat for consideration of the CoP;
- d) provide any additional recommendation, for the Secretariat to consider should it bring forward a draft resolution on CITES and forests.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo) (Chair), representatives for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón and Ms. Núñez Neyra), representative for Europe (Mr. Carmo), representative for North America (Ms. Gnam);

Parties: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

Observers: Animal Welfare International, Center for International Environmental Law, Chambre Syndicale de la Façure Instrumentale, Confédération des Industries Musicales Européennes, ForestBased Solutions, Forest Trends, Humane Society International, International Wood Products Association, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later in the meeting, the PC Chair introduced document PC25 Com. 6 and noted that there was general agreement to further consider the need for a resolution but disagreement on the process, with several options outlined in the document.

Concerning the working group options recommended in document PC25 Com. 6, the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Nunez Neyra), Brazil, China and Chile supported option 1. The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam), Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Mexico and the United States of America supported option 2. The representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo) suggested to not consider option 3 due to inherent procedural problems.

Canada, echoed by the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo), suggested submitting both options to the Standing Committee. To accommodate different concerns about the wording of the two options, China and Mexico proposed edits to options 1 and 2.

Based on document PC25 Com. 6 as amended by China and Mexico, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

The Committee recommended that the Secretariat submit a draft resolution (revised option 1 without the draft decisions included in Annex 1 to document PC25 Com. 6), as well as draft decisions (revised option 2, taking into account the proposals of China and Mexico) for consideration by the Standing Committee, as follows:

- Option 1: inviting the Secretariat to produce a draft strategic resolution on *CITES and forests* for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting (SC74).
- Option 2: inviting the Secretariat to submit the following draft decisions for consideration at SC74 to allow for drafting a strategic resolution on *CITES and forests* during the CoP19-CoP20 intersessional period, and to allow consideration of the benefit of pursuing a strategic resolution on *CITES and forests*.

19.AA Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall consider the value of developing a possible new strategic resolution on *CITES and forests*, as outlined in Document PC25 Doc. 12 and Document PC25 Doc. 12 Addendum; prepare an overview of the issue from a technical and scientific perspective; and provide its recommendations for consideration of the Standing Committee.

19.BB Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider the report and recommendations of the Plants Committee under Decision 19.AA and develop recommendations, including identifying existing Resolutions that would need to be revised or repealed, and provide its report for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

13. Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
[Resolution Conf. 16.5 and Decision 18.50]..... PC25 Comp. and Addendum

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) introduced document PC25 Comp. and its addendum that outline progress achieved in the implementation of Decision 18.50 *on Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)* and highlight updates related to the future of this initiative in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) supported the postponement of the work on the GSPC and Resolution Conf. 16.5 *on Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity* and the submission of the draft decisions in the addendum to CoP19. Mexico, speaking as Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, drew the Committee's attention to Target 4 of the *Preliminary draft global strategy for plant conservation* that would be a natural link for CITES.

The Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the submission of draft decision 19.AA as follows:

19.AA Directed to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat

The Plants Committee shall, in collaboration with the Secretariat:

- a) taking into account the relevant outcomes under CBD regarding the post-2020 future of the GSPC, consider the need to revise Resolution Conf. 16.5 *on Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*;
- b) if considered appropriate, draft a revision to Resolution Conf. 16.5 with a view to ensure that a two-way collaboration between both Conventions is reflected; and
- c) present its recommendations to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

14. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)* **[Resolution Conf. 18.4]**..... *No document*

Drawing attention to information document AC31 Inf. 4/PC25 Inf. 5, the Chair of the Animals Committee provided an update on recent activities by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic since no plenary meeting could be held in 2020. The next IPBES plenary meeting (IPBES-8 Plenary) is scheduled to take place online in June 2021 and will be attended by the Secretariat. Concerning the IPBES Assessment of the sustainable use of wild species, the AC Chair noted that a draft of the Assessment had been made available for external review from 16 April to 10 June 2021. This was drawn to the attention of Parties in Notification No. 2021/036 and the AC Chair reminded Parties that the CITES community needed to comment on this draft. However, due to the nature and timing of the review, it was noted that it would not be possible to provide a substantive collective CITES input to this process, but that the Secretariat, in cooperation with the

SC, AC & PC Chairs, will ensure that comments are made to try and ensure that all references to CITES are accurate.

The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation noted that, while some faults and inaccuracies remained, the IPBES assessment was an impressive report with many success stories mentioning CITES.

The Committees noted the oral report of the Chair of the Animals Committee.

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)]**

15.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade PC25 Doc. 15.1 and Addendum

The PC Chair introduced document PC25 Doc. 15.1 and its addendum that provide an update on the status of the Review of Significant Trade (RST). An updated overview of all cases since the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC24; Geneva, July 2018) is set out in Annex 1 with notes on reviews that were completed since PC24. A summary of all range State/species combinations for flora subject to a recommendation to suspend trade under RST or for which the review process is currently ongoing is included in Annex 2. The document and its addendum also provide an overview on the implementation of Decisions 17.108 (Rev. CoP18) to 17.110 (Rev. CoP18) on the development of an RST Tracking and Management database, a user-friendly guide to RST and a comprehensive training module on RST. The RST Tracking and Management database was finalized in October 2020 and will be made public when all the documents have been added to the database along with the guide and training module on RST.

The Committee noted document PC25 Doc. 15.1 and its addendum and welcomed the progress made with the implementation of Decision 17.108 (Rev. CoP18) on the development of a Review of Significant Trade Tracking and Management database.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

15.2 Species selected following CoP16 *No document*

and

15.3 Species selected following CoP17 *No document*

The PC Chair provided an oral report regarding agenda items 15.2 and 15.3. In November 2020, the Secretariat produced information document SC2020 Inf 11 which provided details of the 77 species country combinations from a total of 33 Parties that are currently in the Review of Significant Trade, of which 63 cases related to fauna and 14 to flora. The Secretariat indicated that all ongoing cases have now been subject to recommendations by the Animals and Plants Committees with deadlines for implementation that have now passed. To date, new information has been submitted by the following Parties: Algeria, Benin, Ghana, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Mozambique, Togo, and Tunisia. The Secretariat is currently evaluating all ongoing cases to determine whether the RST recommendations have been implemented by the range State concerned, and will consult with the members of the Plants Committee so that all of these cases can be considered at the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Committee noted the oral update by the Chair of the Plants Committee.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

15.4 Species selected following CoP18 PC25 Doc. 15.4

The PC Chair introduced document PC25 Doc. 15.4 that presents reports by the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in accordance with paragraph 1 a) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of*

Appendix-II species. The reports provide a summary of trade in Appendix-II listed species extracted from the CITES Trade Database in Annex 1, and an extended analysis of this trade in Annex 2 to inform the preliminary selection of species/country combinations. Annexes 1 and 2 were produced early in 2020, based on trade data for the period 2014-2018.

The Committee noted document PC25 Doc. 15.4 and further noted that the selection of new species/country combinations for review will be postponed until the first regular meeting of the Committee after the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

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

The PC Chair introduced document PC25 Doc. 15.5 and its addendum that outline the inclusion of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from all range States in the Review of Significant Trade (RST) process as an exceptional case pursuant to paragraph 1 c) (Stage 1) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*. The Annex to document PC25 Doc. 15.5 is the report commissioned by the Secretariat and produced by the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on the international trade in the species for each of the 17 range States of *P. erinaceus* and includes, *inter alia*, a provisional categorization of range States as ‘action is needed’, ‘unknown status’ and ‘less concern’, in accordance with paragraph 1 e) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18). The addendum presents additional information brought to the attention of the Secretariat since the publication of document PC25 Doc. 15.5 in 2020, relating to the following range States of *P. erinaceus*: Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, and Senegal.

China expressed some concern about the categorization of Burkina Faso as a country of ‘less concern’ rather than ‘action is needed’, noting that it had received import requests from Burkina Faso.

The Committee established an in-session working group on *Pterocarpus erinaceus* with the mandate to:

- a) consider document PC25 Doc. 15.5 and its Annex “Report of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in all range States”, and the addendum; and
- b) decide which, if any, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*/country combination should be included in Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade process.

The membership* was decided as follows:

Members: **representative for Africa (Mr. Mahamane)**, representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) (Chair);

Parties: Austria, **Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso**, China, Germany, **Mali, Nigeria, Togo**, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre; Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency USA, **Forest Trends**, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later in the meeting, the representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) introduced document PC25 Com. 8.

