

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 8 – 13 July 2024

SUMMARY RECORD

**Opening of the meeting**

Opening remarks of the Chair ..... *No document*

The Chair of the Plants Committee (PC) opened the meeting and welcomed the Members of the Committee, Party Observers, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the meeting. The Chair called on the collaboration of the meeting participants in order to ensure the efficient consideration of the numerous agenda items, thus allowing the Plants Committee to deliver on its mandate by submitting its conclusions to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties.

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

The Secretary-General gave an opening address, highlighting that the agenda of this 27th meeting reflected the milestones achieved collectively during this intersessional period, including *inter alia* the progress achieved in the implementation of recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade process, including for African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) and the new guidance on non-detriment findings. The Secretary-General noted an exponential growth in the workload of the Secretariat, but without the core financial and human resources needed to keep up with this growth. The Secretary-General urged Parties to be considerate of the amount of work requested from the Secretariat, especially when it relates to activities that may be outside of the Convention's core work.

**Administrative and financial matters**

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

The Secretariat informed the Committee that it had received standard disclosure forms for CITES declarations of interest from all Members and acting Members and that none had 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.

The Plants 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.

2. Rules of Procedure ..... PC27 Doc. 2

The PC Chair introduced the Rules of Procedure of the Committee in document PC27 Doc. 2, as amended at its 24th meeting (Geneva, July 2018) and indicated that these Rules of Procedure remain valid for this meeting.

The Plants Committee noted that its Rules of Procedure, as amended at its 24th meeting (Geneva, July 2018) and set out in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 2, remain valid for this meeting.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

3. Agenda..... PC27 Doc. 3

The PC Chair introduced the agenda for this meeting, presented in document PC27 Doc. 3.

The Plants Committee adopted its agenda as set out in document PC27 Doc. 3.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

4. Working programme.....PC27 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat introduced the working programme as set out in document PC27 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1) and explained the revisions made to the working programme.

The Plants Committee adopted its working programme as set out in document PC27 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1).

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

5. Admission of observers..... PC27 Doc. 5

The Secretariat introduced the list of observer organizations that had requested to participate in the meeting, in accordance with Rule 4, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Procedure of the Plants Committee, as presented in document PC27 Doc. 5.

The Plants Committee noted the list of observer organizations that had been accepted to participate in the meeting as set out in document PC27 Doc. 5.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

### Strategic matters

6. Plants Committee strategic planning for 2023-2025 (CoP19-CoP20)

6.1 Implementation of the work plan for 2023-2025..... PC27 Doc. 6.1

The PC Chair presented an overview of the Resolutions (in Annex 1 to document PC27 Doc. 6.1) and Decisions (in Annex 2) in effect containing instructions that are directed or relevant to the Plants Committee. They noted that these would serve as a reference point on the progress achieved since the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC77; Geneva, November 2023) and next steps for implementation.

The acting representative for Asia (Mr. Chong) noted that there was an error in the two annexes to the document and that Mr Chong should be indicated as the PC lead for identification materials.

The Plants Committee noted the progress made with the implementation of the Committee's workplan for 2023-2025 as outlined in document PC27 Doc. 6.1 amended to indicate that Mr. Chong Kwek Yan is the PC lead for Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES listed species under Resolution Conf. 19.4 and Decision 19.142.

6.2 Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Plants Committee for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties..... *No document*

The PC Chair informed the Plants Committee that a report on the activities of the Committee in the period between the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be prepared by the PC Chair and that the inputs of the Committee members in the preparation of the report of the Chair of the Plants Committee for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) will be requested, as needed. The report will include details relating to the composition of the Plants Committee, the intersessional working groups established, including joint intersessional working groups and the workplan that includes information on progress achieved during the intersessional period.

The Plants Committee noted that the Chair of the Plants Committee is responsible for preparing a report for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and that she will seek the input from all Committee members in compiling this report.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

7. CITES Strategic Vision\*  
[Resolution Conf. 18.3 and Decision 19.12] ..... PC27 Doc. 7/AC33 Doc. 7

The Secretariat proposed to use, in addition to the indicator (Indicator 1.4.1) already agreed by SC77 to be submitted to CoP20 (see summary record [SC77 SR](#)), a disaggregate version of the Red List Index (RLI) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a possible indicator for objective 1.4 of the *CITES Strategic Vision*: “The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation status and needs of species.” After an explanation of what is the Red List Index, including its taxonomic coverage, the Secretariat presented the advantages and the drawbacks of using two different ways to disaggregate the RLI.

The PC representative for North America (Mr. Boles), Canada and Mexico considered indicator 1.4.1 as endorsed by the Standing Committee at its last meeting a good fit and that there were too many drawbacks to using the Red List Index at the present time. They suggested that the use of the Red List Index could be revisited in the future.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), China, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya and Humane Society International supported indicator 1.4.2 as amended by Nigeria [*The number and proportion of species identified as 1) threatened with extinction that are or may be affected by trade; or 2) not yet threatened with extinction but may become so if not regulated by CITES, on the basis of information in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and/or relevant sources, that are included in the CITES Appendices*]. Germany and Kenya however cautioned about using other relevant sources and Zimbabwe disagreed with the inclusion under 2), i.e. species not yet threatened with extinction but may become so if not regulated by CITES.

Germany, echoed by South Africa and the AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), suggested that the best way to choose between the different indicators would be to measure them based on the proposed data to be used and methodology.

Argentina supported using the Red List Index disaggregated by internationally traded species, but using CITES criteria to identify those that are internationally traded. The PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), speaking on behalf of Peru, highlighted the limitations of the Red List Index, especially due to the limited data on flora and highlighted the need to work on taxonomic reconciliation between IUCN and CITES. The AC representative for Asia (Mr. Mobaraki) suggested that the indicator should also cover those species that have not been assessed by IUCN.

Mexico underscored the need to focus on CITES-listed species for this indicator, noting that there are processes to look at non-CITES listed species, such as the one on marine ornamental fishes and on amphibians. They advised to look at indicator 1.5.1 and noted that the Red List assessment process should incorporate data from CITES amendment proposals as part of their assessments.

IUCN informed the Committees that sharks will soon be added to the RLI and expressed their readiness to work with Secretariat.

The Animals and Plants Committees invited the Secretariat to consider the comments made on the possible additional indicators for objective 1.4 of the Strategic Vision in the preparation of its report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

8. Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international organizations\* [Decision 19.20]..... No document

The Secretariat presented an update on the progress in the implementation of Decision 19.20 and outlined next steps in the development of a partnership strategy for the Parties, the Permanent Committees and the Secretariat to identify priorities for collaboration that specifically enhance the implementation of the Convention, as well as its effectiveness and efficiency, through strategic partnerships. The Secretariat indicated it would share the draft partnership strategy with the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees

who would then consult with the Members of the Committee to provide feedback on the draft prior to the document deadline for SC78.

Indonesia supported enhanced cooperation between Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and the way forward proposed by the Secretariat. The Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention highlighted the importance of cooperation with regional MEAs and provided an update on its work.

The Animals and Plants Committees noted the oral update presented by the Secretariat.

9. Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation  
[Resolution Conf. 16.5 and Decision 19.22] ..... PC27 Doc. 9

The regional representative for Oceania (Mr Wrigley), as co-lead of the implementation of Decision 19.22 and 19.23 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*, informed the Committee that the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) scheduled to take place in October 2024 will be invited to adopt the voluntary complementary actions related to plant conservation as an update to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation recommended in [CBD/SBSTTA/REC/25/4](#). Noting that there are no scheduled meetings of the Plants Committee at which an adopted Global Strategy for Plant Conservation could be further considered prior to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, they proposed a way forward with proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*. The regional representative for Oceania also proposed the inclusion of a new Annex to Resolution Conf. 16.5 containing a list of potential CITES activities and products and their contribution to the objectives and targets of the updated *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2023-2030*.

The representative for North America (Mr. Boles), supported by Mexico and PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), speaking on behalf of Peru, agreed with the revisions to the Resolution, with Peru highlighting the importance of the mapping of the contribution of CITES to the Global Biodiversity Framework. The representative for North America proposed some minor amendments.

Botanic Gardens Conservation International underscored that, among the 42 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation voluntary complementary actions for the period 2023–2030, actions 5a, 5b, 10, 15a and 15b were relevant and supported the recommendations in the document.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted the set of voluntary complementary actions recommended by the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice to be implemented by 2030 as part of the action agenda for plant conservation to be known as the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*;
- b) agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the draft revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity* as contained in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 9 as amended by the representative for North America (Mr. Boles) as follows:
  - i) deletion of "and the CITES Forest Compendium" in paragraph 2 a);
  - ii) amendment of the title of the Annex as follows: "List of potential CITES activities and products and their contribution to the objectives, ~~and~~ targets and complementary voluntary actions of the ~~updated~~ *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2023-2030*; and
  - iii) maintaining the last table in the Annex that maps the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* (~~GSPC~~) objectives, ~~GSPC~~-targets and CITES potential contribution;
- c) invited the Secretariat to review the final adopted version of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, arising from the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity and, in consultation with the Chair of the Plants Committee, revise the text, if required on the CITES complementary actions presented in Annex 1 to Resolution Conf. 16.5 for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

- d) agreed to report its findings and make recommendations to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

10. IPBES Report on the Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species \*  
[Resolution Conf. 18.4 and Decision 19.28] .....PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz), as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on the *IPBES Report on the Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Wild Species*, introduced document PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11 and presented the list of scientific aspects in Chapter 3 and 4 of the [thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species](#) relevant to the CITES implementation contained in Annex 1 to document PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11. Annex 2 to document PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11 contained the CITES processes relating to the scientific aspects identified in Annex 1 and included Resolutions and Decisions relevant to each scientific aspect added through the intersessional working group process. The working group identified in paragraph 10 several aspects relating to drivers of sustainable use and knowledge gaps, challenges and research priorities to be considered by the Standing Committee and provided a detailed list in Annex 3 to the document. They further highlighted that this stream of work is a good example of a detailed process to consider the findings of an IPBES assessment and the linkages to and implications for the work of a specific Convention. Furthermore, it also provided an example of synergies between environmental agreements.

The PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), echoed by ProWildlife, supported the recommendations in the document.

Israel opined that an issue may be missing in the document, i.e. that legal trade is not systematically sustainable and can threaten some species. The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and the AC Chair, as co-Chairs of the working group, indicated that this element was taken into consideration in Annex 1.

Wildlife Conservation Society suggested that the following issues be added: the lack of information on the life history and stocks of marine fish species; the possible unsustainability of exotic pet trade; and the emergence of disease-causing pathogens through animal trade. The co-chairs indicated they these aspects were included in Annex 1 in terms of knowledge gaps, challenges and research priorities and reminded the Committee and observers that additional aspects could be elaborated in the Standing Committee's intersessional process since the outcomes of the joint AC/PC intersessional process will be provided to the Standing Committee.

Conservation Force proposed to add Resolution Conf. 8.3 on *Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife* in the table in Annex 3.

The IPBES Secretariat reflected on the main findings of the assessment including that CITES, overall, has been an important instrument for driving global coordination of regulations and enforcement regarding international trade in wild species; and that the development and implementation of non-detriment finding tools and methods in CITES also support more sustainable use. The IPBES Secretariat thanked the AC Chair who has been instrumental in sharing information relating to CITES processes with IPBES through active engagement and participation as an observer in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. The IPBES Secretariat also thanked the CITES Secretariat for their continued support and engagement with the different processes of IPBES and expressed its readiness to support the work of CITES.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) agreed to provide to the Standing Committee through its intersessional working group the results of the review of the scientific aspects of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species of IPBES as contained in Annex 1 and 2 to document PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11, as well as Annex 3 to document PC27 Doc. 10/AC33 Doc. 11 amended to include Resolution Conf. 8.3 on *Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife* in the table in Annex 3 in the section under "Drivers of sustainable use – Practices in CITES procedures and practices addressed in the Chapter that could address sustainable use" mapped against paragraph a) ; and
- b) agreed that Decision 19.28 has been implemented and can be deleted.

11. World Wildlife Trade report \*/Decision 19.31].....PC27 Doc. 11/AC33 Doc. 12

The Secretariat introduced document PC27 Doc. 11/AC33 Doc. 12 and summarized the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2023/019 of 8 September 2023 seeking feedback on the draft World Wildlife Trade Report and the potential utility and drawbacks of producing such a report on a regular basis. Parties and organizations commented on both the potential utility and drawbacks of the Report as well as on the periodic preparation of such reports proposed in document CoP19 Doc.12.

The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), Israel, New Zealand, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland did not support the World Wildlife Trade Report in its current format but recognized its value in providing a global overview of legal trade in CITES species that could be useful as a communication tool linked to the *CITES Strategic Vision*. The United Kingdom, supported by the United Republic of Tanzania, suggested that it could be scaled back to the levels and patterns of legal trade (i.e. Chapter 2) with a more detailed analysis. Argentina and Zimbabwe indicated that they could be amenable to the option presented by the United Kingdom. New Zealand and the United Republic of Tanzania expressed concern about the analysis in the report, including the use of price data.

The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and New Zealand did not support the production of the Report every three years and indicated the need for a more dynamic alternative. The World Wide Fund for Nature suggested that a detailed report could be prepared for 2030, the last year of the *CITES Strategic Vision*.

The PC representative for North America (Mr. Boles), the AC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori), Argentina, India, Kenya and Wildlife Conservation Society estimated that the report drew too many human and financial resources and could constitute a reporting burden on Parties. The PC representative for North America (Mr. Boles) suggested that any additional resources could be allocated to strengthen the CITES Trade database, including the Trade View.

China reminded Parties of Resolution Conf. 8.3 on *Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife* and of Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods* that recognize the benefits of trade, including for livelihoods. China underscored the importance for Parties to understand the significance of trade in CITES-listed species for the global economy and noted that any technical issues could be resolved and should not be used as an excuse. They supported the regular production of a World Wildlife Trade Report. This statement was supported by South Africa.

The Animals and Plants Committees noted document PC27 Doc. 11/ AC33 Doc. 12 and requested the Secretariat to consider the comments made in plenary in its report to the Standing Committee.

12. CITES and forests [Decisions 19.32 and 19.33] ..... PC27 Doc. 12

The Secretariat provided an update on the implementation of Decisions 19.32 to 19.34 on *CITES and forests* and informed the Committee that the interdisciplinary study to assist decision-making processes on the future of any initiative relating to CITES and forests had been initiated. The Secretariat invited the Plants Committee to provide its scientific or technical advice on the preliminary findings of the study that will be circulated to the Members by November 2024. With the feedback received, the Secretariat would then finalize the report and present it for consideration of the Standing Committee at SC78, including reflections on the status of the implementation of Decisions 19.32 to 19.34.

The Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO; English: National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity), as the implementing partner supporting the Secretariat with the study, provided a brief overview of the approach and methodology of the study.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), the representative for Africa (Mr. Balama), Brazil and Canada emphasized that it would be important for the Plants Committee to comment on the preliminary results of the study prior to SC78 and therefore agreed with the way forward proposed by the Secretariat

The representative for Africa (Mr. Balama), echoed by the representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), suggested adding the issue of livelihoods and forest use to the terms of reference of the study, to which the Secretariat, the representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) and the United States of America responded that the terms of reference had already been adopted by the Plants Committee at its 26th meeting. The Secretariat further noted that the issue of livelihoods was already included in the scope of the study.

Brazil indicated that the study should not only focus on tree species but also look at ecosystems and the implications of sustainable harvesting of trees on the ecosystem.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted the feedback provided on the progress reported on the implementation of Decision 19.32; and,
- b) agreed the proposed approach reflected in paragraphs 9 and 10 of document PC27 Doc. 12 to provide the opportunity to Members of the Plants Committee to provide scientific or technical advice on the preliminary results of the interdisciplinary study to assist decision-making processes on the future of any initiative relating to CITES and forests, ahead of the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

#### Capacity-building

#### 13. Country-wide Review of Significant Trade\* [Decision 19.47]..... PC27 Doc. 13/AC33 Doc. 13

The AC Chair, as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on *Countrywide Review of Significant Trade*, introduced document PC27 Doc. 13/AC33 Doc. 13 and noted the parallels between the work on country-wide Significant Trade Reviews, the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), the capacity-building framework (Decision 19.41) and the development of comprehensive new guidance on making Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs), which should serve as a useful new resource for those range States that are currently subject to the Review of Significant Trade (RST). The document concluded that since the development of an integrated capacity-building framework remains ongoing it is not yet possible to determine if this will sufficiently address the scientific and management issues identified in the country-wide Review of Significant Trade for Madagascar. The working group further concluded that a country struggling with RST may not be selected as a priority country for assistance within the CAP and that future work should support those Parties with re-occurring issues regarding NDFs for multiple species and who are not currently eligible for the CAP.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) supported the draft decisions in the document and indicated that the CAP only covers six countries, while many more countries are part of the RST process. They noted that the Solomon Islands were part of the CAP and of the RST process and was looking forward to seeing the outcome of the CAP on the RST process.

The PC representative for North America (Mr. Boles) proposed that the focus should be on those countries that are not in the CAP and proposed some edits to the draft decisions.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) noted the conclusions of the working group as outlined in paragraphs 19 to 21 of document PC27 Doc. 13 / AC33 Doc. 13; and
- b) agreed to propose replacing Decisions 19.47 and 19.48 with the following draft decisions for consideration by the Standing Committee.

#### ***Directed to Parties subject to recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade***

**20.AA** *Parties subject to recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade are encouraged to make use of the Guidance on the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) developed under Decision 19.132; and provide feedback on the use of this guidance to the Secretariat.*

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

**20.BB** *Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat shall provide targeted capacity-building support at a national level to Parties currently subject to recommendations under the Review of Significant Trade, including the application of the new NDF Guidance produced under Decision 19.132.*

#### ***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

**20.CC** *The Animals and Plants Committees shall, taking into account the progress made under the Compliance Assistance Programme and the development of a Capacity-Building Framework:*

- a) review the results of the Evaluation of the country-wide Review of Significant Trade (RST) process report produced for AC30/PC24 and consider whether the RST process or a complementary new mechanism should be developed to provide targeted support to Parties with recurring issues in making non-detriment findings for multiple species, who are not currently eligible for the Compliance Assistance Programme, as highlighted through the Review of Significant Trade Process and on the possible role of the Scientific Committees in facilitating this; and
- b) provide recommendations, including possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species or other existing resolutions, or the development of a new resolution; for consideration by the Standing Committee.

**Directed to the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat**

**20.DD** The Standing Committee shall review the report and the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, and in consultation with the Secretariat, make recommendations for consideration at the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

14. CITES Tree Species Programme [Decision 19.50]..... PC27 Doc. 14

The Secretariat confirmed that, in December 2023 the [International Climate Initiative \(IKI\)](#), a climate financing mechanism of the German government, agreed to provide a financial support of EUR 10 million under the project entitled *CITES Tree Species Project – Sustainable trade and forest governance*. This project aimed to strengthen the linkages between sustainable forest management and the CITES provisions at the national level to assist Parties in better complying with the Convention’s requirements for legal, sustainable trade in commercially significant tree species, and at the same time addressing other international obligations such as improving forest governance, contributing to reducing deforestation and addressing climate change. The Secretariat noted that there was a possibility that future tree-related projects may serve as one of the funding mechanisms in support of CITES and forests, the capacity-building framework, or other programmatic approach or strategy.

The representatives for Africa (Mr. Balama), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), North America (Mr. Boles) and Oceania (Mr. Wrigley), Brazil, Kenya and Peru thanked the donors, the European Union and Germany for the continuation of the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP) that has proven to be instrumental in the implementation of the Convention. They further supported the renewal of Decision 19.50, paragraph b), that aims to assess the potential for the CITES Tree Species Programme to be made a permanent programme.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), echoed by Brazil, Peru and the Species Survival Network, called for making the CTSP permanent. The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) further thanked the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) as an implementing partner of the CTSP. The representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) welcomed the expansion of the geographic scope of the CTSP. The representative for Africa (Mr. Balama) suggested widening support beyond non-detriment findings to include legal acquisition findings and capacity-building for timber identification.

Noting that the CTSP focuses on the core mandate of the Convention and supports non-detriment findings at species level, the representative for North America asked for some clarifications about the secondary objective of the CTSP linked to climate change, to which the Secretariat indicated that the secondary objective of the Project is to measure how core CITES work such as NDFs can contribute to climate change mitigation.

Brazil, Kenya, Mexico and the United States of America enquired about the next steps for the CTSP, specifically about how the projects will be selected (criteria for selection), whether an Advisory Committee would be established and its terms of reference, regular communication relating to the next steps and opportunities relating to funding. The Secretariat indicated that the new CTSP was still in its inception phase and that Parties would be kept informed via Notification to the Parties and the CITES website.

The United States of America indicated their readiness to support the CTSP through the biennial working programme of ITTO, while Peru gave an update on the implementation of the CTSP in its country, in particular for *Dipteryx* spp. and *Handroanthus* spp. Kenya further suggested that the CTSP should be



included under the agenda items “Access to funding” and “Capacity-building”. Species Survival Network recommended that the CTSP and the CITES and forest initiative should be considered separately, noting the general support and the proven track record of the CTSP.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted the comments made in plenary;
- b) agreed that Decisions 19.49 and 19.50, paragraphs a) and c), have been implemented on the basis of the report contained in document PC27 Doc. 14;
- c) agreed that Decision 19.50, paragraph b), should be renewed as a new stand-alone Decision;
- d) requested the Secretariat to convey the above recommendations in its report to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting; and
- e) invited the Secretariat to continue informing the Parties of the availability of funds under the new phase of the CTSP.

## Compliance

### 15. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) and Decisions 17.108 (Rev. CoP19) to 17.110 (Rev. CoP19)]

#### 15.1 Overview of the Review of Significant Trade ..... PC27 Doc. 15.1

The Secretariat updated the Plants Committee on the status of the Review of Significant Trade (RST) and provided an overview of all flora cases (species/range State combinations) from CoP11 to CoP19 with an indication of their current status under the review process, and the reference documents that provide detailed information for each case. The Secretariat also provided an update on the implementation of Decisions 17.108 (Rev. CoP19) to 17.110 (Rev. CoP19) on the development of an RST Tracking and Management database that it is currently being enhanced based on feedback received, in particular to make it easier to use the search filters and provide alerts to Parties in the RST process.

The Plants Committee noted document PC27 Doc. 15.1.

#### 15.2 Implementation of recommendations for species selected following CoP17 ..... PC27 Doc. 15.2

The Secretariat reported on two cases selected following CoP17 (Congo/*Pericopsis elata* and Nicaragua/*Dalbergia retusa*) where actions were taken by Parties to implement recommendations made by the Plants and Standing Committees since the Secretariat last reported on implementation and recommended action to the Standing Committee at its 77th meeting (SC77; Geneva, November 2023) in document SC77 Doc. 35.3. For Congo/*Pericopsis elata*, the Secretariat indicated it had received a request for a cautionary quota for a forest concession, together with the supporting NDF. The Secretariat noted that it was consulting with the Congo and the PC Chair to clarify whether this quota represented the national proposal for 2024, or if further requests for other concessions would be submitted later this year.

The Plants Committee noted the oral update provided by the Secretariat and agreed to support the Secretariat in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the RST recommendations for the two species/country combinations (Congo/*Pericopsis elata* and Nicaragua/*Dalbergia retusa*) covered in document PC27 Doc. 15.2 in preparation for the intersessional consultations that will take place ahead of its reporting to the Standing Committee at SC78, in accordance with paragraph 1 k) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18).

#### 15.3 Ongoing cases of species selected following CoP18 (*Pterocarpus erinaceus* as an exceptional case) ..... PC27 Doc. 15.3

The Secretariat presented an update on eight cases of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* currently in the Review of Significant Trade process (four of which are also undergoing recommendations under the expedited application of Article XIII), as follows:

<b><i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>/country combinations currently in the Review of Significant Trade</b>	<b>Trade suspension recommendation under the Article XIII process</b>
(*) countries also undergoing Article XIII recommendations	
1) Benin	N/A
2) Burkina Faso	N/A
3) Gambia (the)*	The trade suspension shall remain in place until the conditions of paragraph 10 of <a href="#">Notification to the Parties No. 2022/045</a> are met. See also <a href="#">Notification to the Parties No. 2024/006</a> .
4) Ghana	N/A
5) Guinea-Bissau*	The trade suspension shall remain in place until the conditions of paragraph 10 of <a href="#">Notification to the Parties No. 2022/045</a> are met. See also <a href="#">Notification to the Parties No. 2024/006</a> .
6) Mali*	The trade suspension shall remain in place until the conditions of paragraph 10 of <a href="#">Notification to the Parties No. 2022/045</a> are met. See also <a href="#">Notification to the Parties No. 2024/057</a> on the <i>partial</i> withdrawal of the recommendation to suspend trade. See also <a href="#">Notification to the Parties No. 2024/006</a> .
7) Nigeria*	The trade suspension recommendation shall remain in place until the conditions of <a href="#">Notification to the Parties No. 2018/084</a> are met. See also <a href="#">Notification to the Parties No. 2024/006</a> .
8) Sierra Leone	N/A

The Secretariat further provided some updates from Benin, Ghana and Sierra Leone. Benin recently confirmed to the Secretariat the establishment of a zero-export quota for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* for 2024 and 2025, as now reflected in the CITES online export quota tool. Ghana and Sierra Leone provided clarifications in response to the queries raised by the representatives for Europe and North America. The clarifications provided by Ghana and Sierra Leone were made available in information documents PC27 Inf. 4 and PC27 Inf. 5.

The representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) noted that more time was needed to consider the clarifications provided by Ghana and Sierra Leone since the information documents had only been submitted recently. Furthermore, additional information should also be submitted by the other range States.

The acting representative for Africa (Mr. Lagarde), echoed by Canada and Germany, thanked Ghana and Sierra Leone for the information they had submitted and noted the significant efforts they had put forward. For Ghana, the acting representative for Africa recommended the adoption of a cautionary quota that should take into account the precautionary approach and setting the minimum felling diameter higher than 20 centimetres. For Sierra Leone, the acting representative for Africa indicated that concerns relating to illegal trade meant that the non-detriment finding should be particularly robust and take total harvest into account.

Germany requested some further clarifications from Ghana in order to establish how wood from underwater harvest can be differentiated from other wood. For Sierra Leone, Germany expressed concerns about illegal trade and the existence of stockpiles of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*.

Ghana and Sierra Leone expressed their commitment to the sustainable management of the species through the implementation of the recommendations of the Plants Committee. Ghana urged the Plants Committee to support its updated NDF and indicated it was ready to provide further inputs in an in-session working group.

Cameroon presented to the Committee the forest management measures it had put in place, including the development of an action plan for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and reflected on the upcoming workshop

for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* range States scheduled to take place in September 2024 in Douala, Cameroon. Cameroon indicated that it is looking forward to welcome participants to Douala.

15.4 Species selected following CoP19 ..... PC27 Doc. 15.4

The Secretariat presented the responses from range States for the 14 flora species/country combinations selected for the Review of Significant Trade at PC26 (see Annex 1 to document PC27 Doc. 15.4). The document also contained a report of the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) about the biology, management and trade in the species selected at PC26 (see Annex 2) and provided preliminary categorizations of each species/country combination into one of the three categories outlined in paragraph 1) e) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18).

The acting representative for Asia (Mr. Chong) agreed with the recommendations contained in the document, in particular with the classification of Viet Nam/*Aquilaria crassna* as less concern. However, the acting representative for Asia indicated that the classification of Indonesia/*Aquilaria malaccensis* and Malaysia/*Aquilaria malaccensis* as action is needed was not justified since they had taken action to reduce their quotas and to implement reforestation activities. It was furthermore noted that Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* was being revised and that such amendments should be taken into consideration as part of the RST process.

The representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth) and the representative for North America (Mr. Boles) proposed that Indonesia/*Aquilaria malaccensis* and Malaysia/*Aquilaria malaccensis* not be removed from the RST process at this stage and be included in the mandate of the in-session working group.

The representative for Africa (Mr. Balama) proposed that the range States included in paragraph 4 of the document should be given time to respond to the Secretariat before being included in the second stage of the RST process.

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) indicated that Papua New Guinea would need capacity-building support to implement any recommendations coming out of the RST process.

India provided an update on its management of *Aquilaria malaccensis*, indicating that it had provided a non-detriment finding to the Secretariat and that it was implementing a zero-export quota for wild harvests. They welcomed the removal of India/*Aquilaria malaccensis* from the RST process.

Indonesia announced that it would decrease its quota for wild-harvested *Aquilaria malaccensis* by 40% in 2024 compared to 2023, a level that Indonesia considered to be conservative allowing for the natural regeneration of agarwood. They expressed their commitment to improve traceability and to continue with their reforestation programmes. For Indonesia/*Gyrinops* spp., they requested that the species/country combination be removed from the review process since they had established a zero-export quota for wild living trees as indicated in information document PC27 Inf. 15.

Malaysia informed the Committee that trade in *Aquilaria malaccensis* only came from existing stockpiles that were closely monitored. Harvest of the species has not been allowed since 2015. The existing export quota was established at a level that is well below the harvest quota and will soon be set as a zero-export quota since the stockpile will soon be fully used.

Cameroon indicated that it had never reached its existing export quota for *Guibourtia tessmannii* and was ready to provide additional information on its management. Cameroon announced that it will be submitting a zero-export quota for *Guibourtia tessmannii*.

The Plants Committee noted the update on the organization of a regional workshop on non-detriment findings (NDFs) and legal acquisition findings (LAFs) for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* range States contained in Section 2 to document PC27 Doc. 15.3.

The Plants Committee noted the final list of cases confirmed for Stage 2 of RST following CoP19 as contained in paragraph 4 (columns A and B) and the provisional categorization contained in paragraph 11 of document PC27 Doc. 15.4.

The Plants Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on the Review of Significant Trade (agenda items 15.3 and 15.4) with the mandate to:

### Concerning agenda item 15.3

- a) support the Secretariat in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the RST recommendations for the species/county combinations covered in document PC27 Doc. 15.3, by providing specific inputs on the progress achieved thus far, taking into account the information provided by Ghana and Sierra Leone in plenary; and,
- b) draft any additional recommendations for the Secretariat to consider in preparation for its reporting to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78); and
- c) report its recommendations to the Committee;

### Concerning agenda item 15.4

- d) undertake the tasks outlined in paragraphs 14 to 17, in accordance with paragraphs 1 g) and i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18); and
- e) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Co-Chairs: PC Chair (Ms. Koumba Pambo) and PC Vice-Chair (Mr. Wrigley);

Members: representatives for Africa (Mr. Balama), acting representative for Asia (Mr. Chong), representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth), representative for North America (Mr. Boles);

Parties: Australia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Czech Republic, European Union, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zimbabwe; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); International Tropical Timber Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature; Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, International Wood Product Association, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, TRAFFIC, World Wide Fund for Nature; Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale (CSFI), Confédération des Industries Musicales Européennes (CAFIM), ForestBased Solutions.

Later in the meeting, the PC Chair and the representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) introduced document PC27 Com. 6. Portugal pointed out a typo on page 3 of the document where the recommendation should be directed to Guinea-Bissau and not the Gambia.

The acting representative for Asia (Mr. Chong), echoed by China, India, Indonesia and Malaysia, indicated that Viet Nam/*Aquilaria crassna* had been reclassified as 'action is needed' without any justification and requested that this country/species combination be considered as 'less concern' as originally proposed in document PC27 Doc. 15.4. Any reclassification should be justified with an explanation as to why Article IV is not implemented. The acting representative for Asia (Mr. Chong) informed the Committee that Viet Nam had implemented stricter domestic measures and had reported just one trade transaction with source code W. The Secretariat noted that concerns for this country/species country combination mainly related to illegal trade that should be addressed to the Standing Committee. Germany, echoed by Portugal, the United States of America and the World Wide Fund for Nature, suggested that Viet Nam should issue a Notification informing Parties of their stricter domestic measures and should be invited to consider publishing a zero export quota for wild specimens for commercial purposes, while the Secretariat reports to the Standing Committee on the issue of illegal trade at its next meeting. The representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley), as co-Chair of the in-session group, noted that this would then entail deleting paragraph 9 on pages 6 and 14.