Belgium pointed out that Chad was indeed a range State of *P. erinaceus* in the southern part of the country. The United States of America urged the Secretariat to notify the range States as soon as

* The working group members indicated in bold were added on 3 June 2021 since they were not able to express an interest for technical reasons on 2 June 2021.

possible given the inclusion of this species in the Review of Significant Trade as an exceptional case, and further encouraged the range States to publish their export quotas as soon as possible.

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

Date or meeting	Stage (Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18))	Activity* *Paraphrased from Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18)
24 June 2021 (PC25 Plenary).	Stage 1 (paragraph 1 c), exceptional case)	Plants Committee selects Stage 2 range States.
No later than 23 July 2021.	Stage 2 [paragraph 1 d) i)]	Secretariat notifies selected range States.
No later than 23 September 2021.	Stage 2 [paragraph 1 d) i)]	Range States 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.	Stage 2 [paragraph 1 d) ii), and 1 f)]	Secretariat commissions consultants 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*.

15.6 Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews* PC25 Doc. 15.6

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document AC31 Doc. 13.5/PC25 Doc. 15.6 that presents parallels between the work on country-wide Significant Trade Reviews, capacity-building (Decisions 18.38 to 18.46) and the Compliance Assistance Programme (Decisions 18.68 to 18.70).

The PC representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) supported the Secretariat's recommendations in the document but stressed that the Chairs needed to consult with their members prior to reporting on this issue. The Wildlife Conservation Society, speaking also on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute, Cheetah Conservation Fund, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Environment Investigation Agency, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pro Wildlife, Sea Shepherd Legal, Species Survival Network and the World Wide Fund for Nature expressed their strong support for the Review of Significant Trade process and concern that only the Committees would draft recommendations without input from Parties and observers.

The Committees requested the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees to consult their Members and the leads on Decision 18.72 as per their respective workplans (AC31 Doc. 7.2 and PC25 Doc. 7.2) to represent the views of the Committees on these issues through the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on capacity-building and at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and to work with the Secretariat to develop recommendations on country-wide Significant Trade Reviews and present the outcomes of this work to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

16. Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.) and ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.)

16.1 Report of Madagascar on the implementation of Decision 18.96 PC25 Doc. 16.1

and

16.2 Report of the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 18.99 *No document*

Madagascar introduced document PC25 Doc. 16.1 and outlined progress in the implementation of Decision 18.96, with emphasis on the establishment of an intersessional advisory group (IAG) on Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods and ebonies to assist and advise Madagascar on the implementation of all measures regarding *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. mentioned in Decision 18.96. It mentioned the development of a reference collection for Malagasy precious woods, and work on the formulation of a non-detriment finding for *Dalbergia lemurica* and *D. suaresensis* and on timber identification, all supporting the sustainable management of Malagasy palisanders, rosewoods and ebonies.

The Secretariat provided an oral update on the implementation of Decisions 18.96 and 18.99, noting great progress with the implementation of paragraph a) of Decision 18.99 related to assisting Parties and Madagascar in the implementation of Decisions 18.94 to 18.97, and minor progress with the implementation of paragraph b) of Decision 18.99 related to capacity-building activities in Madagascar and transit and destination countries concerned by the trade in specimens of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar due to a lack of external funding.

Switzerland acknowledged the progress and efforts made by Madagascar but noted the absence of information on non-detriment findings so far. It expressed an interest in further information on control and management of stockpiles of rosewoods, palisanders and ebonies. The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) informed the Committee of a new agreement between ITTO and Madagascar for a pilot project to enumerate and mark government-owned stockpiles.

The Committee noted document PC25 Doc. 16.1, the oral update provided by Madagascar and the oral report of the Secretariat.

Regulation of trade

17. Non-detriment findings*

Report of the Secretariat [Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) and Decisions 18.132 and 18.133] PC25 Doc.17 and Addendum

The Secretariat introduced document AC31 Doc. 14.1/PC25 Doc. 17 and its addendum that provide updates on the implementation of Decisions 18.132 to 18.134 on guidance for making non-detriment findings (NDF). The addendum presents the terms of references for a Technical Advisory Committee and draft decisions to extend the work beyond the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Annex to the addendum presents a summary of responses to consultations with the Animals and Plants Committees and with Parties, a synthesis of gaps and weaknesses in existing NDF guidance, and workstreams to address these gaps. The Animals and Plants Committees were invited to review the Secretariat's suggestions regarding priority gaps and weaknesses, and corresponding workstreams, as proposed in the Annex to the addendum; review the draft terms of reference of the Technical Advisory Committee; and consider the adoption of the draft decisions proposed in paragraph 9 of the addendum.

The AC representative for Europe (Ms. Zikova), the PC representative for North America (Ms. Gnam), and Germany supported the work on NDFs, the convening of an NDF workshop and the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee, and stated that efforts should be led by Parties and Committee Members. The PC representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) referred to information document AC31 Inf. 22/PC25 Inf. 20. China also supported the work on NDFs and proposed another thematic group on geographical and language coverage and further referred to information document AC31 Inf. 21/PC25 Inf. 19.

The Committees established an in-session working group on non-detriment findings with the mandate to:

- a) review the Secretariat's suggestions regarding priority gaps and weaknesses and corresponding workstreams, as presented in the Annex to the Addendum of document AC31 Doc. 14.1/PC25 Doc. 17;

- b) review the terms of reference of the Technical Advisory Committee in paragraph 8 of the Addendum;
- c) consider the draft decisions in paragraph 9 of the Addendum for submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) formulate recommendations for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees later in this meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Africa for the Plants Committee (Ms. Khayota), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean of the Animals Committee (Mr. Ramadori), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean of the Plants Committee (Ms. Núñez Neyra), representative for Europe of the Animals Committee (Ms. Zikova), alternate representative for Europe of the Plants Committee (Mr. Wolf) (**co-Chair**), representative for North America of the Plants Committee (Ms. Gnam), alternate representative for North America of the Animals Committee (Ms. Lougheed) (**co-Chair**), alternate representative for Oceania of the Animals Committee (Ms. McIntyre), nomenclature specialist for the Animals Committee (Mr. van Dijk);

Parties: Argentina, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, and Zimbabwe; and

Observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Union for Conservation of Nature; Animal Welfare Institute, Blue Resources Trust, Born Free USA, Center for Biological Diversity, CIC – International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, Cheetah Conservation Fund, Dallas Safari Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency US, European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation, ForestBased Solutions, Forest Trends, German Society of Herpetology, Humane Society International, International Wood Products Association, Safari Club International, Sea Shepherd Legal, TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Parrot Trust, World Wide Fund for Nature, and Zoological Society of London.

Later in the meeting, the AC alternate representative for North America (Ms. Lougheed) introduced document AC31/PC25 Com. 3. The discussion between the AC Chair, the AC representatives for Europe (Ms. Zikova), North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) and Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk), the PC representatives for Europe (Mr. Carmo) and North America (Ms. Gnam), Canada, China and the United States of America focused on the draft decisions and specifically on the establishment and reporting lines of the Technical Advisory Committee. IWMC-World Conservation Center noted that the term “Committee” was probably incorrect since, within the context of CITES, Committees refer to the Standing, Animals and Plants Committees.

Germany announced that it was providing funding for an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings.

The Committees agreed the recommendations in document AC31/PC25 Com. 3 with the following amendments.

The Committees agreed to recommend that an ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee be established to advise the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 18.132. The Committees further agreed that the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees will advise the Secretariat on the modalities, terms of reference (ToR) and timing for the establishment of the ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee. The Committees recommended that the additional priorities and workstreams suggested in document AC31/PC25 Com. 3, as well as the proposed prioritization, be considered when establishing final priorities and workstreams for implementing Decision 18.132.

The Committees invited the Secretariat to verify whether the term “Committee” or “Group” should be used in the context of the establishment of an advisory body and amend the name of the ad hoc technical advisory body accordingly, if necessary.