Mozambique also noted that there was no justification for the classification of Mozambique/*Dalbergia melanoxylon* as 'action is needed' on page 4 of the document, to which the representative for Oceania

(Mr. Wrigley), as co-Chair of the in-session working group, responded that the classification had not changed compared to document PC27 Doc. 15.4 and the justification could be found there.

The representative for Africa (Mr. Balama) proposed that Ghana submit its improved non-detriment finding to the Plants Committee during the intersessional period prior to its 28th meeting. This was seconded by Canada, Germany and Ghana.

For Indonesia/*Aquilaria malaccensis*, Indonesia agreed with the classification 'action is needed' and expressed its readiness to start consultation with the PC Chair to set an interim quota. They informed the Committee that they had submitted a non-detriment finding that should be published. They suggested that the short-term action on page 15 should only apply to source code W since Indonesia does not use source code Y. They also suggested deleting as a consequence short term action ii) on page 15. The representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth), echoed by the World Wide Fund for Nature, noted that the non-detriment finding that had been submitted did not include an inventory of wild agarwood tree species and the short-term actions should be kept as is. The acting representative for Asia (Mr. Chong) proposed to delete reference to source code Y and to keep short-term action ii) since Indonesia should be able to respond in a timely manner to explain its use of source codes.

For Indonesia/*Gyrinops* spp., Indonesia agreed with the re-classification as 'less concern' and indicated that the zero-export quota was for living stands.

For Cameroon/*Guibourtia tessmannii*, Cameroon pointed out that it had submitted its annual reports to the Secretariat as requested in the recommendation in paragraph 4 on page 5, to which the Secretariat responded that records on trade in flora were missing from these annual reports.

The Plants Committee agreed the recommendations in document PC27 Com. 6 as amended in plenary as follows:

The name of a non-governmental observer organization should be corrected as follows: Botanic Gardens Conservation International.

### Regarding agenda item 15.3

#### **Benin/*Pterocarpus erinaceus***

The Plants Committee recognised the progress made by Benin in the implementation of short-term recommendation a) by confirming the maintenance of the zero export quota for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* for 2024 and 2025.

The Plants Committee encouraged Benin to continue its implementation of short-term recommendation a) and long-term recommendations c) and d), and to share any progress for review and revision by the Plants Committee ahead of SC78.

#### **Burkina Faso/*Pterocarpus erinaceus***

The Plants Committee recommended to Burkina Faso that they confirm a voluntary zero export quota for 2024 and 2025 ahead of the Secretariat's report to the Standing Committee at SC78.

The Plants Committee encouraged Burkina Faso to continue its implementation of short-term recommendation a) and long-term recommendations c) and d), and to share any progress for review and revision by the Plants Committee ahead of SC78.

#### **Gambia/*Pterocarpus erinaceus*\***

The Plants Committee noted the updates submitted by The Gambia regarding the request for a single export quota for processed and semi-processed logs, as well as the ongoing consultations between the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee on matters relating to associated legal acquisition findings.

The Plants Committee invited The Gambia to provide clarification on the terms processed and semi-processed logs ahead of the Secretariat's report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) relating to 'logs'.

The Plants Committee recommended that The Gambia revise the terms of reference of the NDF study (Annex 2 of document PC27 Doc. 15.3), taking into account:

- the long-term recommendations directed to it; and
- the recent *CITES Non-Detriment Findings Guidance* published on the CITES website.

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to work with The Gambia to revise the above-mentioned terms of reference and to explore ways to support the implementation of the NDF study (and its possible future revisions) contained in Annex 2 of document PC27 Doc. 15.3.

#### **Ghana/*Pterocarpus erinaceus***

The Plants Committee recognised the important progress made by Ghana in the implementation of short and long-term recommendations.

The Plants Committee accepted a 40,000 m<sup>3</sup> quota in round wood equivalent for the off-reserve underwater (Volta Lake) operations.

The Plants Committee invited Ghana, if they wish to re-submit in future a revised quota for living stands, to submit a non-detriment finding and associated quota for consideration by the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, taking into account the comments made by the Plants Committee.

#### **Guinea Bissau/*Pterocarpus erinaceus*\***

The Plants Committee recognises the important progress made by Guinea Bissau in the implementation of short and long-term recommendations.

The Plants Committee recommended that Guinea-Bissau revises the terms of reference of the NDF study (Annexe 5 du document PC27 Doc. 15.3), taking into account :

- the long-term recommendations directed to it ; and
- the recent *CITES Non-Detriment Findings Guidance* published on the CITES website.

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to work with Guinea-Bissau to revise the above-mentioned terms of reference and to explore ways to support the implementation of the NDF study (and its possible future revisions ) contained in Annex 5 of document PC27 Doc. 15.3.

#### **Mali/*Pterocarpus erinaceus*\***

The Plants Committee recognised the important progress made by Mali in the implementation of short and long-term recommendations, as well the progress achieved with the partial withdrawal of recommendation to suspend trade for a volume of 39,950.4 m<sup>3</sup> of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in accordance with Notification No. 2024/057 of 29 April 2024.

The Plants Committee encouraged Mali to continue to provide updates following its consultations with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee regarding the submission of legal acquisition findings for the remaining 15,434.4 m<sup>3</sup> of the quota accepted at PC26, ahead of the Secretariat's report to SC78.

The Plants Committee reminded Mali of the importance of following the process until the implementation of recommendation d) [regarding the conditions that need to be met to increase their export quotas, see PC27 Doc. 15.3, Annex 1, column B for Mali].

#### **Nigeria/*Pterocarpus erinaceus*\***

The Plants Committee recognised the progress achieved by Nigeria with the inclusion of the NDF study for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* as part of the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP).

The Plants Committee encouraged Nigeria to provide updates on progress with the implementation of its Compliance Assistance Programme, in particular with the NDF study, ahead of the Secretariat's report to SC78.

## Sierra Leone/*Pterocarpus erinaceus*

The Plants Committee acknowledged the important progress made by Sierra Leone in implementing the short and long term recommendations, and to accept the NDF presented by Sierra Leone in support of the requested quota of 76,324.5m<sup>3</sup> in round wood equivalent.

### Regarding agenda item 15.3

The Plants Committee agreed that the following species-country combinations be categorised as 'action is needed'.

Species	Country	Provisional categorisation in Annex 2	Revised categorisation	Justification for revised categorisation
<i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i>	Mozambique (MZ)	Action is needed	Action is needed	N/A
	United Republic of Tanzania (TZ)	Unknown Status	Action is needed	Additional biological information is needed to support the Non-detriment finding as well as a need to improve the methodology to set the annual harvest quotas.
<i>Dalbergia tucurensis</i>	Nicaragua (NI)	Action is needed	Action is needed	N/A
<i>Guibourtia tessmannii</i>	Equatorial Guinea (GQ)	Action is needed	Action is needed	N/A
<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>	Burundi (BI)	Action is needed	Action is needed	N/A
	Ethiopia (ET)	Action is needed	Action is needed	N/A
	Uganda (UG)	Conditional upon annual publication of a zero export quota, Less concern	Action is needed	Uganda to establish an annual zero export quota
	United Republic of Tanzania (TZ)	Conditional upon annual publication of a zero export quota, Less concern	Action is needed	The United Republic of Tanzania to establish an annual zero export quota
<i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i>	Indonesia (ID)	Action is needed	Action is needed	N/A
	Malaysia (MY)	Action is needed	Action is needed	N/A
<i>Gyrinops</i> spp.	Papua New Guinea (PG)	Action is needed	Action is needed	N/A

The Plants Committee agreed that the recommendations directed to range States in **Annex 1** to the present summary record be adopted with respect to the species/country combinations identified above for which 'action is needed'.

The Plants Committee agreed that the following species/country combinations be categorised as 'less concern'.

Species	Country	Provisional categorization in Annex 2	Revised categorization	Justification for revised categorization
<i>Guibourtia tessmannii</i>	Cameroon (CM)	Action is needed	Less concern	Letter received indicating publication of zero export quota. Export quota published.
<i>Gyrinops</i> spp.	Indonesia (ID)	Provided that Indonesia agrees to specify that export quotas for <i>Gyrinops</i> spp. relate to derivatives of decaying logs from	Less concern	Letter received indicating publication of zero export quota for living stands of trees. Export quota published.

Species	Country	Provisional categorization in Annex 2	Revised categorization	Justification for revised categorization
		the Mappi and Asmat Regencies, and agrees to publish an annual zero export quota, Less concern		
<i>Aquilaria crassna</i>	Viet Nam (VN)	Less concern	Less concern	

**Additional recommendations concerning agenda item 15.4:**

**1. Concerning *Dalbergia melanoxylon*/Mozambique**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to work with Mozambique to clarify the annual report for 2022.

**2. Concerning *Dalbergia melanoxylon*/United Republic of Tanzania**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to bring the issue of a missing annual report for 2021 to the attention of the Standing Committee.

**3. Concerning *Dalbergia tucurensis*/Nicaragua**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat, in consultation with the Nomenclature Specialist, to review the taxonomy for *Dalbergia tucurensis* to confirm taxonomic uncertainties associated with the species concept, as it is unclear whether the species assessed under the Global Assessment is the same species recognised under the CITES standard nomenclature reference or by Nicaragua.

**4. Concerning *Guibourtia tessmannii*/Cameroon**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to bring the issue of missing annual reports relating specifically to flora, for 2017-2022 to the attention of the Standing Committee.

**5. Concerning *Guibourtia tessmannii*/Equatorial Guinea**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to bring the issue of use of the relevant term code(s) in published quotas in order to clarify their scope.

**6. Concerning *Osyris lanceolata*/Burundi**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to bring the issue of missing annual reports for 2018 and 2022 to the attention of the Standing Committee.

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to work with Burundi and potential donors to facilitate capacity building and workshops on making NDFs for forest species.

The Plants Committee invited interested Parties to work with Burundi to facilitate capacity building and workshops on making NDFs for forest species.

The Plants Committee requested the Secretariat, when communicating with Burundi, to suggest new and existing examples of NDF guidance and reference material that they may find useful.

**7. Concerning *Osyris lanceolata*/Ethiopia**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to bring the issue of a missing annual report for 2013 to the attention of the Standing Committee.



**8. Concerning *Osyris lanceolata*/United Republic of Tanzania**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to bring the issue of a missing annual report for 2021 and to the attention of the Standing Committee.

**9. Concerning *Aquilaria crassna*/Viet Nam**

The Plants Committee invited Viet Nam to request the publication of a Notification on its stricter domestic measures for *Aquilaria crassna*.

The Plants Committee invited Viet Nam to consider publishing a zero export quota for wild specimens in line with their national legislation.

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee on the two recommendations above.

**10. Concerning *Aquilaria malaccensis*/Indonesia**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to bring the issue of using separate source codes for wild specimens and other production systems (source code A), and all quotas to the attention of the Standing Committee, and to highlight the need for Indonesia to specify the terms for export, as well as the scope for current quotas, and in future, to consider setting term-and production system-specific quotas.

The Plants Committee noted the clarifications provided by Indonesia that indicated that it does not use source code Y.

**11. Concerning *Aquilaria malaccensis*/Malaysia**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to bring the issue of a missing annual report for 2022 to the attention of the Standing Committee.

**12. Concerning *Gyrinops spp.*/Papua New Guinea**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to bring the issue of a missing annual report for 2021 to the attention of the Standing Committee.

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to include Papua New Guinea in the list of Parties that request financial and capacity building support under the renewed CITES Tree Species Project.

The Plants Committee invited interested Parties to work with Papua New Guinea to facilitate capacity building and workshops on making NDFs for forest species.

The Plants Committee requested the Secretariat, when communicating with Papua New Guinea, to suggest new and existing examples of NDF guidance and reference material that they may find useful.

**13. General comments**

The Plants Committee noted that the ICCWC toolkit may be of assistance to Parties in the Review of Significant Trade to identify areas of priority.

Regulation of trade

**16. Non-detriment findings\***  
[Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) and Decision 19.133] ..... PC27 Doc. 16/AC33 Doc. 16

The Secretariat provided an update on the publication of the preliminary CITES NDF guidance on the [CITES website](#) and indicated how the NDF guidance will be field tested. The Secretariat also proposed a way forward for a strategy and feedback mechanism from Parties and the wider CITES community to share experiences with using NDF guidance materials, and to review and update NDF materials as may be needed.

The PC representatives for Africa (Mr. Balama), Asia (Ms. Zeng), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) and North America (Mr. Boles), the AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), Japan and Wildlife Conservation Society welcomed the organization of the NDF workshop in December 2023 and the publication of the *NDF Guidance*. The in-person workshop was a success that allowed practical discussions between Parties and useful exchanges based on case studies. The PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) announced that Asia will organize NDF workshops in their region, while the PC representative for Africa (Mr. Balama) called for greater capacity-building.

The PC representative for North America supported the draft decisions on a feedback mechanism to review and update NDF Guidance materials in Annex 4 to the document, but not the draft decision on the interpretation of Article III, paragraph 3 a) on Appendix-I imports in Annex 3, noting that a separate decision on this issue was not necessary. This was seconded by the AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that proposed some edits to draft decision 20.AA in Annex 4 and the United States of America. The PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) and China originally supported retaining the draft decision on Appendix-I imports in Annex 3 but later agreed that such feedback would be gathered through the existing feedback mechanism proposed in Annex 4.

The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), echoed by Wildlife Conservation Society, suggested that as part of future work further elaboration of the role of the species in their ecosystem should be considered. Japan requested clarification relating to the inclusion of the “change in genetic structure or variability of the population” in section 6.1.2 of module 1 of the *NDF Guidance*. The AC Chair welcomed comments and encouraged participants to submit those comments as part of the proposed feedback mechanism. Japan further noted that the *NDF Guidance* is not legally binding, is flexible and can be adapted to national circumstances.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) noted the progress of the CITES NDF project and the publication of the preliminary CITES NDF guidance on the CITES website;
- b) agreed that Decisions 19.132 to 19.134 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) agreed the draft decisions contained in Annex 4 to document PC27 Doc. 16/AC33 Doc. 16 on a strategy and feedback mechanism to review and update NDF guidance materials and amended by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as follows:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**20.AA** *The Secretariat shall*

- a) *publish a Notification to the Parties inviting them to share:*
  - ~~i) *feedback, including examples, as appropriate, on the use of the CITES Non-detriment finding (NDF) guidance with the Secretariat, preferably through the regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees; and*~~
  - ~~ii) *examples with the Secretariat and / or regional representatives of the Animals and Plants Committees of how the NDF guidance has been used;*~~
- b) *taking into consideration the information received through the Notification as well as the experience gained through the field-testing of the guidance, prepare recommendations for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees regarding:*
  - i) *possible amendments of the CITES NDF guidance, as appropriate; and*
  - ii) *possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings, to establish a regular mechanism for the Animals and Plants Committees to identify, review and agree updates to the CITES NDF guidance; and*

- c) *subject to external funding, prepare draft amendments to the NDF guidance based on advice received from the Animals and Plants Committees and submit the proposed amendments for consideration by the Committees.*

**Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees**

**20.BB** *The Animals and Plants Committees shall:*

- a) *consider the recommendations submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA;*
- b) *advise the Secretariat on amendments to the CITES NDF guidance, as appropriate; and*
- c) *if necessary and as appropriate, propose to the Conference of the Parties amendments to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on Non-detriment findings to establish a regular mechanism for the Animals and Plants Committees to identify, review and agree updates to the CITES NDF guidance; and*
- d) *report to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

17. Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species\*  
 [Resolution Conf. 19.4 and Decision 19.142] ..... PC27 Doc. 17/AC33 Doc. 19.1 (Rev. 1)

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on *Materials for the identification of specimens of CITES-listed species*, presented an overview of all references to identification materials found in Resolutions and Decisions and drew the attention to an [Identification materials database](#) on the CITES website. The document presented a set of observations in paragraph 11 and, *inter alia*, indicated that the scope and volume of materials presented a significant challenge to implement the mandate and a more focused approach is needed. The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) apologized for the lack of progress and underscored the importance of this work as a priority in the future. They proposed some amendments to the draft decisions in the document to incorporate the ongoing work led by China on the identification of Appendix-I animals as described in document AC33 Doc. 19.2

17.2 Identification Manual of animals listed in CITES Appendix I ..... AC33 Doc. 19.2

The PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), speaking on behalf of China as the focal point of the *Expert Contact Group on the Identification Manual of Animals Listed in CITES Appendix I*, introduced document AC33 Doc. 19.2 and provided an update on the development of an Identification Manual of Animals Listed in CITES Appendix I (AIA-ID). The document presented the results of a gap analysis based on the inventory of ID materials available on the CITES Checklist and Species+ and the CITES listings of Appendix-I animals downloaded in September 2023. The document also outlined the ambition of a new “Identification manual of animals listed in CITES Appendix I” in paragraphs 15 to 18 with a focus on exploring innovative ways (including Artificial Intelligence) to provide sustainable access, integration, analysis and update mechanisms for relevant data and resources.

The PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), Germany and the United States of America (with some additional edits to draft decision 20.DD) supported the draft decisions in document PC27 Doc. 17/AC33 Doc. 19.1 (Rev. 1) as amended by the AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and supported the future establishment of two separate working groups on identification materials for plants and animals. Germany drew the Committees’ attention to information document AC33 Inf. 15: “Morphological identification guide to the Asian newt genera *Echinotriton*, *Laotriton*, *Paramesotriton* and *Tylostotriton*.”

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, speaking also on behalf of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia, welcomed the opportunity to mobilize zoos and aquariums to support this work, an opportunity also welcome by the PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) on behalf of Peru.

The Animals and Plants Committees agreed to propose to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that Decision 19.142 to 19.144 be replaced by the following draft decisions as amended in plenary:

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**20.AA** The Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting Parties to:

- a) share information with the Secretariat relating to the materials used to identify specimens of CITES Appendix II-listed species and Appendix I-listed plants and any challenges experienced in accessing or using existing materials, including gaps in information;
- b) identify specific species in trade for which identification materials need to be developed and indicate if such materials are needed to cover parts and derivatives, as well as whole specimens; and
- c) share the information with the intersessional working groups on Identification materials to inform the selection of identification materials to be reviewed and the prioritization of new material to be developed.
- ~~b) continue collecting information on identification materials and share it through the CITES website and the CITES Virtual College; and~~
- ~~e) report on the progress and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.~~

**Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat**

**20.BB** The Animals and Plants Committees shall

- a) establish a ~~joint~~ working group on identification materials and undertake the following working group tasks, in consultation with the Secretariat:
  - i) review the information provided by Parties in response to the Notification to the Parties issued by the Secretariat referred to in Decision 20.AA review selected identification materials and assess the need for their revision and improvement, taking into account the materials that are being developed or have already been developed by Parties and materials requested in Decisions or Resolutions; as well as the gap analysis for identification materials for Appendix I listed animal species presented in document AC33 Doc. 19.2 and its Annexes;
  - ii) prepare a proposed selection of identification materials to be reviewed and new material to be prioritized for development;
  - iii) review progress made with the initiative by China on the development of identification materials for Appendix-I listed animal species and provide input, as appropriate;
  - iv) consider ways to improve the applicability, accuracy and availability of identification materials on CITES-listed animal species; and
  - v) report on the progress with these activities at the meeting(s) of the Animals ~~and~~ Plants Committees.
- b) consider the report of the working group on identification material and make recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties relating to identification materials to be updated or developed.

**Directed to the Plants Committee**

**20.CC** The Plants Committee shall:

- a) establish a working group on identification materials and undertake the following working group tasks, in consultation with the Secretariat:
  - i) review the information provided by Parties in response to the Notification to the Parties issued by the Secretariat referred to in Decision 20.AA;

- ii) *prepare a proposed selection of identification materials to be reviewed and new material to be prioritized for development;*
  - iii) *consider ways to improve the applicability, accuracy and availability of identification materials on CITES-listed plant species; and*
  - iv) *report on the progress with these activities at the meeting(s) of the Plants Committee.*
- b) *consider the report of the working group on identification material and make recommendations to the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties relating to identification materials to be updated or developed.*

***Directed to Parties***

***20.DD Parties are encouraged to***

- a) *support the efforts of the working group on identification materials by providing to the Secretariat information on available identification and guidance materials for specimens of CITES Appendix-II-listed species that used by Parties and particularly by enforcement and inspection officers, and information on any challenges experienced or gaps in the available materials; to facilitate the review and development of materials to assist Parties in identification of specimens of CITES-listed species implementation of the Convention; and*
- b) *participate, as appropriate, in the initiative by China on the development of identification materials for Appendix-I listed animal species; and*
- c) *establish collaboration and communication between key experts/specialists at a national and regional level to assist the Committees in implementing Decisions 20.BB ii) and iv); 20 CC ii) and iii).*

***Directed to Parties***

***20.EE Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to provide financial and technical assistance to Parties to implement the recommendations made by the Animals and Plants Committees as appropriate.***

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) *noted* the progress made by the Expert Contact Group on the Identification Manual of Animals Listed in CITES Appendix I; and
- b) *invited* more Parties, especially French speaking countries and stakeholders, including zoos and aquariums to contribute to the initiative, as well as to make more ID materials available to experts through the Online library and the image database.

18. Identification of timber and other wood products

18.1 Report of the Secretariat [Decision 19.145]..... PC27 Doc. 18.1

The Secretariat informed the Plants Committee that it has identified external funds for the maintenance and expansion of the repository on timber identification. However, implementation of this work will require at least a calendar year. In paragraphs 10 to 12 of document PC27 Doc. 18.1, the Secretariat proposed to circulate by electronic means any available preliminary findings to the Plants Committee. With the feedback received from the Plants Committee, the Secretariat would then prepare a progress report on the status of the implementation of Decisions 19.145 to 19.148 for consideration by the Standing Committee at SC78. The Secretariat would consult with the Chairs of the Plants and Standing Committee at the time of the document deadline for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in order to revise Decisions 19.145 to 19.148 taking into account progress made with their implementation.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) highlighted the importance of timber identification for the implementation of the Convention, while the Species Survival Network thanked the donors that had made this work possible.

The Plants Committee noted the proposed approach reflected in paragraphs 10 to 12 of document PC27 Doc. 18.1 to provide the opportunity to Members of the Plants Committee to provide scientific or technical advice on any available preliminary results resulting from the implementation of Decision 19.145, ahead of the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee.

18.2 Report of the intersessional working group [Decision 19.147] ..... PC27 Doc. 18.2

Canada, as Chair of the intersessional working group on *Identification of timber and other wood products*, presented the inputs received by the working group for the implementation of paragraphs a) to h) of Decision 19.147 that relate to the development of: a prioritization plan for the identification of CITES-listed tree species. Canada also proposed some reflections on the Decisions noting that they are quite ambitious in their mandate and suggested the establishment of an in-session working group in order to propose a way forward for the implementation of these Decisions.

The representative for North America (Mr. Boles) also highlighted the crucial importance of timber identification for the implementation of the Convention, especially with the listing of five more tree taxa at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. They advised to break it down with a stepwise approach as part of an action plan. The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) agreed with the representative for North America and suggested that cooperation with experts and the use of new technologies would be key for timber identification.

Brazil expressed their readiness to share their experience and encouraged Parties to share timber identification materials from already recognized experts. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland supported the establishment of an in-session working group to decide on a way forward and prioritize the tasks for the next intersessional period.

The Plants Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on timber identification with the mandate to:

- a) consider the progress achieved by the intersessional working group of identification of timber and other wood products and the Annexes 1 to 8 of document PC27 Doc. 18.2;
- b) consider the reflections on the status of the implementation of Decisions 19.145 to 19.147, and the pertinence for any new or revised focused decisions;
- c) prepare draft recommendations for consideration of Standing Committee at SC78; and
- d) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: representative for North America (Mr. Boles);

Members: representative for Africa (Mr. Balama), representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra);

Parties: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Tropical Timber Organization; Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, International Wood Product Association, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, TRAFFIC.

Later in the meeting, the representative for North America (Mr. Boles) introduced document PC27 Com. 5. The United States of America corrected a spelling mistake in draft decision 19.147 (Rev. CoP20).

The Plants Committee agreed the recommendations in document PC27 Com. 5 as amended by the United States of America as follows:

Portugal was not able to participate in the working group.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted the progress achieved by the intersessional working group of identification of timber and other wood products and the Annexes 1 to 8 of document PC27 Doc. 18.2;
- b) noted that measures and activities outlined in the [outcome document of the CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species](#) address some of the aspects covered in Decision 19.147, and that the Secretariat issued a Notification to the Parties [No. 2024/079](#) inviting Parties to submit information relating to the implementation of [Decision 19.89](#) on the *Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species*.
- c) invited the Secretariat to, subject to external funding, raise awareness relating to the online resources available on the Timber Identification Resources and Tools webpage on the CITES website.
- d) agreed to submit the following new and revised decisions for consideration by the Standing Committee at SC78 for submission to CoP20:

**Directed to Parties** (new text underlined, deleted text in ~~strike through~~)

**19.146 (Rev. CoP20)** *Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *collaborate with the Secretariat in sharing relevant information in support of the implementation of Decisions ~~20.AA 19.145 and 19.147~~ ~~Dalbergia species, taking into consideration progress made in document PC25 Doc. 34 and document CoP19 Doc. 84.1, and giving attention to frontline identification materials to assist differentiating look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as Dalbergia sisso;~~*
- b) *prioritize the development of identification material for:*
  - i) *priority CITES listed tree species, taking into consideration the prioritization done by the Plants Committee in Decision 19.147 (Rev. CoP20) and the needs of frontline enforcement staff; and*
  - ii) *look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as Dalbergia sisso.*

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**20.AA** *The Secretariat shall*

- a) *issue a Notification to the Parties inviting Parties to provide information to the Secretariat relating to:*
  - i) *the CITES listed tree species in international trade to be prioritized for the development of timber identification material, taking into consideration the prioritization done during the previous intersessional period for African tree species, Neotropical tree species and Rosewood tree species contained in documents [PC26 SR](#), [PC27 Doc 31](#), [PC27 Doc. 27](#), PC27 SR;*
  - ii) *priorities for frontline enforcement as it relates to timber identification, including:*

- A. existing diagnostic keys or taxon-specific CITES identification materials for priority species that can be shared with the Secretariat for publication on the CITES website; and
  - B. key gaps relating to identification material to be addressed.
- iii) available timber identification techniques and tools used by Parties, the standards applicable to the techniques and tools and the usefulness of these tools,
  - iv) minimum information contained in wood sample collection forms or documents for wood samples to be recognized; and all possible fields that are captured in a wood sample collections;
  - v) publicly accessible wood sample databases that can be included on the CITES website; and where feasible, information on the process by which other Parties might submit a request to access database that are restricted; and
  - vi) best practices and experiences in the development and use of wood identification technologies to build expertise in wood identification;
- b) make information shared by Parties relating to materials, techniques, tools and database on timber identification available on the CITES website; and
  - c) collate this information for the consideration of the Plants Committee at its 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

**Directed to the Plants Committee, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders** (new text underlined, deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~)

**19.147 (Rev. CoP20)** The Plants Committee shall, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and building on information on existing initiatives and processes, information contained in document PC27 Doc. 18.2 and its Annexes and the responses to the Notification issued by the Secretariat in terms of Decision 20.AA, and progress to date:

- a) develop a plan to prioritize the CITES-listed tree species for which identification materials, reference databases and tools should be developed; to focus global efforts on developing and sharing identification reference databases and tools, including sampling campaigns for vouchered reference samples;
- b) advise on possible mechanisms to address the shortage of vouchered reference samples;
- b) ~~prioritize the development of identification material for Dalbergia species, taking into consideration progress made in document PC25 Doc. 34 and document CoP19 Doc. 84.1, and giving attention to frontline identification materials to assist differentiating look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as Dalbergia sissoo;~~
- c) consider the develop a list of available techniques and tools, and evaluate their standards and usefulness to species-specific identification and enforcement for priority CITES-listed tree species and their look-alikes;
- d) ~~determine gaps in current knowledge sources for CITES timber identification, on their availability and usefulness, and consider~~



~~challenges and resourcing required to make these tools more widely available to CITES Parties;~~

- ~~e) 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;~~
- ~~f) determine methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties, including lessons learned on how Parties have built their timber identification capacity and expertise;~~
- gd) consider the outcomes of the review of the utility and practicality of the online repository conducted by the Secretariat and make recommendations on its further development to inform implementation of Decision 19.145;
- ~~h) consider the relevant outcomes of the online Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species presented in the Annex to the Addendum to document SC74 Doc. 33.2; and~~
- ie) update the Standing Committee, as appropriate, on progress made, and report its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 210<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

**19.148 (Rev. CoP20)** *The Standing Committee shall consider any report by the Plants Committee relating to the implementation of Decision 19.147 (Rev. CoP20) and convey, as appropriate, any recommendations it may have to the Conference of the Parties.*

19. Transport of live specimens\* [Decision 19.158] ..... PC27 Doc. 19/AC33 Doc. 20

The Secretariat informed the Committees of the organization of an online workshop on transport of live specimens that took place on 21 March 2024. The aim of the workshop was to share best practices in transporting live animals and plants. The workshop focused on regulatory compliance; container requirements; contingency procedures at entry points; confiscation; handling of dead or injured specimens; temporary holding of wildlife before and/or after transport; high welfare detentions and biosecurity; and transports of flora. With regard to the accessibility of the IATA Live Animal Regulations (LAR) and IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations (PCR), the Secretariat provided an initial forecast to the International Air Transport Association regarding the number of accesses required by developing country Parties in order to initiate the negotiation on the discounted rate. The Secretariat noted that the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums should have been included in paragraph 4 of the document.

The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) stressed that compliance with CITES should not be limited by costly access to IATA Guidelines. This workstream is therefore not completed until this issue has been resolved with IATA. They supported the renewal of Decision 19.159.

Brazil and the United States of America highlighted the importance of this work and welcomed the results of the workshop. Brazil called for the collaboration of Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the repatriation of live animals to their country of origin.

Born Free Foundation, speaking also on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA, Humane Society International, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, ProWildlife, Species Survival Network and Whale and Dolphin Conservation, urged that the IATA Live Animal Regulations should apply to any transport of CITES-listed live animals by air, including non-IATA carriers and that the welfare of transported live animals be prioritized to mitigate the risk of morbidity and mortality, and pathogen emergence and spillover.

The Animals Committee and the Plants Committee:

- a) noted document PC27 Doc. 19/ AC33 Doc. 20 and the comments made on the floor;
- b) agreed that Decision 19.158 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) requested the Secretariat to make the information available from the workshop available on the Secretariat's website

20. Specimens produced through biotechnology\* [Decision 19.162] ..... *No document*

The Secretariat, on behalf of Cuba, Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on specimens produced through biotechnology, provided an oral update on the implementation of Decisions 19.161 to 19.163. Cuba acknowledged the delay in fulfilling the mandate of the working group but confirmed that it will remain in contact with the members of the working group to continue the work. With respect to Decision 19.163, the Secretariat had not secured the necessary funding (estimated USD 80,000) to organize a meeting to facilitate the discussions mentioned in Decision 19.161. Cuba will propose to the working group the organization of an online meeting to continue its work and report the results to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Animals and Plants Committees noted the oral update by the Secretariat, on behalf of Cuba, Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on specimens produced through biotechnology.