The Committees agreed to submit the following draft decisions on non-detriment findings guidance to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as proposed in document AC31/PC25 Com. 3 and amended by the Chair of the Animals Committee, the Plants Committee representative for the North American region (Ms. Gnam), and China:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, address priorities in capacity-building related to non-detriment findings (NDF) agreed by the Secretariat and the ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), in consultation with the Animals and Plants Committees and Parties, by:
 - i) continuing to support the ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee through which the Animals and Plants Committees provided support and advice for implementing Decisions 18.132 to 18.134;
 - ii) organizing in consultation with the ad hoc TAC an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings to review, advance or complete draft guidance materials on NDFs; and
 - iii) undertaking targeted research in support of the development of new or updated NDF guidance materials in close collaboration with the ad hoc TAC, relevant experts, Parties and organizations;
- b) compile and present the results of the work under paragraph a) to the Animals and Plants Committees for their review and make suggestions on how best to use the outputs to assist Scientific Authorities in the making of NDFs;
- c) make available to Parties on the CITES website the NDF guidance materials resulting from the implementation of the present Decision;
- d) develop a strategy and feedback mechanism for Parties and the wider CITES community to share experiences with using NDF guidance materials, which should allow the Animals and Plants Committees to make recommendations pertaining to review and update the NDF materials as may be needed; and
- e) consult the Animals and Plants Committees on the implementation of the present Decision and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

19.BB Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

The Animals and Plants Committees shall:

- a) continue the ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) established under the recommendations in document AC31/PC25 Com. 3 through which the Animals and Plants Committees provided support and advice for implementing Decisions 18.132 to 18.134, review the functioning of the ad hoc TAC, and make any appropriate decisions to ensure continued advice and assistance for the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC;
- b) participate as appropriate in the international expert workshop on NDFs where draft guidance materials are to be reviewed, advanced or completed;
- c) review and make recommendations concerning: the outcomes of the international expert workshop on NDFs; the use of its outputs in support of the making of NDFs by Scientific Authorities; and their publication on the CITES website;
- d) based on the strategy and feedback from Parties and the wider CITES community on experiences with using NDF guidance materials, review and update NDF materials as may be needed; and
- e) report on these activities at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

19.CC *Directed to Parties*

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) provide any help and information regarding methodologies, tools, scientific information, expertise and any other resources used to formulate NDFs in order to contribute to such a workshop;
- b) make use of the guidance materials on NDFs resulting from the implementation of Decisions 19.AA and 19.BB and participate as appropriate in the feedback mechanism on NDF guidance, to be developed by the Secretariat as referred to in Decision 19.AA, paragraph d); and
- c) provide financial and technical support for the implementation of Decision 19.AA, including for an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings.

18. Identification materials* [Decision 18.137] PC25 Doc.18 and Addendum

The co-Chairs of the joint intersessional working group of the Animals and Plants Committees on identification materials (the AC representative for Oceania, Mr. Robertson, and the PC representative for North America, Ms. Gnam) introduced document AC31 Doc. 15/PC25 Doc. 18 and its addendum and provided information on the implementation of Decision 17.161, paragraph c) and progress on Decision 18.135. They drew attention to new and additional species identification guides from Parties that have been added to the CITES Virtual College. They presented to the Committees a new proposed draft resolution on *Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species* as set out in the Annex to the addendum.

The AC representative for Europe (Ms. Zikova) and China supported the draft resolution and suggested some edits. The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) and the PC representatives for Africa (Mr. Mahamane) and for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez Neyra) also supported the draft resolution and the establishment of an in-session working group.

The Committees established an in-session working group on identification materials with the mandate to:

- a) review the proposed draft resolution contained in the Annex to document AC31 Doc. 15/PC25 Doc. 18, Addendum and, if needed, revise it for consideration of the Animals and Plants Committee and onward submission to the Standing Committee; and
- b) draft or revise decisions on identification materials for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Europe of the Animals Committee (Ms. Zikova), representative for North America of the Plants Committee (Ms. Gnam) (**co-Chair**), representative for Oceania of the Animals Committee (Mr. Robertson) (**co-Chair**);

Parties: China, Singapore, and United States of America; and

Observers: International Union for Conservation of Nature; Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society International, and World Resources Institute.

Later in the meeting, the PC representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) introduced document AC31/PC25 Com. 2 and proposed an additional edit to the draft resolution. The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) pointed out that some of the bracketed text in the draft decisions may not be necessary if the Conference of the Parties adopts the draft resolution.

The Committees agreed to submit to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting the draft resolution and draft decisions in document AC31/PC25 Com. 2 with the following amendment:

- insert “to the extent possible” in paragraph 4 a) of the draft resolution that should read: “provide identification information to the extent possible in the proposals for amendment of Appendices including information as outlined in paragraphs C 1. “taxonomy”, 3. “species characteristics”, and

9 “information on similar species” in Annex 6 to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and the Annex to this Resolution;”

The Committees further agreed to, if necessary, mandate their Chairs, with the assistance of the in-session working group members, to continue to draft the proposed new resolution on identification materials, and submit it to the Standing Committee for inputs and onward submission to the Conference of the Parties.

19. Identification of timber and other wood products

Decision 18.140 PC25 Doc. 19 and Addendum

The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam), speaking as co-chair of the working group on identification of timber and other wood products, introduced document PC25 Doc. 19 and its addendum that outline the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.140 to 18.143 and 16.58 (Rev. CoP18). The Annex to the addendum consists of the revised compendium of timber identification resources, modified by the Secretariat from information document PC25 Inf. 11.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez Neyra), China and Spain expressed support for the revised recommendations and provided an update on the work on timber identification conducted in their region – by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in Central and South America and on microscopic timber identification in Spain.

The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam), speaking on behalf of her region, suggested adding “in close collaboration with the Plants Committee and with relevant experts” after “requested the Secretariat” in the revised recommendations and adding a new draft decision 19.CC as outlined below.

The Committee noted document PC25 Doc. 19, its addendum and its Annex. The Committee requested the Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Plants Committee and with relevant experts, to publish on the relevant section of its website relevant elements of the revised compendium of timber identification resources, as contained in the Annex to the addendum, in line with Decision 16.58 (Rev. CoP18), paragraph b), and Decision 18.142 paragraph b). The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the draft decisions in paragraph 39 c) of the addendum and requested the Secretariat to take note of the proposed edits by the representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) as underlined above and below:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Plants Committee, and subject to external resources:

- a) liaise with relevant organizations and experts in the development of a depository of timber identification resources and a dedicated webpage, taking into account the progress and recommendations reported in document PC25 Doc. 19 and its addendum;
- b) in undertaking the above, consideration should be given to tailor the compilation of timber identification resources for both frontline enforcement officers and to experts involved in identifying timber for forensic or legal purposes; and
- c) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee at its first regular meeting after CoP19 and seek its advice and input.

19.BB Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to collaborate with the Secretariat in sharing relevant information in support of the implementation of Decision 19.AA.

19.CC Directed to the Plants Committee (copied from Decision 18.140 with additional edits shown as a double underline)

The Plants Committee shall, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and building on information on existing initiatives, and progress to date:

- a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA;

- ba) determine gaps and complementarities in various tools and knowledge sources for timber identification, such as existing field identification guidelines and keys, and on their availability and usefulness;
- cb) develop standardized information templates and other tools that could be used by Parties to facilitate sharing information on the content and status of wood sample collections, and exchange with research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities;
- de) assist Parties to identify existing laboratory services for the identification of timber and wood products and to strengthen screening and forensic capacity to identify CITES- listed tree species in trade;
- ed) determine methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties; and
- fe) update the Standing Committee, as appropriate, on progress made on the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.DD; and report its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ~~19th~~20th meeting.

19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider any report by the Plants Committee relating to the implementation of Decision 19.CC and convey, as appropriate, any recommendations it may have to the Conference of the Parties.

20. Specimens produced through biotechnology* [Decision 18.148] PC25 Doc.20

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc. 20 that presents the study *Wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA* in its Annex. Work on specimens produced through biotechnology is ongoing through an intersessional working group of the Standing Committee and any matters that require scientific advice will be brought to the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, when the working group concludes its work.

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) supported the original recommendation of having the intersessional working group review the study. China, as the Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on specimens produced through biotechnology, noted that the working group was keen to receive feedback and input from the Animals and Plants Committees.

The Wildlife Conservation Society, speaking also on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and the Natural Resources Defense Council, noted with concern that CITES was not providing guidance to Parties and advised that CITES should go beyond the learning phase and should start working on regulation of specimens produced through biotechnology.

The Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 17/PC25 Doc. 20 and agreed that the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committee, in consultation with their members, would represent the views of the scientific committees at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee and provide input to the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on specimens produced through biotechnology.

21. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source* [Decision 18.172] PC25 Doc. 21

The Chair of the Animals Committee introduced document AC31 Doc. 19.3/PC25 Doc. 21 that provides an overview of work implemented under Decision 18.172 and the ongoing work by the intersessional working group of the Standing Committee under Decision 18.173. Implementation of "Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source" is ongoing through an intersessional working group of the Standing Committee and will be brought to the attention of the Animals and Plants Committees, as appropriate, when the working group concludes its work.

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz) stated that the Committees had not implemented Decision 18.172 and had not identified key scientific issues and challenges in the application of the Convention to non-wild specimens. He thus proposed the postponement of the work until after the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties with the renewal of Decision 18.172. The AC representatives for

Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori) and for Europe (Ms. Zikova) and the PC representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) supported the renewal of Decision 18.172.

The Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 19.3/PC25 Doc. 21 and agreed to propose to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting the extension of Decision 18.172 for further work beyond the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

22. Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated' [Decision 18.178] PC25 Comp. and Addendum

The PC Chair introduced document PC25 Comp. and its addendum that outline progress in the implementation of Decision 18.178 and draft guidance on the term 'artificially propagated', which the Secretariat commissioned the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to develop.

The Committee established an in-session working group on the term 'artificially propagated' with the mandate to:

- a) review and, if appropriate, revise the draft guidance in the Annex to the addendum to document PC25 Doc. 22;
- b) agree on the best way to publish a consolidated version of the guidance on terms relating to 'artificially propagated', including consider incorporating it in a new edition of the publication *A Guide to the application of CITES source codes*;
- c) consider the draft decisions in paragraph 5 of this addendum; and
- d) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) (Chair);

Parties: Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre; International Union for Conservation of Nature, Center for International Environmental Law, ForestBased Solutions, Humane Society International, International Wood Products Association, and TRAFFIC.

Later in the meeting, the representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) introduced document PC25 Com. 1. The Secretariat requested a change in the process for the finalization of an interim version of the *Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated'* since the in-session working group finished its mandate with the close of the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee and could not be continued. The Secretariat suggested that the members of the in-session working group be consulted.

The representatives for North America (Ms. Gnam) and Oceania (Mr. Wrigley), echoed by Mexico and the United States of America, agreed that the interim guidelines should be published before CoP19 and would need the input not only of the members of in-session working group, but also of the members of the Plants Committee. Humane Society International pointed out that the publication of the revised version of the guidelines would be subject to external funding as outlined in draft decision 19.AA.

Based on document PC25 Com. 1 as amended by the representative for North America (Ms. Gnam), Mexico, the United States of America and the Secretariat, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) Regarding the best way to publish a consolidated version of the guidance on terms relating to 'artificially propagated', including consideration for incorporating it in a new edition of the publication 'A Guide to the application of CITES source codes', the Committee agreed to:
 - i) the continuation of the review of the draft *Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated'*, incorporating as many of the comments made at the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee and as

detailed in information document PC25 Inf. 22 as possible, to enable the Chair of the Plants Committee, in consultation with the Members of the Plants Committee and the members of the in-session working group, to agree on the interim version of the *Guidance for the term 'artificially propagated'* no later than December 2021; and

- ii) invite the Secretariat, after direction from the PC Chair, to publish an interim version of the *Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated'* on the CITES website as a stand-alone document making it clear that it is an interim version that will be improved and expanded in the future.
- b) The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:

- a) commission the revision, including recommendations made at the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee, and expansion of the guidance for Parties relating to 'artificially propagated' to cover all regulatory aspects pertaining to artificially propagated plant species, and trade in their parts and derivatives; and
- b) report to the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee on progress on paragraph a).

19.BB Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall consider the progress reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA and make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider any report from the Plants Committee as per Decision 19.BB, including recommendations related to the publication of the final guidance on the CITES website.

- c) The Committee agreed to report on the outcomes of its work to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 19th meeting.

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

The PC Chair introduced document PC25 Doc. 23 and its addendum that outline progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.179 to 18.181. The addendum includes in its Annex a report commissioned by the Secretariat to the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on specimen grown from wild-collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated. The report is based on consultations with Parties that registered nurseries of Appendix I-listed species that take a long time to reach reproductive age.

Mexico suggested that the conservation benefits for populations of Appendix-I species that were subject to paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants* outweighed any problem that could arise from illegal trade. Mexico, echoed by China and Indonesia, welcomed the report and considered that it was not necessary to make any changes to paragraph 4.

The Committee established an in-session working group on wild-collected seeds or spores that are deemed to be artificially propagated with the mandate to:

- a) review the implementation of paragraph 4 of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*;
- 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 its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership* was decided as follows:

- Members: representative for Africa (Mr. Mahamane), **representative for Asia (Ms. Atikah)**, representative for Europe (Mr. Carmo), representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) (Chair);
- Parties: Chile, China, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and
- Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre; Species Survival Network, and TRAFFIC.

Later in the meeting, the representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) introduced document PC25 Com. 10.

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

24. Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.)
[Resolution Conf. 16.10 and Decision 18.203]..... PC25 Doc. 24 and Addendum

The PC Chair introduced document PC25 Doc. 24 and its addendum that outline progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.203 and 18.204. The addendum notes that, based on the findings of preliminary consultations with the Plants Committee and relevant Parties, current provisions in Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* are considered largely adequate, but that differing opinions exist as to whether provisions under the newly adopted source code "Y" should replace the special provisions for trade in artificially propagated agarwood, as contained in paragraph 3 of said Resolution.

* The working group members indicated in bold were added on 3 June 2021 since they were not able to express an interest for technical reasons on 2 June 2021.

The representative for Asia (Ms. Dewi Atikah) supported the establishment of an in-session working group and considered that it was not necessary to replace source code “A” with the new source code “Y”.

The Committee established an in-session working group on agarwood-producing taxa with the mandate to:

- a) 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
- b) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership* was decided as follows:

Members: **representative for Asia (Ms. Atikah)**, alternate representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) (Chair);

Parties: Cambodia, Canada, China, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre; **International Tropical Timber Organization**, Humane Society International, **International Federation for Essential Oils and Aroma Trades**, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later in the meeting, the alternate representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) introduced document PC25 Com. 7.

The alternate representative for North America (Mr. Benitez Diaz), echoed by Humane Society International, considered that the substance of the discussion was not adequately captured in the report since the working group discussed at length the use of source code “Y” for agarwood. The representative for Asia (Ms. Dewi Atikah) and Indonesia noted that paragraph 3 of Resolution Conf. 16.10 covered the use of source code “Y” and that the report captured well the working group’s discussion.

Based on document PC25 Com. 7, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee agreed to postpone the consideration on the potential revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* for the next intersessional period.
- b) The Committee further agreed to postpone the consideration on the potential revisions to Agarwood glossary and the Agarwood Non-Detriment Finding guidance for the next intersessional period.
- c) The Committee noted that, in cooperation with the CITES Secretariat, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is in the process of implementing an agarwood study that could address some of the working group’s concerns regarding agarwood producing methodologies and the use of different source codes under different management scenarios.
- d) The Committee invited range States to consider contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2020–2030), as part of global landscape restoration and species recovery of respective range States.
- e) The Committee noted the needs for identification materials and the need for capacity-building and guidance on legal acquisition findings, including on the chain of custody, with regard to specimens of agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp).
- f) The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decision for consideration at CoP19:

* The working group members indicated in bold were added on 3 June 2021 since they were not able to express an interest for technical reasons on 2 June 2021.

19.AA Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall, with the assistance of the Secretariat

- a) consider potential revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*, taking into account other relevant Resolutions, including Resolution Conf. 10.13 on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*, as appropriate;
- b) formulate any appropriate recommendations regarding the Agarwood glossary and the Agarwood NDF guidance; and
- c) make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

The Committee noted that the intervention made by the North American region on source code Y and its application to agarwood will be included in the summary record.