Exemptions and special trade provisions

21. Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source\* [Decision 19.180] ..... PC27 Doc. 21/AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1)

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz), as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on the *Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source*, presented the results of its intersessional work to support the Standing Committee's intersessional working group by identifying the conservation risks associated with non-wild trade, any accompanying mitigating actions and the assumptions on which those mitigating actions are based. The co-chair of the working group indicated that, in general, the consensus of the working group leaned towards a potentially lower conservation risk for the wild populations associated with trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source when robust systems and practices are in place, but with some caution against generalizing this across all species and circumstances. While there are successful examples of reduced conservation risks, challenges such as legal origin of parental stock, potential laundering, stock supplementation, inadequate regulatory frameworks, and varying impacts depending on the species and local conditions, make it necessary to evaluate each case individually.

There can be benefits to trading in non-wild specimens, such as reduced pressure on wild populations and support for species' recovery, function as reservoir or for species reintroduction, but the actual impacts vary widely depending on the specific circumstances and management practices. Enhancing conservation benefits and incentives for the species in their natural habitat from *ex-situ* captive breeding and artificial propagation were highlighted, especially in countries outside of the species' natural distribution range. Also, more parity in the treatment of animals and plants is needed.

The document presented the consolidated summaries of the responses to the questions shared with the working group and through Notification to the Parties No. 2024/021 in Annex 1 and the scientific aspects/advice to be considered by the Standing Committee intersessional working group in Annex 2.

India announced that it had stricter domestic measures following the amendment of its Wildlife Protection Act that prohibits the removal of wildlife from protected areas. They also pointed out that Annex 2 was not presented as a set of recommendations, to which Canada, as co-Chair of the Standing Committee intersessional working group on the issue, explained that the scientific advice in this Annex would then feed into the work of the Standing Committee intersessional working group.

China and India noted that trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source within a robust regulatory system could reduce pressure on wild populations and that comments from observer organizations indicating that captive-breeding could undermine conservation may not be substantiated.

Ornamental Fish International, also on behalf of the European Pet Organisation, agreed with the recommendations and called for future work on the marking requirements for small animals and on legal acquisition findings for parental stocks of captive-breeding operations.

Whale and Dolphin Conservation, echoed by Born Free Foundation, also agreed with the recommendations and proposed that species-specific consideration be taken into account when non-wild trade is examined, especially for cetaceans that are known not to breed well in captivity.

Having considered the information provided in document PC27 Doc. 21/AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1) and its Annexes, the Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) agreed to provide the scientific advice contained in Annex 2 to document PC27 Doc. 21/ AC33 Doc. 25 (Rev. 1) to the Standing Committee through its intersessional working group on the *Review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source*; and
- b) agreed that Decision 19.180 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

22. Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated' [Decision 19.183] ..... PC27 Doc. 22

The Secretariat presented in Annex 1 to document PC27 Doc. 22 a revision of the *Preliminary guidance on terms related to the artificial propagation of CITES regulated plants*, in particular to incorporate source code Y; and in Annex 2 revisions to *A guide to the application of CITES source codes*, to align it with the guidance in Annex 1, in particular where it relates to source code Y. The Secretariat noted that ongoing revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* could have implications on future updates to the *Guidance on terms related to the artificial propagation of CITES regulated plants* and proposed draft decisions in paragraph 12 to incorporate those elements.

The representative for North America (Mr. Boles) suggested revising the *Guidance* name as follows: *Guidance on terms related to the production and source of CITES regulated plants*, with the name also being changed in the draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat. They also suggested that the *Guidance* include examples of how mixed species plantations can meet the definition of 'artificially propagated' in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*. The North American Region believed that the determination whether trees grown in monospecific or mixed species plantations meet the definition of 'artificially propagated' according to the criteria of Resolution Conf 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) is determined by the Scientific Authority of the country where the plantations are located. The representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) supported the comments made by the representative for North America and drew the Committee's attention paragraphs 23 to 25 of information document CoP19 Inf. 15 on the application of the definition of 'artificially propagated' specimens of trees. They further proposed amendments to footnote 16 of the *Guidance*.

The representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth) cautioned against any additional changes at this time and expressed a wish to see any amendment in writing before agreeing to them. It was further indicated that a more comprehensive review of the *Guidance* was needed and that the word "Preliminary" should be kept in the title. The representative of Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) asked whether extensive amendments to the *Guidance* had cost implications, to which the Secretariat answered that minor amendments could be accommodated but that additional case studies could not be included within the existing budget.

The Plants Committee requested the Secretariat, in cooperation with the regional representatives for Asia (Ms. Zeng), for Europe (Ms. Smyth), for North America (Mr. Boles) and for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley), to prepare an in-session document showing the edits to the *Guidance on terms related to the artificial propagation of CITES regulated plants* and to the draft decisions proposed in plenary, noting that any change to the title of the *Guidance* should be reflected in the draft decisions in paragraph 12 of document PC27 Doc. 22.

Later in the meeting, the Secretariat introduced document PC27 Com. 2 and suggested adding "subject to external funding" to draft decision 20.AA. The representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth) proposed to delete a sentence in paragraph 12 of the *Guidance*. The representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) proposed to add "review and" before "approve" in the draft decisions. The representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) proposed to delete "Preliminary" from the title of the *Guidance*. Mexico agreed with the draft decisions and proposed an additional draft decision to identify possible inconsistencies on the use of source code D. Following an exchange between the representatives for Europe (Ms. Moser) and Oceania (Mr. Wrigley), Germany and the United States of America on whether the additional draft decision proposed by Mexico

should be expanded to cover source codes other than D, it was agreed to focus on source code D in order to avoid duplicating work done under the agenda item on the review of CITES provisions related to trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source.

Georgia supported the recommendations and noted that the *Guidance* should be updated based on feedback from Parties. The Republic of Korea informed the Committee that it had translated *A guide to the application of CITES source codes* into Korean (see information document PC27 Inf. 14). Saudi Arabia asked how much time Parties will have to review the *Guidance*. IWMC-World Conservation Trust asked what would be the proper translation of *Guidance* in French, to which the Secretariat and the PC Chair responded that “guidance” should be translated as “orientations” and “guidelines” should be translated as “lignes directrices”.

The Plants Committee agreed the recommendations in document PC27 Com. 2 as amended by the representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), the representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth), the representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley), Mexico and the Secretariat as follows:

The Plants Committee:

- a) agreed the amendments to the *Guidance on terms related to the artificial propagation of CITES regulated plants* contained in Annex 2 to document PC27 Com. 2 with the following amendments:
  - delete “Preliminary” from the title and throughout the document;
  - delete “However, assisted production is cultivation being carried out by local communities without the use of advance technologies, and may be a significant source of income” on page 12;
- b) agreed the draft decisions contained in Annex 2 to document PC27 Com. 2 for submission to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties amended as follows:

DRAFT DECISIONS ON GUIDANCE ON TERMS RELATED TO  
THE PRODUCTION AND SOURCE OF CITES REGULATED PLANTS

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**20.AA** *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, ~~keep under review~~ maintain the Guidance on terms related to the artificial propagation of CITES regulated plants and the Guide to the application of CITES source codes, as living documents, and based on feedback received by Parties and any relevant developments adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and submit any revisions to the Plants Committee for review and approval.*

***Directed to Parties***

**20.BB** *Parties are encouraged to use the Guidance on terms related to the artificial propagation of CITES regulated plants and the Guide to the application of CITES source codes and to provide feedback and information to the Secretariat.*

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

**20.CC** *The Plants Committee shall review and approve any revisions of the Guidance on terms related to the artificial propagation of CITES regulated plants and the Guide to the application of CITES source codes.*

**Directed to the Plants Committee**

**20.DD** *The Plants Committee shall analyse and identify possible inconsistencies on the use of source code D in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Permits and certificates, Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes, and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on Regulation of trade in plants and provide recommendations on how to address them.*

- c) requested the Secretariat to publish the two guidance documents on its website with the amendments agreed under paragraph a);

- d) agreed that Decisions 19.182 and 19.183 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20);
- e) invited Parties to support the translation of the *Guide to the application of CITES source codes* into additional languages referred to in paragraph 9 of document PC27 Doc. 22; and
- f) noted that the Republic of Korea had provided a translation of the *Guide to the application of CITES source codes* as information document PC27 Inf. 14.

### Species conservation and trade

#### 23. Assessment of Appendix-I listed species\*

##### 23.1 Report of the Secretariat [Decision 19.184]..... PC27 Doc. 23.1/AC33 Doc. 28.1

The Secretariat presented the results of the detailed assessments on the 10 species listed in paragraph 15 of document CoP19 Doc. 11. The Secretariat shared the detailed assessments (available as an Annex to document PC27 Doc. 23.1/AC33 Doc. 28.1) and a questionnaire requesting further information with the range States or territories of the species concerned. For each species, the Secretariat drafted recommendations, which were expanded on by the range States. The full list of recommendations can be found in each detailed assessment in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 23.1/AC33 Doc. 28.1. The recommendations included species specific actions, but the recurring themes included the following: a) demand reduction for illegal specimens; b) combatting illegal wildlife trade; and c) further research on biology of the species to inform conservation actions. The Secretariat highlighted the need to clarify the overall aim and the added value of the process given the overlap between this process with existing processes and activities outlined in CITES Resolutions, such as the Periodic Review and the Review of trade in animals reported as produced in captivity.

##### 23.2 Report of the intersessional working group [Decision 19.185]..... PC27 Doc. 23.2/AC33 Doc. 28.2

The AC representative for Asia (Mr. Hamidy), as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on the *Assessment of Appendix-I listed species*, presented the outcomes of their intersessional work and reflected on the methodology and the criteria for carrying out an assessment of species listed in Appendix I. In paragraph 11, the document identified elements that would require further consideration, particularly in terms of whether and how certain criteria should be incorporated into the rapid assessment.

Before opening the floor, the AC Chair briefly reflected on the process noted that CITES already had numerous processes and mechanisms that could be used to address any concerns that may arise with respect to international trade in Appendix-I listed species, including the Periodic Review and that it was not clear what Parties would like to achieve through this process. The AC Chair therefore requested the members of the Scientific Committees to provide guidance on the way forward with this process. This assessment was shared by the AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), Canada, Germany, India, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria.

Mexico pointed out that the methodology proposed by Mexico was not implemented properly and that the ten species selected for analysis were not extreme examples as per the methodology used by Mexico but rather intermediate choices. Mexico uses its methodology successfully to identify species to be assessed for possible listing, transferred between Appendices or that require specific actions at the national level. Mexico is of the view that standardized actions could have been proposed for species grouped in specific quadrants and overall could be a useful tool for Parties. Mexico therefore recommended the renewal of the Decisions.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) suggested that some of the 10 species assessed could be considered as part of the Periodic Review. Germany, the United Kingdom and the World Wide Fund for Nature noted that the main threats that had been identified in the assessment were often outside of CITES mandate, such as habitat loss. Further work could be done on demand reduction, illegal trade and further research on the biology of the species, but the efforts would probably not be proportionate with the consideration benefits. India provided an update on three fauna species in paragraph 6 of document PC27 Doc. 23.1/AC33 Doc. 28.1 and opined that resolutions such as Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II* and Resolution Conf. 17.7

(Rev. CoP19) on *Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity* were sufficient to address any issues that may arise.

The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) explained that, in relation paragraph 10 b) of document PC27 Doc. 23.2/AC33 Doc. 28.2, EAZA does not track the laundering of animals.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) agreed that Decisions 19.184 and 19.185 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- b) noted the results of the detailed assessments conducted on 10 species and encouraged Parties concerned to note the recommendations in these assessments; and
- c) invited Mexico to make its methodology available through a Notification to the Parties for use by interested Parties.

24. Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade\* [Decision 19.187] ..... PC27 Doc. 24/AC33 Doc. 29

The AC Chair, as co-Chair of the joint intersessional working group on *Identifying information on species at risk of extinction affected by international trade*, presented the general observations (paragraph 8) and draft recommendations (paragraph 9) of the intersessional working group. In paragraph 8, several members of the working group observed that, according to the Convention, Parties may propose amendments to Appendices I and II and therefore it is Parties who decide whether to select and propose species for inclusion into the Appendices of CITES. Most members considered that Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* provides good guidance for the preparation of listing proposals, but that capacity to identify species that may warrant CITES listing and capacity to draft listing proposals may still be lacking among Parties. The working group felt that the Scientific Committees should not proactively play a major role in assessing information concerning species at risk of extinction that might merit consideration under CITES. In paragraph 9, the working group proposed eight recommendations for consideration by the Animals and Plants Committees.

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) invited the Secretariat to add a non-public section to the CITES webpage for non-CITES listed species so that Parties can include more sensitive information in that section and proposed edits to the draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 19.2 contained in in paragraph 9 h). The edits to the draft amendment to Resolution Conf. 19.2 proposed by the AC representative for North America were not agreed by the Committees.

New Zealand agreed with the recommendations of the document but expressed concerns that documents of variable quality may be uploaded on the CITES website and thus constitute a reputational risk for CITES, even if a disclaimer is included. Checking and uploading documents on non-CITES listed species could represent a significant workload for the Secretariat. New Zealand preferred a more targeted approach focused on capacity-building. Conservation Force shared the overall concerns expressed by New Zealand. The World Wide Fund for Nature shared the concern about the quality of the documents to be uploaded on the portal. The AC Chair, echoed by Canada, indicated it would be the responsibility of the Party uploading the document to check if it had been peer-reviewed and those documents should come with a disclaimer. The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and TRAFFIC suggested using the IPBES four-box model for the qualitative communication of confidence in order to check the quality of the documents. Germany also agreed with the recommendations of the document and suggested that the portal include a search function by scientific name.

Israel proposed that the Secretariat maintain on the CITES website a list of species threatened by international trade and not included in the Appendices based on the methodology development by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) and France argued against such an inclusion as it would pre-empt a decision by the Conference of the Parties. The AC Chair indicated that the working group had considered this issue and had decided not to limit itself to one methodology. A Party that is of the view that the information may be of use to Parties is of course welcome to share a list prepared by UNEP-WCMC with the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and Humane Society International asked whether copyright issues could limit the sharing of information on the portal, to which the AC Chair answered that it will bring this issue to the attention of the Standing Committee.

IWMC-World Conservation Trust cautioned against adding to the workload of the Secretariat by inviting the Secretariat to undertake tasks associated with non-CITES listed species.

The Animals and Plants Committees agreed to submit the recommendations in paragraph 9 of document PC27 Doc. 24/AC33 Doc. 29 as amended below for consideration by the Standing Committee through its intersessional working group on *Species at risk of extinction*.