25. Boswellia trees (*Boswellia* spp.) [Decision 18.205] PC25 Doc. 25 and Addendum

The representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) introduced document PC25 Doc. 25 and its addendum that outline the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.205 to 18.208. They also refer to the substantial amount of information that was received in response to Notification No. 2020/056, issued as per Decision 18.205 and presented in information document PC25 Inf. 3.

India and Oman drew the Committee's attention to their response to the Notification that can be found in information documents PC25 Inf. 7 and PC25 Inf. 18 respectively and suggested that they be considered by the in-session working group.

The Committee established an in-session working group on *Boswellia* trees with the mandate to:

- a) consider the information in document PC25 Doc. 25 and its Addendum and Annexes;
- b) discuss key gaps in knowledge and information documents PC25 Inf. 7 and PC25 Inf. 18, and 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.

The membership* was decided as follows:

Members: representatives for Africa (Ms. Khayota and M. Mahamane), representative for Europe (Ms. Moser), 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.

Later in the meeting, the representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) introduced document PC25 Com. 2.

The United States of America took the opportunity to inquire about the status of the *Boswellia* consultancy, to which the Secretariat answered that the selection of a suitable candidate had not been finalized yet.

* The working group members indicated in bold were added on 3 June 2021 since they were not able to express an interest for technical reasons on 2 June 2021.

Based on document PC25 Com. 2, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee acknowledged 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 would also require some country-specific follow-up.
- b) The Committee noted that there are conservation concerns for several species that are currently most traded, that there is potential for trade to shift to other species, and that further work is needed to better understand and address look-alike considerations with other *Boswellia* species as well as *Commiphora* species.
- c) The Committee further noted that 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) The Committee also noted that 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) The Committee agreed to take into account the concern for communities who depend on these species and recognized that national working groups could be a way forward to consider international trade-related issues because needs and uses are country-specific.
- f) The Committee noted that conservation issues of *Boswellia* spp. woodlands as an ecosystem should be considered.
- g) The Committee agreed that 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) The Committee encouraged range States to consider including *Boswellia* species in CITES Appendix III where the cooperation of other Parties is required to support national regulation.
- i) The Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

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.

19.BB Directed to the Plants Committee

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*.

19.CC Directed to the Parties

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*.

26. Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

[Decision 18.236]

26.1 Report of the Secretariat..... PC25 Doc. 26.1

26.2 International trade in the African *Pterocarpus* rosewood species..... PC25 Doc. 26.2

and

26.3 Report of the working group PC25 Doc. 26.3

The Secretariat introduced document PC25 Doc. 26.1; Belgium introduced document PC25 Doc. 26.2 and the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Belteton Chacon) introduced document PC25 Doc. 26.3. Together, the documents outline the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.234 to 18.237. The Committee was invited to agree the revised recommendations contained in paragraph 36 of document PC25 Doc. 26.3, including *inter alia* the pertinence of submitting draft decisions to CoP19 to continue the work on rosewood tree species.

The representative for Africa (Mr. Mahamane) highlighted the importance of the work on *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, while the representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) proposed edits to draft decisions 19.AA and 19.BB as outlined below. China suggested that the use of the term “rosewood tree species” could cause confusion and advocated for the use of scientific names within CITES.

The Committee noted documents PC25 Doc. 26.1, Doc. 26.2 and Doc. 26.3.

The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the draft decisions with the edits proposed by the representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) as follows:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to external resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) in consultation with the Plants Committee, develop the objectives of the proposed study of rosewood tree species, taking into account findings and recommendations contained in documents PC25 Doc. 26.1, PC25 Doc. 26.2 and PC25 Doc. 26.3;
- ab) commission a study on the conservation and trade rosewood-tree species identified, taking into account the priorities, findings and recommendations contained in documents PC25 Doc. 26.1, PC25 Doc. 26.2 and PC25 Doc. 26.3;
- bc) report on the progress of the study to the Plants Committee;
- cd) taking into account the above, organize an international workshop, inviting relevant range States, trading countries, relevant organizations, industry representatives and other experts, with a view to presenting and discussing the results, and develop recommendations; and
- de) submit the final study for consideration by the Plants Committee, as well as the outcomes of the workshop, if held.

19.BB Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall consider any progress reported by the Secretariat in relation to the implementation of Decision 19.AA, work with the Secretariat to develop the objectives of the study, and make recommendations ~~to the Secretariat~~, the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

19.CC Directed to the Parties

Parties are invited to collaborate with the Secretariat and the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decisions 19.AA and 19.BB, and support the work of the study and the international workshop, including seeking external resources from relevant organizations and stakeholders.

19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider any report relating to the implementation of Decision 19.AA to 19.CC;
- b) identify any implementation and enforcement issues associated with the international trade in rosewood tree species, particularly those identified as a priority by the Plants Committee; and
- c) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

27. African cherry (*Prunus africana*) [Decision 18.260]..... PC25 Doc. 27

and

28. African tree species [Decision 17.302]..... PC25 Doc. 28 and Addendum

The representative for Africa (Mr. Mahamane) as chair of the working group on African tree species introduced documents PC25 Doc. 27, PC25 Doc. 28 and their addendum that outline progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.260 to 18.262 on *Prunus africana* and Decision 17.302 on *African tree species*. The Committee was invited to agree the revised recommendations contained in paragraph 13 of the addendum including, *inter alia*, to consider the publication of draft recommendations on *P. africana* and the pertinence of submitted draft decisions to CoP19 to continue the work on African tree species.

The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) supported draft decisions 19.AA to 19.CC but did not support paragraph 13 b) of the addendum; and further noted that the information in the Annex to the addendum needed more discussion and revision.

The Committee agreed that it would be premature to publish on the CITES website the Annex to document PC25 Doc. 28 Addendum pertaining to PC25 Doc. 27 on *Prunus africana*, and further agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the following draft decisions:

19.AA Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) update the list of African tree species and associated CITES processes contained in the Annex to document PC25 Doc. 28;
- b) based on documents PC25 Doc. 27, PC25 Doc. 28 and PC25 Doc. 28 Add., establish priorities to strengthen the implementation of the Convention for the African tree species, including priorities for future work on *Prunus africana*;
- c) liaise with Parties in advancing the priorities identified above; and
- d) report the outcomes of this work to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

19.BB Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, upon request of the Plants Committee, assist in the implementation of Decision 19.AA.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider any report from the Plants Committee regarding Decision 19.AA and develop recommendations for consideration of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

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

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Belton Chacon) as co-Chair of the working group on neotropical tree species introduced document PC25 Doc. 29 and its addendum that outline the progress achieved in the implementation of Decision 18.299.

The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) highlighted the important work achieved by the working group and supported the draft decisions in the addendum. Costa Rica announced the intention of Honduras and Costa Rica to prepare an amendment proposal to include *Handroanthus* spp, *Tabebuia* spp and *Roseodendron* spp in Appendix II and called on range States to cooperate with their request for information.

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.

30. Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species [Decision 18.302]..... PC25 Doc. 30 and Addendum

The representative for Asia (Mr. Lee) as co-chair of the working group on trade in medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) introduced document PC25 Doc. 30 and its addendum that outlined the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.300 to 18.303.

The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam), echoed by Canada and Germany, supported the inclusion of local and traditional knowledge, and participatory monitoring and management of CITES-listed MAPs and of certification schemes and non-detriment findings (NDFs) in the proposed second international workshop

on NDFs. She also supported the establishment of an in-session working group to increase the clarity and focus of the draft decisions. Canada noted that finished medicinal products were rightfully widely excluded from CITES regulations because of the annotations in the Appendices. More monitoring might be needed, but other organizations are already monitoring the production chains. Canada supported further work on the issue and suggested that it should focus on the first commodities in trade and not on finished products.

Humane Society International, on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Environmental Investigation Agency USA and Species Survival Network, noted that the certification systems in place for MAPs could not replace the making of non-detriment findings, including the role played by the Scientific Authority. Thus, guidance and certification systems, while useful, could not replace non-detriment findings.

The Committee established an in-session working group on trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species with the mandate to:

- a) consider the draft decisions in the Annex to the addendum, taking into account progress reported in document PC25 Doc. 30 and its addendum, and information document CoP18 Inf. 11; and
- b) make any additional recommendations for the Plants Committee to consider.