- a) The pertinent section of the virtual college to be updated by the Secretariat and guidance material in relation to the preparation of listing proposals expanded.
- b) Subject to external funding, the Secretariat to reserve a dedicated restricted section (portal) on the CITES website to make material in relation to analysis and studies on species not yet listed in the Appendices which might merit such an inclusion available to Parties. The Secretariat should be invited to maintain and update the material with information of who provided the information and when it was updated. The Secretariat should furthermore be invited to assess the feasibility of providing a mechanism for Parties to upload material directly on the CITES website. This information portal should acknowledge that the content and quality of the uploaded information is the responsibility of the Parties that shared the information and that it remains the Parties' responsibility to do their own due diligence in evaluating the information provided.
- c) Material to be included on the CITES website should be submitted by Parties, by non-Party observers through Parties, and by UN and its specialized agencies through either a Party or the Secretariat and although there is a preference for peer-reviewed materials or publications, analysis established under processes within CITES<sup>1</sup> (such as reports produced through the implementation of decisions adopted by the CoP: Asian Snakes, Amphibians, Marine ornamental fishes, Songbirds etc.), government reports or reports from other official bodies, information from non-peer reviewed sources, such as trade data, population studies and scientific publications can also be submitted along with a disclaimer indicating that the information has not been peer-reviewed and identifying the degree of reliability and accuracy of the information. Parties are encouraged to consider the IPBES four-box model for the qualitative communication of confidence to evaluate the reliability and accuracy of the information provided.
- d) Any Party needing information or support with the preparation of a CITES listing proposal may request the Secretariat to issue a notification on its behalf to request information and support with the preparation of a CITES listing proposal on a particular taxon.
- e) Noting that there are several methodologies that are used for identifying and / or selecting species at risk of extinction that might merit consideration to be included in the CITES Appendices, any methodology submitted to the Secretariat by a Party, a non-Party observers through a Party, or by the UN and its specialized agencies through either a Party or the Secretariat, will be made available for Parties to consider through the dedicated portal on the CITES website.
- f) The Scientific Committees should, upon request by Parties, provide advice related to scientific, technical and nomenclatural aspects of proposals to amend the Appendices as provided for in the current ToR of the Scientific Committees (see Annex II, 2 e) of Resolution Conf. 18.2 on the *Establishment of Committees*. Parties could also approach the regional representatives for their region to assist in searching for information. Parties that are considering the submission of a proposal to amend the Appendices, in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, are urged in paragraph 5 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II* to consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee as early as possible in advance of submitting the proposal.
- g) Further ways to provide capacity and support to Parties to identify species warranting CITES listing and to develop listing proposals could be explored by the Standing Committee working group to ensure

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<sup>1</sup> The co-chairs noted that these CITES processes refer to processes implemented based on decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Parties receive the support they need without significantly impacting the workload of the Scientific Committees.

- h) As for a possible mechanism under Resolution Conf.19.2 on *Capacity building*, the following amendment to Resolution Conf. 19.2 was proposed: Include a new subparagraph (d) under paragraph 2 Resolution Conf. 19.2 as follows (new text underlined)

2. INVITES Parties to:

- d) upload to and update the CITES website, either directly or through the Secretariat, with relevant studies, analyses, other sources and methods to identify species that are or may be affected by international trade, are at risk of extinction and are either not yet regulated under CITES or may receive insufficient CITES regulation.

The Animals and Plants Committees agreed that Decision 19.187 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

25. Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.) [Resolution Conf. 16.10 and Decision 19.239] ..... PC27 Doc. 25

The representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), as Chair of the intersessional working group on agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), presented an update on the implementation of Decision 19.239 and proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*.

The representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth) and the representative for North America (Mr. Boles) supported the proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 that will have a positive impact on the implementation of the Convention and emphasized the need for additional work on the glossary. The representative for North America proposed editorial amendments to the preamble of Resolution Conf. 16.10.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted the completion of the working group mandate as agreed at PC26;
- b) agreed the proposed revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* as contained in Annex 1 to document PC27 Doc. 26 with the following edits:

AWARE that agarwood-producing taxa can be grown in monospecific or mixed species plantations; [*deletion of the hyphen in mono-specific and deletion of the hyphen and adding a space for mixed-species*]

RECOGNIZING, however, that many Parties do not fully implement the exemptions of personal and household effects in Article VII, paragraph 3 of the Convention, and Resolution Conf. 13.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Control of trade in personal and household effects* for specimens of agarwood-producing taxa, owing due to stricter domestic measures or other provisions; [*deleted text is in strikethrough and new text is underlined*]

- c) agreed that Decision 19.239 has been completed and can be proposed for deletion;
- d) noted the need for future work to better explain the difference between exhausted powder and non-exhausted powder in the glossary in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 16.10 (Rev. CoP20); and
- e) agreed to report its recommendations to the Standing Committee.

26. Boswellia trees (*Boswellia* spp.) [Decision 19.242] ..... PC27 Doc. 26

The representative for Europe (Ms. Moser), as Chair of the intersessional working group on *Boswellia* trees (*Boswellia* spp.), presented an update on the implementation of Decision 19.242. The working group had identified meetings or other venues that might provide opportunities to collaborate or share information regarding harvest and management of *Boswellia* species and reviewed the available information submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 19.241 and the gaps in knowledge



identified in document PC25 Doc. 25 to inform possible listing proposals for *Boswellia* species. To continue the work, the working group proposed new draft decisions in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 26.

The regional representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth), Canada, Kenya, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (with some minor edits to the draft decisions) and the United States of America supported the recommendations in the document, with Canada, the United Kingdom, the CITES Secretary-General and IWMC-World Conservation Trust expressing concern about the scale of activities directed to the Secretariat for non-CITES listed species.

Kenya, as one of the range States for *Boswellia* spp., highlighted the need to work with the private sector and to collect appropriate data to enhance monitoring and offered to host the in-person meeting proposed in draft decision 20.WW. India indicated that two species of *Boswellia* spp. are found in India with a wide distribution that did not meet the criteria for a CITES listing. India believed that a genus level listing was premature. Switzerland drew the Committee's attention to information document PC27 Inf. 8 that provides an update on the project on the conservation status, trade and threats to the genus *Boswellia*.

Botanic Gardens Conservation International informed the Plants Committee that it had undertaken the conservation assessment of several *Boswellia* species that are awaiting publication on the IUCN Red List 2025.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted that Decisions 19.241 and 19.242 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the Conference of the Parties;
- b) agreed the draft decisions contained in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 26 and amended in plenary as follows:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**20.WW** Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall:

- a) ~~subject to external funding,~~ *organize, in consultation with the Plants Committee, an in-person meeting of stakeholders of Boswellia tree species to:*
  - i) *exchange information among range States, exporting, transit, and importing States, and experts on Boswellia species in international trade;*
  - ii) *identify Boswellia species that are in international trade and evaluate whether current levels of trade are biologically sustainable ;*
  - iii) *evaluate whether certain species should be recommended for possible listing in the Appendices;*
  - iv) *identify those Boswellia species that would benefit from possible listing proposals;*
- b) *provide financial travel support to enable range States to attend the Boswellia meeting;*
- c) ~~participate in suitable meetings of the gums and resins~~ *invite industries relevant to the trade in Boswellia spp. (such as the IFRA - International Fragrance Association and IFEAT – International Federation of Essential Oils and Aroma Trades) to strengthen stakeholder engagement in CITES processes and ongoing efforts to improve the conservation and management of Boswellia spp.;*
- d) *liaise with the World Customs Organization to assess the possibility for designating taxon-specific HS (Harmonized System) codes for Boswellia spp., and*
- e) *compile and present the information to the Plants Committee.*

***Directed to range States of Boswellia spp.:***

**20.XX** *Range States are invited to:*

- a) *host the Boswellia meeting referred to under Decision 20.WW;*
- b) *make relevant information available to the Boswellia meeting on national population surveys, harvest, production and trade, and national legislation, and present case studies related to Boswellia species, as appropriate;*
- c) *consider including native species of Boswellia spp. in Appendix III, following guidance in Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III and Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on Use of annotations in Appendices I and II; and*

**Directed to the Plants Committee**

**20.YY** *The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *provide input to the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 20.WW, and participate in the Boswellia meeting, as appropriate;*
- b) *review the Boswellia meeting outputs, formulate recommendations including whether certain species should be recommended for possible listing in the Appendices;*
- c) *recommend means to improve the engagement of the gums and resins industries in CITES processes; and*
- d) *develop recommendations for consideration of the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

**Directed to Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, commercial traders, and interested stakeholders**

**20.ZZ** *Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, commercial traders, and stakeholders are encouraged to:*

- a) *provide funding to the Secretariat for the implementation of Decision 20.WW; and*
- b) *support range States in their efforts to ensure international trade of Boswellia spp. is biologically sustainable including efforts to gather relevant information and to include relevant taxa in the CITES Appendices.*
- c) agreed *to report its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.*

**27. Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)] [Decisions 19.243 and 19.244]..... PC27 Doc. 27**

The Secretariat presented the *Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]* in Annex 2 to document PC27 Doc. 27, as well as its executive summary and an example of one fact sheet (for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*) in Annexes 1A and 1B. Annex 3 contained the “high”, “medium”, and “low” priority list of CITES-listed rosewoods with a breakdown of the criteria met for prioritization.

TRAFFIC, as the implementing partner of this study, highlighted the usefulness of the fact sheets and of the case studies that can help Parties with non-detriment findings. TRAFFIC encouraged Parties to share best practices and relevant information. The representative for Africa (Mr. Balama) thanked Switzerland for funding the study and concurred with TRAFFIC about the usefulness of the study in Africa.

The representative for North America (Mr. Boles) noted that *Khaya* spp. was included in the report and hence the title of the report should probably be changed, to which the representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth) suggested that Leguminosae (Fabaceae) could simply be deleted. The representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth) further advised the Secretariat to publish each fact sheet separately on the CITES website.

India noted that *Dalbergia sissoo* was considered as a low priority in the report and suggested that this species should be removed from Appendix II.

The Plants Committee:

- a) invited the Secretariat to consider the feedback provided on the report on rosewood tree species contained in Annexes 1 to 3 to document PC27 Doc. 27 and to take that feedback into account in any revision of the report;
- b) requested the Secretariat to bring to the attention of the Standing Committee any relevant aspect of the report to support the Standing Committee in its review of the expedited application of Article XIII for West African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) for all range States;
- c) agreed that Decisions 19.243 and 19.244 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) agreed to submit to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the draft decisions contained in paragraph 12 of document PC27 Doc. 27 and amended in plenary as follows:

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**20.AA** *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *focus its capacity-building efforts for CITES-listed rosewood tree species on the 13 high priority and 14 medium priority species identified in the “Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]” (see document PC27 Doc. 27, Annex 3), particularly as they relate to the implementation of Article IV of the Convention;*
- b) *issue a Notification to the Parties inviting feedback on the “Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]” to assess which additional information or CITES-listed species could be added in a future revision of the report;*
- c) *subject to the availability of external funds and internal resources, and in close consultation with the Plants Committee, revise the “Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]” by:*
  - i) *reviewing or updating the prioritization exercise taking into account any new rosewood-tree species that may be included in the Appendices at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20);*
  - ii) *reviewing, updating and, if appropriate, expanding the set of factsheets;*
  - iii) *strengthening linkages with the Module on NDFs for tree species of the CITES Non-Detriment Findings Guidance (CITES Secretariat, 2024); and*
  - iv) *considering amending the title of the report to consider the inclusion of CITES-listed tree species not in the family Leguminosae; and*
- d) *report on progress on the above to the Plants Committee.*

**Directed to Parties**

**20.BB** *Parties are invited to:*

- a) *when developing non-detriment findings for CITES-listed rosewood tree species, consider using as a baseline reference the “Report on the conservation and trade of CITES-listed rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]” and its factsheets, in conjunction with the Module on NDFs for tree species of the CITES Non-Detriment Findings Guidance (CITES Secretariat, 2024);*
- b) *provide feedback and information to the Secretariat in support of its implementation of Decision 20.AA.*

**Directed to the Plants Committee**

**20.CC** *The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *consider and provide input on any report prepared by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA; and*
- b) *report on the implementation of these Decisions to the Conference of the Parties.*

28. Products containing specimens of Appendix II-orchids (Orchidaceae spp.)  
[Decision 19.247] ..... PC27 Doc. 28

The Secretariat presented the progress achieved in the implementation of Decision 19.246 since the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC26) and summarized in paragraphs 7 to 13 of document PC27 Doc. 28 the responses received from Parties on the trade volumes; manuals and regulations relating to trade in tuberous orchid, including domestic trade; enforcement challenges; and other relevant information related to trade in tuberous orchids, including any capacity-building needs. In paragraph 14 and 15, the Secretariat noted that the international trade in tuberous orchid products should be regulated under CITES, but little if any seems to be registered in the CITES trade database, or in the CITES illegal trade database; and proposed a way forward based on the responses received.

The representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) noted that the scope of the new study proposed in the draft decisions was very broad and should probably focus on a few hotspots. This concern about the scope of the study was echoed by the representative for North America (Mr. Boles) that indicated that the study should focus on Appendix-II edible tuberous orchids in trade.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland drew the Committee's attention to information document PC27 Inf. 12 and proposed some edits to draft decision 20.AA. Noting the lack of consistency in the terminology used in the draft decisions, the representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth) proposed some further edits to consistently refer throughout the draft decisions to "edible tuberous orchids". The representative for North America, echoed by the United States of America, proposed some edits to draft decision 20.BB to ensure a role for those PC Members with relevant expertise.

China indicated that it had not responded to the questionnaire due to the lack of clarity of the scope of the questionnaire and expressed their surprise regarding the inclusion of a response from an anonymous independent expert of China. Mexico asked for a correction to paragraphs 6 and 11 of document PC27 Doc. 28 to indicate that Mexico does in fact undertake risk assessments for tuberous orchids.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted the synthesis of available information in paragraphs 7 to 13 of document PC27 Doc. 28, and the Secretariat reflections on a possible way forward as contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of document PC27 Doc. 28;
- b) noted the terms of reference for the study mandated under Decision 19.246 in Annex 1 to document PC27 Doc. 28;
- c) agreed the draft decisions contained in Annex 3 to document PC27 Doc. 28 and amended in plenary as follows:

**Directed to Parties**

**20.AA** *Parties are encouraged to enhance their efforts to regulate the trade in edible tuberous orchids as required under the Convention and to combat illegal trade in edible tuberous orchids, in particular by raising awareness with relevant stakeholders, compiling and exchanging information, making non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings for edible tuberous orchids, issuing permits, including information relating to trade in annual reports, building enforcement capacity and enhancing cooperation across borders with a focus on combatting illegal trade in edible tuberous orchids, including modus operandi of trade networks, species identification and the development or update of risk profiles.*

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**20.BB** The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to availability of external resources, 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 of Appendix-II listed orchid taxa for international trade to inform the following:
  - i) the conservation impacts of exempting artificially propagated Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations, including as articulated in footnote annotation P3 of the CITES Appendices, including identification challenges and look-alike issues;
  - ii) 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) present the study and formulate recommendations for consideration at the 28th meeting of the Plants Committee; and
- c) subject to external funding,
  - i) compile identification tools and methods for specimens of edible tuberous orchids that are in international trade, as well as to distinguish look-alike specimens, and, in consultation with the Plants Committee, develop an identification guide to assist Parties in applying these;
  - ii) identify implementation challenges and capacity needs of Parties to regulate international trade in Appendix-II listed edible tuberous orchids;
  - iii) upon request, provide support to key exporting range States, and other key exporting States of edible tuberous orchids, to carry out non-detriment findings for edible tuberous orchids, in consultation with relevant Members of the Plants Committee;
  - iv) upon request, support Parties with the implementation of Decision 20.AA, by including illegal trade in edible tuberous orchids in ongoing activities in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, or through other appropriate means; and
- d) report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee.

**Directed to the Plants Committee**

**20.CC** The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider the report and the Secretariat's recommendations in response to Decision 20.BB, paragraph a);
- b) provide inputs to the Secretariat when developing an identification guide and when providing support to carry out non-detriment findings for edible tuberous orchids resulting from the implementation of Decision 20.BB, paragraph c) i) and iii).and
- b) report its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

**20.DD** The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report and the Secretariat's recommendations in response to Decision 20.BB, paragraph b); and
- b) report its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

d) agreed to report its recommendations to the Standing Committee.

29. Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) [Decisions 19.249 and 19.250] ..... PC27 Doc. 29

The Secretariat provided an update on the study to assess and monitor the implications of the amendment to annotation #10 on the conservation and international trade of Brazil wood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) that will be available for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting (SC78; Geneva, February 2025).

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), echoed by Brazil, the International Society of Violin and Bow Makers, IPCI France Europe and Species Survival Network, put a particular emphasis on the importance of traceability for this study and on the need for cooperation between countries. Brazil noted that *Paubrasilia echinata* is endemic to the country and called for the development of a traceability system that would include unfinished products and bow blanks and the enforcement of stockpile management.

The International Society of Violin and Bow Makers and IPCI France Europe, speaking also on behalf of the Chambre Syndicale de la Façure Instrumentale (CSFI) and the Confédération des Industries Musicales Européennes (CAFIM), expressed their readiness to contribute to the study and to the development of an international traceability system and the recording of pre-Convention stockpiles.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted the progress achieved in undertaking the study called for under Decision 19.249; and
- b) invited the Secretariat to include in its report to the Standing Committee a revision or the deletion of Decisions 19.249 and 19.250 on *Brazil wood* (*Paubrasilia echinata*) based on progress in implementation.