The membership* was decided as follows:

Members: representatives for Africa (Ms. Khayota and Mr. Mahamane), representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) (Chair);

Parties: **Argentina**, Cambodia, Canada, China, Georgia, Germany, Kenya, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

Observers: International Union for Conservation of Nature, American Herbal Products Association, Humane Society International, International Federation for Essential Oils and Aroma Trades, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later in the meeting, the representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) introduced document PC25 Com. 9.

The alternate representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) and Germany proposed several revisions to the draft decisions as follows:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

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

- a) subject to external funding, liaise with key stakeholders along medicinal and aromatic plant trade value chains, including consumers, with support of the Parties, to develop informational materials for raising awareness of CITES regulations for the medicinal and aromatic plant industry stakeholders and consumers;
- b) publish a notification to inviteask Parties to:
 - i) support the Secretariat for its implementation on Decision 19. AA, paragraph a), and consider and provide feedback on the use of relevant informational materials~~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

[...]

* The working group members indicated in bold were added on 4 June 2021 since they were not able to express an interest for technical reasons on 3 June 2021.

- d) subject to external funding, 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;

19.BB Directed to Parties

Parties are invited to:

- a) support the Secretariat for its implementation of Decision 19. AA, paragraph a), and consider and provide feedback on the use of relevant informational materials ~~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

19.CC Directed to the Plants Committee

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 medicinal and aromatic plants¹ ~~plant based medicinal~~ products; and

The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam), Germany, Mexico, the United States of America and Humane Society International noted that the changes were extensive and had not been presented in the three languages of the Convention as provided in the Rules of Procedure.

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:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

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;

¹ This edit was proposed by Germany; all other edits were proposed by the alternate representative for Asia.

- 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.

19.BB Directed to Parties

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).

19.CC Directed to the Plants Committee

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.

19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee

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.

Maintenance of the Appendices

31. Report of the nomenclature specialist **[Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18)]**..... PC25 Doc. 31 and Addendum

The specialist on botanical nomenclature (Ms. Klopper) introduced document PC25 Doc. 31 and its addendum that set out the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions on nomenclature for flora and the workplan for the Plants Committee in matters related to nomenclature. This covers aspects relevant to checklists and standard references for *Aloes*, cacti, *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp., *Guibourtia* spp., Appendix II-listed orchids, *Pachypodium* spp., and *Taxus* spp.

The Committee established an in-session working group on nomenclature with the mandate to:

- a) consider document PC25 Doc. 31 and its addendum, and documents PC25 Doc. 32.1 and 32.2;
- b) concerning *Aloe* and *Pachypodium*, consider the progress and recommendations reported in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the addendum of document PC25 Doc. 31, and the pertinence of drafting nomenclature-related draft decisions to further this work for consideration of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19);
- c) concerning Cactaceae, consider the progress and recommendations reported in paragraph 7 and the Annex to the addendum of document PC25 Doc. 31, and the pertinence of revising and extending the mandate of Decisions 18.304 to 18.306 on *Nomenclature (Cactaceae Checklist and its Supplement)* for consideration at CoP19;
- d) concerning *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar), consider the progress and recommendations reported in paragraph 8 of the addendum of document PC25 Doc. 31, and the pertinence of drafting nomenclature-related draft decisions for consideration at CoP19;
- e) concerning Orchidaceae, consider the progress reported in paragraph 9 of the present addendum, together with the update and checklists contained in documents PC25 Doc. 32.1 and PC25 Doc. 32.2, and the pertinence of drafting nomenclature-related draft decisions and recommendations for consideration of CoP19;
- f) concerning *Taxus* spp., consider the progress and recommendations reported in paragraph 10 of the addendum of document PC25 Doc. 31, and develop recommendations to update the standard nomenclature references in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature* for consideration at CoP19;
- g) concerning *Guibourtia* spp., consider the progress and recommendations reported in paragraph 11 of the addendum of document PC25 Doc. 31, and develop recommendations to update standard nomenclature references in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) for consideration at CoP19; and,
- h) concerning new priorities in matters related to nomenclature, consider paragraphs 12 to 15 of the addendum of document PC25 Doc. 31, and develop recommendations for consideration at CoP19, including drafting nomenclature-related draft decisions where appropriate.

The membership* was decided as follows:

Members: specialist on botanical nomenclature (Ms. Klopper) (Chair), representative for Africa (Mr. Mahamane), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra);

Parties: **Austria**, Cambodia, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, Republic of Korea, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

* The working group members indicated in bold were added on 4 June 2021 since they were not able to express an interest for technical reasons on 3 June 2021.

Observers: United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre; Humane Society International, and Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh.

Later in the meeting, the specialist on botanical nomenclature (Ms. Klopper) introduced document PC25 Com. 5.

Based on document PC25 Com. 5, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) Concerning the genus *Aloe*, the Committee agreed to submit for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the inclusion of the supplement in the Annex to document PC25 Com. 5 containing the synonyms in new genera and additional revisions identified, in the standard nomenclature references in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*.
- b) The Committee reminded the Parties that all *Lomatophyllum* names are scientific synonyms of CITES-listed *Aloe* species and are thus regulated under the Convention.
- c) The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the following draft decisions:

19.A1 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:

- a) subject to the availability of external resources, commission the drafting of an updated standard nomenclature reference for *Aloe* spp., taking into consideration relevant elements of paragraph 5 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31 and the Annex to PC25 Com. 5; and
- b) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee.

19.A2 Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.A1;
 - b) provide input to assist with the preparation of the updated *Aloe* spp. checklist, as noted in paragraph 5 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31; and
 - c) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- d) Concerning the genus *Pachypodium*, the Committee agreed to submit for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, at its 19th meeting, the following draft decisions:

19.B1 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:

- a) subject to the availability of external resources, commission the drafting of an updated standard nomenclature reference for *Pachypodium* spp., taking into consideration relevant elements of paragraph 6 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31; and
- b) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee.

19.B2 Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.B1;

- b) provide input to assist with the preparation of the updated *Pachypodium* checklist, as noted in paragraph 6 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31; and
 - c) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- e) Concerning Cactaceae and the preparation of a fourth edition of the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist (CCC)*, the Committee agreed that the preparation of a fourth edition of the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist (CCC)* should be a low priority.
- f) The Committee further agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties, at its 19th meeting, the extension of Decisions 18.304 to 18.306 with the reference to CoP19 in Decision 18.306 changed to CoP20 as follows:

Nomenclature (Cactaceae Checklist and its Supplement)

18.304 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to Parties

Parties shall inform the Secretariat on their experience in using the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist* (3rd edition) and its *Supplement* (2018) and any issues that may arise as they apply these lists, including feedback to improve it in the light of relevant updates of cacti taxonomy.

18.305 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) liaise with the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to obtain feedback on the utility of the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist* (3rd edition) and its *Supplement* (2018) and any queries that arise as they update relevant databases, taking into account feedback provided by Parties as per Decision 18.304 (Rev. CoP19); and
- b) report to the Plants Committee of this feedback and any comments it receives from the Parties in order for the Committee to review this at its regular meetings.

18.306 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall review any report from the Secretariat related to the implementation of Decision 18.305 (Rev. CoP19) and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its ~~19th~~ 20th meeting.

- g) The Committee noted that, concerning the Appendix-I synonymy of *Aztekium ritteri* and *A. valdezii* under the current standard nomenclatural reference, Mexico is assessing the pertinence of preparing an amendment proposal in line with the recommendations contained in paragraph 7 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31. However, it may not be possible for Mexico to complete their assessment and to prepare and submit an uplisting proposal in time for the document submission deadline for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- h) The Committee requested the nomenclature specialist to include as part of the proposed nomenclatural changes to be put before the Parties at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a proposal to reinstate *Aztekium valdezii* as a separate species and restore it to Appendix II.
- i) Concerning *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar), the Committee agreed to submit for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting a new time-stamped download of the genus from *Vascular Plants of Madagascar* (formerly known as *A Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Madagascar*) as noted in paragraph 8 of document PC25 Doc. 31 Addendum, as a standard nomenclatural reference in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) in place of the existing reference of these species.
- j) The Committee further agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the following draft decisions:

19.C1 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:

- a) subject to the availability of external resources, commission the drafting of an updated standard nomenclature reference of *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar), taking into consideration relevant elements of paragraph 8 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31; and
- b) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee.