30. African tree species [Decision 19.254] ..... PC27 Doc. 30

The Secretariat presented in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 30 a *Preliminary overview of African tree species listed in the Appendices* that it had revised based on the feedback provided by the Plants Committee at its 26th meeting.

The representative for Africa (Mr. Balama), echoed by Mozambique and the Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, informed the Committee that several African Parties, including Cameroon, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Mozambique, had already submitted non-detriment findings on *Azelia* spp., *Khaya* spp. and *Pterocarpus* spp. but that not all of them were available on the CITES website. The Secretariat noted that NDFs were included in the CITES website only when the Party expressly requested the Secretariat to do so.

The Plants Committee:

- a) agreed the updated list of African tree species and associated CITES processes contained in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 30;
- b) requested the Secretariat to publish the updated list of African tree species and associated CITES processes contained in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 30 on the *CITES and forests* webpage;
- c) encouraged range States to advance the priorities identified and reflected in the updated list of African tree species and associated CITES processes contained in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 30; and
- d) agreed that Decisions 19.254 and 19.255 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

31. Neotropical tree species [Decision 19.257] ..... PC27 Doc. 31

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) introduced document PC27 Doc. 31 on behalf of the Chair of the intersessional working group on neotropical tree species (Mr. Beltetón Chacón). The document presented an update on the implementation of Decision

19.257 with the presentation of an updated list of neotropical tree species and related CITES processes; the establishment of priorities for strengthening the implementation of the Convention for neotropical tree species and cooperation with the Parties in making progress with the priorities identified.

Mexico provided a clarification to its response as summarized in paragraph 15 of the document and indicated that Mexico had been informed by Guatemala of alleged illegal movements of specimens of *Abies guatemalensis* between Mexico and Guatemala. Mexico offered to undertake a Periodic Review for *Abies guatemalensis* and to reach out to other range States as part of the periodic review process. With regards to paragraph 25 c), Mexico estimated that it was premature to refer this issue to the Standing Committee.

The Plants Committee:

- a) requested the Secretariat to publish the findings and conclusions of the intersessional working group on the *CITES and forests webpage*;
- b) agreed that Decisions 19.257 to 19.260 have been fully implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20; and
- c) noted the comments made by Mexico in plenary relating to *Abies guatemalensis*.

## 32. Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species

### 32.1 Report of the Secretariat [Decision 19.261] ..... PC27 Doc. 32.1 and addendum

The Secretariat provided an update on the non-detriment findings and the identification materials for medicinal and aromatic plant species (MAPs) received. The Secretariat drew the Committee's attention to an addendum posted on 29 June 2024 that summarizes the key results of the study on medicinal and aromatic plant species in international trade, including a list of CITES-listed MAPs, an analysis of CITES trade data, an analysis of online trade (e-commerce) and utility of using the MPNS database to analyse e-commerce, and a stakeholder analysis and assessment of annotations. The Secretariat highlighted that 78 species are reported in commercial trade that is likely traded for MAP purposes, involving a total of 95 million kilogramme, 618,000 litres and 52 million (number of) specimens, mainly dried plants, extracts and derivatives. The Secretariat outlined possible next steps and presented the benefits and drawbacks of using the Medicinal Plant Names Service (MPNS) database for trade analyses and trade monitoring.

The representative for North America (Mr. Boles), echoed by the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, supported the Secretariat's proposal to share the final version of the study with the Plants Committee prior to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee. The representative for North America (Mr. Boles) suggested that the Secretariat issue a Notification to inform Parties that the study had been shared with PC Members.

The United Kingdom noted that nomenclatural issues should be resolved and added to the nomenclature workplan for the next intersessional period. The Republic of Korea expressed concerns about the methodology of the online market survey that focused on 15 CITES-listed MAPs of concern. Mexico noted that the results of the study should be taken into account when the Plants Committee considered the draft resolution on MAPs in document PC27 Doc. 32.2 since the two issues are linked.

TRAFFIC, on behalf of the IUCN Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, pointed out the difficulties in implementing the study, noting that there were about 80 common names for each MAP species. They called for the gathering of additional information of the supply chain and noted that actors needed more up-to-date guidance for the implementation of MAP annotations.

The Plants Committee noted progress made with the implementation of the study on medicinal and aromatic plant species in international trade and the comments made on the floor.

The Plants Committee agreed to circulate the completed study for the consideration of the Plants Committee ahead of the documentation deadline for the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78) allowing for sufficient time for comments, taking into consideration the draft resolution on *Medicinal and aromatic plant species* that will be submitted by the Plants Committee to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting. The Plants Committee agreed that, with the feedback received from the

Plants Committee, the Secretariat would then finalize the report and present it for consideration of the Standing Committee at SC78

The Plants Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties after sharing the results of the study with the Members of the Committee in order to invite Parties to provide their comments on the study through their regional representatives.

The Plants Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**20.AA** *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *work with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to identify any corrections or improvements to the nomenclature in CITES databases, based on the findings of the study on international trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species (MAPs);*
- b) *subject to external funding, implement cross-references between CITES databases and the Medicinal Plant Names database for CITES-listed MAPs, taking into account the technical advice of the Plants Committee agreed at its 26th meeting (see summary record [PC26 SR](#)); and*
- c) *report to the Plants Committee.*

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

**20.BB** *The Plants Committee shall review the report submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.AA; and report to the Conference of the Parties.*

32.2 Report of the intersessional working group [Decision 19.263] ..... PC27 Doc. 32.2

The representative for Europe (Ms. Moser), as Chair of the intersessional working group on trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species, introduced a draft resolution on *Medicinal and aromatic plant species* in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 32.2 and thanked the members of the working group for their substantive and engaged contribution to this draft resolution.

Brazil, echoed by Indonesia, highlighted the value of the work on MAPs and noted that any trade in plants entailed a transfer of genetic materials and of traditional knowledge from indigenous peoples and local communities. They further underscored the need for greater synergies with other environmental agreements working on similar issues, in particular with the Convention on Biological Diversity. They drew the Committee's attention to information document CoP18 Inf. 11 and proposed edits to the preamble and the operative paragraphs of the Resolution. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland supported the results of the intersessional working group and proposed some edits to paragraph 14 of the draft resolution.

Mexico reiterated the fact that the draft resolution could not be considered in isolation from the results of the study under agenda item 32.1. The Russian Federation noted that, as a member of the working group, it had stopped at one point receiving updates on the work and looked forward to further refining the draft resolution during the present meeting.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted the text of the draft resolution on *Medicinal and aromatic plant species* proposed by the working group and the comments made during the discussion;
- b) also noted that one working group member considers that this text could benefit from additional streamlining and precisions;



- c) agreed to establish an in-session working group on medicinal and aromatic plant species with the mandate to:
- i) further improve the draft resolution on *Medicinal and aromatic plant species* in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 32.2 in line with Decision 19.263, paragraph b); and
  - ii) formulate recommendations for consideration of the Committee in line with Decision 19.263, paragraph c).

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: representative for Europe (Ms. Moser);

Members: representatives for Africa (Mr. Balama and Mr. Lagarde), representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng);

Parties: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); American Herbal Products Association, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, TRAFFIC, World Wide Fund for Nature.

Late in the meeting, the representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) introduced document PC27 Com. 3. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America supported the recommendations and proposed some additional edits. The United Kingdom further queried whether the work outlined in paragraphs b) and c) of draft decision 20.AA should be considered under medicinal and aromatic plants or under nomenclature. Mexico suggested that the final version of the draft decisions should be clean without track changes.

The Plants Committee agreed the recommendations in document PC27 Com. 3 as amended by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America as follows:

The Plants Committee agreed to:

- a) in accordance with Decision 19.263, paragraph c), report to the Conference of the Parties;
- b) propose draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting, as follows:

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**20.AA** *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *finalize the study developed under Decision 19.261, paragraph c), and summarized in document PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add. for the consideration of the Plants Committee;*
- b) *work with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to consider the identified discrepancies listed in Annexes 2 to 4 of document PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add, and identify whether corrections or improvements to the nomenclature in CITES databases are necessary;*
- c) *subject to external funding, implement cross-references between CITES databases and the Medicinal Plant Names database Services for CITES-listed MAPs, taking into account the technical advice of the Plants Committee agreed at its 26th meeting (see summary record PC26 SR); and*
- d) *report to the Plants Committee.*

**Directed to the Plants Committee**

**20.BB** *The Plants Committee shall*

- a) *review the study and the report submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.AA;*
- b) *~~further improve~~ continue to consider the draft Resolution on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants contained in the Annex to document PC27 Com. 3, including taking into account the report submitted by the Secretariat under Decision 20.AA, and make any recommendation as appropriate; and*
- c) *report to the Standing Committee.*

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

**20.CC** *The Standing Committee shall review the report of the Plants Committee and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*

- c) *agree that Decisions 19.261 to 19.264 have been mostly completed and should be recommended to be replaced at CoP20 by Decisions 20.AA to 20.CC.*

For ease of reference, the Secretariat is including a clean version of the draft resolution on Medicinal and aromatic plant species as Annex 2 to the present summary record.

**Appendices of the Convention**

33. Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II  
[Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19)]

33.1 Overview of species under Review\* ..... PC27 Doc. 33.1/AC33 Doc. 45.1 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat presented an overview of the animal and plant species in the periodic review process since CoP13. Annex 1A contained the record of animal species selected for review between CoP13 and CoP15; Annex 1B the record of animal species selected for review between CoP15 and CoP17; Annex 1C the record of animal species selected for review between CoP16 and CoP18; Annex 1D the record of animal species selected for review between CoP17 and CoP19; and Annex 1E a summary of all cases of animal species that remain ongoing, as of May 2024. The Secretariat proposed the deletion of a number of species from the Periodic review pursuant to paragraph 3 d) of the Resolution because no volunteers offered to undertake the reviews. The Secretariat furthermore informed the Committees that India proposed that *Semnopithecus priam* be removed from the Periodic Review process and maintained in Appendix I. Regarding the review of *Chelodina mccordi*, Indonesia submitted information document: PC27 Inf. 2 / AC33 Inf. 10 that concluded that this species should be maintained in Appendix II. Regarding the review of *Dryocopus javensis richardsi*, the Republic of Korea indicated that the capture or sale of the species are prohibited and that, although regular surveys are conducted, specimens have not been observed since 1989. A full review was not conducted and the Secretariat proposed the species be deleted from the periodic review schedule. Regarding *Encephalartos concinnus* and *Encephalartos manikensis*, Zimbabwe indicated that it will not be able to carry out a review at this point in time and the species could therefore be deleted from the periodic review schedule.

The United States of America thanked Indonesia for the information document but proposed that the species be retained until the review is submitted as a working document for the Animals Committee to review. Indonesia indicated it would do so at the next meeting of the Animals Committee.

Mexico volunteered to undertake the Periodic Review of *Abies guatemalensis* and the AC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Ramadori), speaking on behalf of Colombia, announced that Colombia volunteered to undertake the Periodic Review of *Ramphastos vitellinus*.

The Animals and the Plants Committee:

- a) agreed the completion of the review of *Pteropus tokudae* and the deletion of the species from the periodic review as indicated below:

CoP17 to CoP19 – species selected at the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC29; Geneva, July 2017)

Taxon CITES Appendix	Proposed action
<i>Ovis ammon</i> (App. II)	Delete species from review – no volunteer
<i>Ovis aries</i> complex (App. I/II)	Delete species from review – no volunteer
<i>Podilymbus gigas</i> (App. I)	Delete species from review – no volunteer (the species is extinct)
<i>Struthio camelus</i> (App. I)	Delete species from review – no volunteer
<i>Podarcis lilfordi</i> (App. II)	Delete species from review – no volunteer

CoP17 to CoP19 – species selected at the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC23; Geneva, July 2017)

Taxon CITES Appendix	Proposed action
<i>Melocactus paucispinus</i> (App. I)	Delete species from review – no volunteer
<i>Caryocar costaricense</i> (App. II)	Delete species from review – no volunteer

- b) invited Indonesia to submit the information it has provided in information document PC27 Inf. 2/AC33 Inf.10 as a working document to the next meeting of the Animals Committee;
- c) noted that Colombia had volunteered to conduct a periodic review for *Ramphastos [vitellinus] citreolaemus* with support from the United States of America; and
- d) requested the Secretariat to update the records in the Annexes accordingly.

### 33.2 Selection of species for the periodic review\* ..... PC27 Doc. 33.2 / AC33 Doc. 45.2 (Rev. 1)

The Secretariat presented the assessment outlined in the Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*. The Secretariat invited the Plants Committee to establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices, and based on outputs indicated in paragraph 8 of document PC27 Doc. 33.2 / AC33 Doc. 45.2 (Rev. 1), identify a list of plant taxa to review during the next intersessional period until CoP21 (2028).

In paragraph 9 of the document, the Secretariat noted that paragraphs 2 and 3 b) ii) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) detailed taxa that should not be considered for review within the periodic review process. Whilst paragraphs 2 and 3 b) ii) A-C establish clear criteria for exclusion of taxa, paragraph 3 b) ii) D (referred to here as 'criterion D'), which proposes the exclusion of species "for which it is clear that there has been no change in the status, range or trade and for which there is no possibility to need to amend the Appendices" is less clearly defined. Looking at past practice, the Secretariat proposed a draft decision requesting the Animals and Plants Committee to provide clarification and guidance on criterion D.

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) did not support the proposed draft decision to provide clarification and guidance on criterion D and instead proposed the deletion of criterion D from Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19). This was seconded by the AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) and Germany.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) suggested adding another criterion to the Resolution that would exclude those non-threatened species that have been included in the Appendices as look-alike species. The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), Canada and Germany considered that this new criterion would be difficult to implement but could be something for the Animals and Plants Committees to keep in mind when they consider the outputs of the Periodic Review.

The PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) and Japan opined that it was premature to amend the Resolution.

The Plants Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on the periodic review with the mandate to:

- a) establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices, and based on outputs indicated in paragraph 8 of document PC27 Doc. 33.2, identify a list of plant taxa to review during the next intersessional period until CoP21(2028); and
- b) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: alternate representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz);

Members: representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth);

Parties: China, European Union, Germany, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); International Union for Conservation of Nature; Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, TRAFFIC, World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later in the meeting, the alternate representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) introduced document PC27 Com. 1. Mexico indicated that it had participated in the working group. The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) indicated that Colombia (and not Chile) was a range State for *Fitzroya cupressoides*.

The Plants Committee agreed the recommendations in document PC27 Com. 1 amended by the representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) and Mexico as follows:

The membership of the working group included Mexico.

The Plants Committee agreed that the following species be reviewed in terms of the sources and purposes of trade to ascertain whether the Appendix-I listing is being managed appropriately regarding the sources and purpose codes:

- *Saussurea costus*
- *Aloe bakeri*
- *Aloe haworthioides*

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to:

- a) engage with Parties relating to the reported trade in the species included above and request them to verify the source of the specimens in trade and the correct use of purpose codes:
- b) draw the attention of the Standing Committee to the list above, the clarification provided by Parties in response to the Secretariat's request for verification of the source of the specimens in trade and the correct use of purpose codes.

The Plants Committee agreed to select the following 15 species as candidates for potential review under Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) during the next intersessional period until CoP21 (2028).