19.C2 Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.D1; and
 - b) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- k) Concerning Orchidaceae, in collaboration with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Korea, the Committee agreed to submit for consideration of the Conference of the Parties, at its 19th meeting, a new standard nomenclature reference for Appendix-II listed orchids, taking into consideration recommendations contained in document PC25 Doc. 32.1 and Doc. 32.2, as well as additional feedback from range States and relevant experts, in line with the deadlines established by Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18).
- l) The Committee further agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties, at its 19th meeting, the following draft decisions:

19.D1 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) seek feedback from Parties and relevant experts on their experience in using the standard nomenclature reference for Appendix-II listed orchids, in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*, including suggestions to improve the standard nomenclature in light of relevant updates in orchid taxonomy;
- b) subject to the availability of external resources, and in close collaboration with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee, commission the drafting of an update of the standard nomenclature references for Appendix II-listed orchids, taking into account feedback received under paragraph a) of this Decision; and
- c) report to the Plants Committee the feedback received for review.

19.D2 Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall review any report from the Secretariat related to the implementation of Decision 19.E1 and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

- m) Concerning *Taxus* spp., the Committee agreed to propose the retention of the standard nomenclature references as currently reflected in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) and further agreed to propose that the Conference of the Parties at CoP19 adopt the following draft decisions for updating the standard nomenclature reference:

19.E1 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:

- a) subject to the availability of external resources, commission the drafting of an update of the standard nomenclature reference for *Taxus* spp., taking into consideration relevant elements of paragraph 10 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31; and
- b) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee.

19.E2 Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.F1; and
 - b) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- n) Concerning *Guibourtia* spp., the Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting an amendment to the standard nomenclature reference, regarding the synonyms of *Guibourtia pellegriniana* as outlined in paragraph 11 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31 and to reflect the following precisions relating to the distribution of *Guibourtia pellegriniana*:
- i) delete reference to *Copaifera coleosperma* Benth. (1865), as this is not a synonym of *Guibourtia pellegriniana*, but refers to the non-CITES listed *Guibourtia coleosperma* (Benth.) J.Léonard instead;
 - ii) revise the taxon entry of *Guibourtia pellegriniana* J.Léonard to include the two misapplied synonyms indicated in paragraph 11 of document PC25 Doc. 31 Addendum;
 - iii) add Angola as a range State for *Guibourtia pellegriniana* J.Léonard, in addition to Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Gabon and Nigeria; and
 - iv) add a comment to the 'Nomenclatural notes' field to the CITES website, including Species+ that careful attention should be paid to the authors of these synonym names.
- o) The Committee agreed to include the nomenclature priorities outlined in paragraphs 12 to 15 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31 and consideration of the enforcement-related implications of the updates of standard nomenclature references for flora species listed in the Appendices in the CoP19-CoP20 workplan of the Plants Committee in matters related to nomenclature.

32. Orchids checklists

32.1 Orchids checklist in the Republic of Korea PC25 Doc. 32.1

and

32.2 Appendix-II orchids checklist PC25 Doc. 32.2

The Republic of Korea introduced document PC25 Doc. 32.1 and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced document PC25 Doc. 32.2. Both documents present a comprehensive review and updates of current standard references for Appendix II-listed orchids.

Algeria welcomed both checklists as being very beneficial for the conservation of orchids and agreed that endemic orchid species should be included in the checklists.

The Committee agreed to include the consideration of the recommendations under documents PC25 Doc. 32.1 and Doc. 32.2 as part of the mandate of the in-session working group under agenda item 31.

33. Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings* [Decision 18.313]..... PC25 Doc. 33 and Addendum

The AC nomenclature specialist (Mr. van Dijk) introduced document AC31 Doc 39/PC25 Doc. 33 and its addendum that present an outline of the scope of the problem with regard to nomenclatural changes to species listed in Appendix III. He suggested that further deliberations on this complex topic were necessary, including close engagement with the Standing Committee and the Secretariat to further define the scope and focus of the documentation to be prepared for the Standing Committee by the Plants and Animals Committees. He stated that deliberations will likely need to continue after the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and suggested the renewal of Decisions 18.313 and 18.314.

The Committees agreed to propose the renewal of Decisions 18.313 and 18.314 to the Standing Committee as follows:

18.313 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees

The Animals and Plants Committees shall, taking into consideration the current guidance in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*, paragraph 2 g), evaluate how nomenclature changes affect Appendix-III listings and propose further guidance and recommendations as necessary, ~~for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 73rd meeting~~, that address how such nomenclature changes are to be handled, for consideration by the Standing Committee.

18.314 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, shall ~~at its 73rd meeting~~ take into account the guidance and recommendations from the Animals and Plants Committees and make recommendations to address nomenclature changes that affect an Appendix-III listing, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) or Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Inclusion of species in Appendix III*, for consideration at the ~~49-20th~~ meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

34. Production of a CITES Checklist for *Dalbergia* spp.
[Decision 18.308] PC25 Doc. 34 and Addendum

The Secretariat introduced document PC25 Doc. 34 and its addendum that outline the progress achieved in the implementation of Decision 18.307 to 18.308, with emphasis on the preliminary results of the “CITES Checklist for *Dalbergia* spp.”, commissioned by the Secretariat and developed by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG, Kew). Annex 1 to the addendum summarizes the methodology followed to produce the checklist. Annex 2 consists of an Excel document showing the progress in the compilation and review of relevant literature.

The Committee established an in-session working group on a *Dalbergia* Checklist with the mandate to:

- a) consider document PC25 Doc. 34 and its addendum;
- b) review Annexes 1 and 2 to the addendum and provide comments for consideration by the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew (RBG Kew);
- c) develop advice for the Secretariat and RBG Kew in the process of developing the Checklist, as per step i) paragraph 3 of document PC25 Doc. 34;
- d) consider the pertinence of including the final Checklist as a standard reference in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*; and
- e) propose to the Conference of the Parties the extension and revision of Decisions 18.307 and 18.308, as contained in paragraph 8 e) of the addendum of document PC25 Doc. 34.

The membership* was decided as follows:

* The working group members indicated in bold were added on 4 June 2021 since they were not able to express an interest for technical reasons on 3 June 2021.

- Members: specialist on botanical nomenclature (Ms. Klopper) (Chair);
- Parties: Austria, Cambodia, China, India, Madagascar, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and
- Observers: Chambre Syndicale de la Factice Instrumentale, **Confédération des Industries Musicales Européennes**, and International Wood Products Association.

Later in the meeting, the specialist on botanical nomenclature (Ms. Klopper) introduced document PC25 Com. 3.

Cambodia suggested that the following issues be added to the working group report:

“Mobilize resources to support range State (Parties) for:

- a) conducting an assessment of non-detriment finding (NDF) for *Dalbergia* spp./range State (Parties), and its legal acquisition findings (LAF);
- b) conducting an assessment of current management, harvest control, and monitoring practices *Dalbergia* spp./range State (Parties);
- c) planting of 1 billion *Dalbergia* spp. (from 2022-2030) to provide support to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2020–2030), as part of global landscape restoration and species recovery of respective range State (Parties);
- d) creating a fund for planting CITES listed timber tree species (*Dalbergia* spp.) and NDF that would allow for a more diverse and sustainable revenue stream for investing in NDFs from multiple stakeholders public-private-people partnerships.”

The specialist on botanical nomenclature (Ms. Klopper) noted that Cambodia’s proposal, while valuable, was outside the mandate of the working group.

Based on document PC25 Com. 3 as amended by the Secretariat, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee agreed to continue to provide feedback to the nomenclature specialist and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (RBG Kew) on the progress of the outputs of the CITES Checklist for *Dalbergia* spp., including but not limited to, the chapter structure, content of the nomenclature chapter, the spreadsheet of *Dalbergia* spp. names, distribution information and the draft species profile (including views on the fields and icons it will contain) by 9 July 2021.
- b) The Committee invited the Secretariat to request RBG Kew to incorporate, as appropriate, the feedback received to the checklist, so that the Secretariat can circulate an agreed version via a Notification to the Parties, in line with the process outlined in paragraph 2 i) of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*.
- c) The Committee agreed to submit for consideration of the Conference of the Parties in time for its 19th meeting (CoP19), a final consolidated version of the CITES Checklist for *Dalbergia* spp., for inclusion in the standard nomenclatural reference for this genus in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18).
- d) The Committee noted that further work towards an annotated checklist will be needed following CoP19, and therefore requested the Secretariat to consult with experts to obtain details of what this work will entail.
- e) The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the extension and revision of Decisions 18.307 and 18.308 as follows:

18.307 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:

- a) subject to availability of external resources, ~~undertake the development of~~ develop an annotated CITES Checklist of *Dalbergia* spp., taking into consideration:
 - i) ~~the Checklist as included in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on Standard nomenclature; relevant elements of paragraph 7 of document CoP18 Doc. 99, as well as the pertinence of including a distinction between timber and non-timber species of *Dalbergia* spp.;~~
 - ii) ~~the required~~ research and other work needed for the production of such a Checklist; and
 - iii) aspects related to its publication; and
- b) report on progress ~~or results of this process~~ to the Plants Committee at its regular meetings and seek its advice and input.

18.308 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider progress ~~and results~~ reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 18.307 (Rev. CoP19); and
- b) make recommendations to the Secretariat and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

~~These recommendations could include timelines for completion of the Checklist, or the adoption of a standard nomenclature reference for *Dalbergia* spp., amongst others.~~

35. Annotations* [Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP18)]..... PC25 Doc. 35

Canada, as Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations, introduced document AC31 Doc. 40/PC25 Doc. 35 that provides an overview of activities of that working group and identifies challenges pertaining to the implementation and interpretation of annotations. The work on annotations has continued, and progress was presented at the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee as outlined in document SC73 Doc. 25.

Israel welcomed the document and advised against the renumbering of hash annotations. The Republic of Korea expressed some concern about annotation #4 that it will bring to the attention of the working group of the Standing Committee.

The Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 39/PC25 Doc. 33 and the oral update by the Chair of the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations.

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

The Secretariat introduced document PC25 Doc. 36 and its addendum that provide updates on the implementation of Decision 18.321. The addendum also brings to the attention of the Committee information document PC25 Inf. 12 on the summary of responses received to Notification to the Parties No. 2020/033, which could be relevant in support of the study to assess the effects of the exemption contained in annotation #15 on *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species in international trade.

The League of America Orchestras, also speaking on behalf of American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, American Federation of Violin and Bow Makers, Association of British Orchestras, The Australian Music Association (AMA), Bundesverband der deutschen Musikinstrumentenhersteller e.V., C.F. Martin & Co., COMUSICA, Confederation of European Music Industries (CAFIM), Fender Musical Instruments Corporation, ForestBased Solutions, French Musical

Instrument Organisation (CSFI), International Association of Violin and Bow Makers (EILA), International Federation of Musicians (FIM), International Wood Products Association, Japan Musical Instruments Association (JMIA), John Cruz Custom Guitars, League of American Orchestras, Madinter, National Association of Music Merchants, Orchestras Canada, Paul Reed Smith, Pearle Live Performance Europe, The SOMM - Society of Music Merchants e. V., and Taylor Guitars, drew the Committee's attention to information document PC25 Inf. 14. They confirmed that the revision to annotation #15 at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties has greatly improved the circulation of musical instruments and expressed their readiness to help further work on this issue.

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.

37. Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids
[Decision 18.329] PC25 Doc. 37

and

38. Annotations for Appendix-II orchids PC25 Doc. 38 and Addendum

The representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) introduced documents PC25 Doc. 37 and PC25 Doc. 38 and its addendum that relate to the implementation of Decisions 18.327 to 18.330 on *Products containing specimens of Appendix II orchids*. In document PC25 Doc. 37, the Secretariat reviewed available information on the conservation impacts of potential exemptions of orchid specimens from CITES regulations and proposes additional studies to consider this matter further. In document PC25 Doc. 38, Switzerland presented its intention to submit a listing proposal relating to exemptions of trade in specimens of five orchid species.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez Neyra) and the Republic of Korea supported the Secretariat's recommendations. The representatives for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Nunez Neyra) and for North America (Ms. Gnam) highlighted the importance of an additional study as suggested in the addendum and to have certification or traceability mechanisms in place to ensure that wild specimens do not enter international trade. The representative for North America (Ms. Gnam) opposed the proposed changes to annotation #4, while China supported those changes, noting that evidence from the case studies showed that no wild specimens ended up in finished products. The Republic of Korea highlighted the need to determine the appropriate scope for the study.

The Committee established an in-session working group on orchid annotations with the mandate to:

- a) consider priorities for additional research, as proposed in paragraph 8 of document PC25 Doc. 37;
- b) consider the amendment to annotation #4, as proposed by Switzerland in paragraph 11 of document PC25 Doc. 38, and the best way of contributing findings in this regard to the ongoing discussions in the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations;
- c) consider the submission to the Conference of the Parties of the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the addendum of document PC25 Doc. 38; and
- d) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Members: representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) (Chair);

Parties: Cambodia, Canada, China, India, Ireland, Madagascar, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

Observers: International Union for Conservation of Nature; American Herbal Products Association, Forest Trends, and TRAFFIC.

Later in the meeting, the representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) introduced document PC25 Com. 4.

Based on document PC25 Com. 4, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee agreed that further research is needed and future areas of research could focus on food and medicinal plants, but the scope of the research should be appropriately narrowed.
- b) In determining the scope of future research, the Committee agreed to seek cooperation with Parties and relevant non-Party stakeholders.
- c) The Committee agreed that the focus might be on source countries that have wild harvest of medicinal/edible orchids and that field work is likely to be necessary to obtain accurate and sufficient field data to inform the discussions in CITES.
- d) The Committee agreed that some issues may be addressed under future work on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) and that no duplication of efforts should be ensured.
- e) The Committee encouraged Switzerland to consider submitting its proposal to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- f) The Committee recommended that future work on orchid annotations be undertaken in close collaboration with any Standing Committee discussions related to annotations.
- g) The Committee requested the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations to consider the proposal by Switzerland in the context of its currently ongoing discussions and provide its observations/recommendations to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.
- h) The Committee agreed to submit to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the following draft decisions:

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) consult with Parties and stakeholders and undertake a study to compile an overview of Appendix-II orchid taxa that are particularly affected by wild harvest for international trade to inform the following assessments:

- i) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting artificially propagated Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations, including as articulated in footnote annotation 10 of the CITES Appendices, including identification challenges and look-alike issues; and
 - ii) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting derivatives and/or finished products of certain Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations through amendments to annotation #4; and
- b) report to the Plants Committee.

19.BB Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall consider the study as per Decision 19.AA, and make recommendations on how to improve CITES implementation for Appendix-II listed orchids to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall review any recommendations of the Plants Committee, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

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

39.1 Overview of species under Review PC25 Doc. 39.1

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document AC31 Doc. 41.1/PC25 Doc. 39.1 that presents in its Annexes an overview of the animal and plant species in the Periodic Review process in the period between the 13th and 19th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 41.1/PC24 Doc. 39.1.

No intervention was made on this agenda item.

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

and

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

Mexico introduced documents PC25 Doc. 39.2 and PC25 Doc. 39.3 that recommend that *Ariocarpus retusus* and *Ceratozamia hildae* be maintained in Appendix I.

The United States of America supported the recommendations in the documents.

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.

40. Guidance for the publication of the Appendices* [Decision 18.331] PC25 Doc. 40

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document AC31 Doc. 42/PC25 Doc. 40 that presents draft guidance for the publication of the Appendices as of May 2020, noting that work on this guidance had continued and an updated guidance was presented in document SC73 Doc. 26 (Rev. 1).

The United States of America asked the Secretariat to consult with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and their members before the submission of the draft guidance at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee. IWMC-World Conservation Trust asked for confirmation that the issue of renumbering of hash annotations pertained to the *Guidance for the publication of the Appendices*, and not to the Standing Committee intersessional working group on annotations. Canada noted this concern and informed the Animals and Plants Committees that it will answer IWMC directly.

The Committees noted document AC31 Doc. 42/PC25 Doc. 40 and invited Parties and observer organizations to submit to the Secretariat their comments on the draft revised *Guidance for the publication of the Appendices* in document SC73 Doc. 26 (Rev. 1). Given that the Animals and Plants Committees were not provided an opportunity for input or discussion of the document, it was requested that the record reflect that noting the document does not imply agreement or endorsement.

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.