Taxon	Appendix	Range State(s)
<b>Output 3:</b>		
<i>Melocactus deinacanthus</i>	I	Brazil
<i>Pachycereus militaris</i>	I	Mexico

<i>Zamia restrepoi</i>	I	Colombia
<i>Aloe albida</i>	I	Eswatini, South Africa
<i>Aloe vossii</i>	I	South Africa
<i>Sarracenia rubra jonesii</i>	I	United States of America
<i>Fitzroya cupressoides</i>	I	Argentina, <del>Colombia</del> Chile
<i>Podocarpus parlatorei</i>	I	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Peru
<i>Balmea stormiae</i>	I	El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico
<i>Fouquieria purpusii</i>	I	Mexico
<b>Output 4:</b>		
<i>Beccariophoenix madagascariensis</i>	II	Madagascar
<i>Ravenea louvelii</i>	II	Madagascar
<i>Oreomunnea pterocarpa</i>	II	Costa Rica
<i>Uncarina stellulifera</i>	II	Madagascar
<i>Fouquieria columnaris</i>	II	Mexico

The Plants Committee acknowledged that the species identified under Output 2 (in document [PC26 Doc. 16.5](#)) were considered at length by the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee and therefore agreed not to review those species at this time.

The Plants Committee noted that, in terms of paragraph 3 d) in Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19), the Secretariat shall send a copy of the proposed list of taxa to be reviewed to all Parties, and request range States of the taxa to comment within 60 days on whether they support a review of the taxa and express their interest in undertaking the reviews. The responses shall be relayed by the Secretariat to the Plants Committee. If no volunteer offers to undertake a review within two intersessional periods between CoPs, those taxa shall be deleted from the list of species to be reviewed.

The Animals and Plants Committees agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the deletion of criterion D in paragraph 3 b) ii) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II*.

#### Proposals for possible consideration at CoP20

#### 34. Inclusion of *Jubaea chilensis* in Appendix I ..... PC27 Doc. 34

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) introduced document PC27 Doc. 34 on behalf of Chile and asked for comments on the possible amendment proposal to include *Jubaea chilensis* in Appendix I.

Brazil supported the amendment proposal. Germany, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and Species Survival Network thanked Chile for the submission of the document and indicated that they were looking forward to assessing the amendment proposal once additional information has been submitted to help them assess whether the proposal meets the criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) on *Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II*. Mexico noted that listings of endemic species in general get supported. The Republic of Korea advised Chile to consider the inclusion of an annotation to allow for the exchange of specimens between botanical gardens.

The Plants Committee noted document PC27 Doc. 34.

#### Annotations

#### 35. Annotation #15 [Decision 18.321 (Rev. CoP19)]..... PC27 Doc. 35

The Secretariat provided an update on the implementation of the 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. The study being in its early stages of development, the Secretariat proposed to circulate the preliminary findings for feedback from the Plants Committee, allowing for sufficient time for comments ahead of the documentation deadline for SC78. With the feedback received from the Plants Committee, the Secretariat would then finalize the report and present it for consideration by the Standing Committee at SC78, including reflections on the status of the implementation of Decisions 18.321 (Rev. CoP19) and Decisions 18.322 (Rev. CoP19).

The representative for North America (Mr. Boles), echoed by the representative for Africa (Mr. Balama) and the League of American Orchestras, agreed with the way forward proposed by the Secretariat and suggested that the Secretariat issue a Notification informing Parties that the findings of the study had been shared with the Plants Committee.

The League of America Orchestras expressed an interest in reviewing the findings of the study and recalled that amendments to annotation #15 at CoP18 had helped the cross-border movement of finished musical instruments.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted the feedback provided on the progress reported on the implementation of Decision 18.321 (Rev. CoP19); and
- b) agreed the approach proposed in paragraphs 9 and 10 of document PC27 Doc. 35 to provide the opportunity to Members of the Plants Committee to provide scientific or technical advice on the preliminary results of the 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, ahead of the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee; and
- c) invited the Secretariat to publish a Notification to the Parties informing Parties that the preliminary findings of the study had been submitted to the Members of the Plants Committee and inviting Parties to send their comments on the preliminary findings to their regional representatives.

36. Information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species  
[Decision 18.317 (Rev. CoP19)]..... PC27 Doc. 36

The Secretariat presented to the Committee revised draft terms of reference for the feasibility study exploring the feasibility and requirements for developing an information system for trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species. The Secretariat further informed the Committee that it had identified additional funding to support the development of the study.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) signalled that it was important to continue consultation on such a system and suggested that the CITES trade database could be strengthened as part of this process. The United States of America expressed its concerns about the complexities and the costs of such a system.

The Plants Committee noted the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of Decision 19.265.

37. Informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations\*  
[Decision 19.267]..... PC27 Doc. 37/AC33 Doc. 46

The Secretariat presented a study on the feasibility and requirements for an informal review mechanism for existing and proposed annotations in accordance with Decision 19.266. The Secretariat noted that the study provided important background information on the subject matter for the Parties and constituted a useful basis for discussion. The Secretariat considered that there would be value in elaborating various aspects, including but not limited to the implications of such a mechanism – considering the wide range of issues and species and specimens that may be considered under different annotations – and potential terms of reference or a rapid guide developing criteria to guide the review of annotations.

The PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), the AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz), the AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Humane Society International, also on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation and Species Survival Network, and the World Wide Fund for Nature

cautioned against the establishment of a review mechanism, especially of one that would have financial and workload implications, noting that there was enough time for a review of annotations between the document deadline for CoPs and the CoP meeting itself and that implementation challenges linked to annotations could be considered by the Standing Committee intersessional working group on annotations.

Canada and IWMC-World Conservation Trust did see value in some form of mechanism that should also consider bracketed annotations, in particular quota annotations, that could be harmonized.

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) suggested that Parties could benefit from capacity-building on how to implement Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II* and invited the Secretariat to issue a Notification to gather feedback on the study. The United Kingdom encouraged Parties to submit draft amendment proposals to the Animals and Plants Committees before meetings of the Conference of the Parties in order to gather feedback on annotations.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) noted the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of Decision 19.266; and
- b) invited the Secretariat to publish a Notification to the Parties asking Parties to provide comments on the assessment of feasibility of establishing an informal mechanism for review of existing and proposed annotations in the CITES Appendices and on other issues related to annotations to inform the Secretariat's reporting to the Standing Committee at its 78th meeting.

38. Orchid specimens exempted through annotation #4 ..... PC27 Doc. 38  
[Decision 19.270].....

The Secretariat summarized the responses from Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America on the implementation of the annotation #4 exemption for finished products packaged and ready for retail trade of cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of specimens of *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii*. The Secretariat noted that it was not able to report on the conservation impacts of the exemption because none of the Parties that responded were range States of the species concerned.

The representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth), echoed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, indicated that some countries like Sweden and the United Kingdom, had expressed concerns about implementation challenges for the annotation #4 exemption since they cannot verify whether the specimens had been artificially propagated or not. The representative for Europe (Ms. Smyth) suggested that, due to the lack of information of the conservation status of these orchids, the Decisions should be renewed.

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), on behalf of Peru, a range State for *Cycnoches cooperi*, informed the Committee that the exemption had no impact on the conservation status of the species because all trade came from registered nurseries.

China, as a range State for *Gastrodia elata*, indicated that its wild populations of *Gastrodia elata* are considered as vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List but confirmed that it had no specific concerns related to the trade in that species since specimens in international trade came from artificial propagation.

India, as a range State for *Gastrodia elata*, also indicated that the species was considered as vulnerable with a high demand for cosmetics. Identification of *Gastrodia elata* was often difficult and it was often mis-identified.

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted that the Secretariat is not able to report on the conservation impacts of the exemption contained in annotation #4 g) on *Bletilla striata*, *Cycnoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* and *Phalaenopsis lobbii*;
- b) noted the information provided by two range States of *Gastrodia elata* (China and India) at the present meeting;

- c) encouraged range States of the species involved and especially range States of *Gastrodia elata* to bring any concerns relating to changes in the status of their wild populations associated with harvest for international trade to the attention of the Secretariat and the Plants Committee;
- d) agreed that Decisions 19.268 and 19.269 should be renewed; and
- e) agreed to report its conclusions to the Standing Committee.

39. Annotation of Cape aloe (*Aloe ferox*)  
 [Decision 18.325 (Rev. CoP19)]..... PC27 Doc. 39

The Secretariat presented an analysis of the CITES trade database for *Aloe ferox* exports from South Africa that showed that the number of aggregate trade records from South Africa has considerably decreased since the exemption of finished products ready for retail trade for the species came into force after CoP18. The Secretariat presented a summary of responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/012 on how the amended annotation #4 has impacted the international trade in *Aloe ferox* specimens, its population size, distribution, and harvest.

In paragraph 10 of document PC27 Doc. 39, the Secretariat concluded that some Parties who responded to Notification to the Parties No. 2024/012 indicated that they had to invest fewer resources into checking small consignments that may or may not contain small quantities of *Aloe ferox* specimens; reported trade volumes had not decreased, and overall trade volume might be increasing, given that some of the specimens can now be traded without CITES permits or reporting requirements; and the species seemed to be well managed and South Africa appeared to be taking steps to ensure trade remains non-detrimental to wild populations.

South Africa agreed with the recommendations of the Secretariat.

Based on the information provided and the Secretariat's conclusions in paragraph 10 of document PC26 Doc. 39, the Plants Committee agreed that Decisions 18.323 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.324 (Rev. CoP19), as well as the additional requests made by PC26 have been implemented and agreed to propose the deletion of the Decisions to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Nomenclature matters

40. Botanical and zoological nomenclature\*  
 [Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and Decisions listed below]

40.1 Nomenclature of Appendix-III listings\*  
 [Decision 18.313 (Rev. CoP19)].....PC27 Doc. 40.1/AC33 Doc. 47.1

The specialist on zoological nomenclature (Mr. Van Dijk) introduced document PC27 Doc. 40.1/AC33 Doc. 47.1 that summarized the perspectives of Parties and observers on nomenclature of Appendix-III listings. The submissions proposed that the standard nomenclature review process already carried out for Appendices I and II integrate the species listed in Appendix III to avoid a parallel review process, while acknowledging that nomenclature amendment of Appendix-III listings has to follow a different approach, because the inclusion and deletion of a species in Appendix III is decided by an individual Party. It therefore proposed in paragraph 33 to develop a specific procedure for any nomenclatural amendments to species listed in Appendix III, to be reflected in Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III* and/or Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*.

The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) proposed some substantive edits to the draft amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III* and to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*. The AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) supported the recommendations in the document, except for one draft amendment since they preferred that the nomenclature reference be submitted at the same time as the submission of the Appendix-III listing.

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\* This agenda item is addressed to the Animals and Plants Committees.



Conservation Force, supported by Zimbabwe, proposed that paragraph 1 a) iii) of Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) refer to the national laws of the country, and not only regulations.

The Plants and Animals Committees requested the Secretariat to prepare an in-session document reflecting the amendments proposed by the AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr), the AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz) and Conservation Force to the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 40.1/AC33 Doc. 47.1.

Later in the meeting, the Secretariat introduced document PC27/AC33 Com. 1. The specialist in zoological nomenclature (Mr. Van Dijk) and the AC representative for Europe (Mr. Benyr) supported the recommendations.

The Plants and Animals Committees agreed the recommendations in document PC27/AC33 Com. 1 as follows:

**Proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III:**

1. RECOMMENDS that, when considering the inclusion of a species in Appendix III, a Party:
  - a) ensure that:
    - i) the species is native to its country;
    - ii) if the species concerned is included in one of the standard lists of names or taxonomic references adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the name provided by that reference be used; if the species concerned is not included in one of the adopted standard references, the Party provide references as to the source of the name used as indicated in sub-paragraph e) below, and in cases where there is any doubt regarding the nomenclature to follow, consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, as appropriate;
    - iii) its national laws and regulations for the conservation of the species are adequate to prevent or restrict exploitation and to control trade, and include penalties for illegal taking, trade or possession and provisions for confiscation; and
    - iv) its national enforcement measures are adequate to implement these regulations;
  - [...]
  - c) inform the Management Authorities of other range States, the known major importing countries, the Secretariat and the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee that it is considering the inclusion of the species in Appendix III, provide the Nomenclature Specialist of the Animals or Plants Committee with the reference as to the source of the name used to describe the species being proposed, and seek their opinion on the potential effects of such inclusion;
  - [...]
  - e) after due consultation, and having satisfied itself that the biological and trade status of the species justify the action, submit to the Secretariat its considerations under paragraph 1 a) to d) above, specifying the following, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article XVI of the Convention:
    - i) the scientific name of the species it is submitting for inclusion in Appendix III;
      - A. if the species concerned is included in one of the standard lists of names or taxonomic references adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the reference citation and the name provided by that reference should be submitted;
      - B. if the species concerned is not included in one of the adopted standard references, the Party(ies) should provide reference(s) as to the source of the name used; and

C. if there are nomenclature uncertainties concerning the species, Party(ies) should consult the nomenclature specialist of the Animals Committee or the Plants Committee, as appropriate; and

- ii) any readily recognizable parts and derivatives to be included, unless it intends to include all readily recognizable parts and derivatives

.....

6. URGES Parties having included species in Appendix III to:

- a) review periodically the status of these species, seek assistance of the Animals or Plants Committee in undertaking the review mentioned in paragraph 5 of this Resolution, if necessary, and taking into account these guidelines and any recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees, to consider the necessity to maintain the species in Appendix III;
- b) inform the Secretariat and the Animals and Plants Committees about any taxonomic or nomenclatural changes affecting species included in Appendix III to determine whether these changes would also result in changes in distribution that would affect the determination of which countries would be required to issue certificates of origin, and proceed to amend the Appendix-III listing, if needed; and
- c) respond in a timely manner to requests from the Secretariat on proposed nomenclature changes for Appendix-III listed species recommended by the Animals or Plants Committee through its process for updating current standard nomenclatural references in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature* to inform amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and proceed to amend the Appendix-III listing, if needed.

**Proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*:**

2. RECOMMENDS that:

.....

- f) whenever a change in the name of a taxon included in the Appendices is proposed, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, determine whether this change would alter the scope of protection for fauna or flora under the Convention. In the case where the scope of a taxon is redefined, the Animals or Plants Committee shall evaluate whether acceptance of the taxonomic change would cause additional species to be included in the Appendices or listed species to be deleted from the Appendices and, if that is the case, a range state Party or the Depositary Government should be requested to submit a proposal to amend the Appendices in accordance with the recommendation of the Animals or Plants Committee, so that the original intent of the listing is retained. Such proposals should be submitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which the recommendations of the Animals and Plants Committees will be considered;
- g) if the Animals or Plants Committee become informed of taxonomic or proposes nomenclatural changes in a published taxonomic authority (see definition in paragraph 2.h) relating to taxa included in Appendix-III, they should advise the Secretariat of such proposed changes and whether they these changes would also result in changes in species distribution that would affect the issuance of determination of which countries would be required to issue certificates of origin by range States. To ensure the Party (or Parties) that included the species in Appendix III are aware of the potential changes and their potential impacts on implementation, the Secretariat will inform the Party (or Parties) of the nomenclature changes and any resulting changes in distribution that potentially alter the scope of protection for fauna and flora (inclusion or deletion of species or populations) included in Appendix III and in consultation with the nomenclature specialist(s) as appropriate, encourage the Party (or Parties) to revise the nomenclature of their Appendix-III listing in accordance with the procedure described in Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III.*

.....

8. AGREES that the adoption of a standard checklist or reference by the Conference of the Parties does not by itself change the status vis-à-vis CITES of any entity, whether it is listed in the Appendices or not, and the status of the entity remains as intended in the proposal adopted by the Conference unless specifically

changed by the adoption of a further amendment proposal; any Party that identifies a change in the status vis-à-vis CITES of any entity as a result of the adoption of a new standard reference should consult the Secretariat and nomenclature specialist as soon as possible.

The Plants and Animals Committees agreed that Decision 18.313 (Rev. CoP19) has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the Conference of the Parties.

#### 40.2 Higher taxon listings in the Appendices\*

[Decision 19.272]..... PC27 Doc. 40.2/AC33 Doc. 47.2 (Rev. 1)

The specialist on zoological nomenclature (Mr. Van Dijk) introduced document PC27 Doc. 40.2/AC33 Doc. 47.2 (Rev. 1) that reviewed the scientific implications and impacts of existing and future higher taxon listings in the Appendices. Taking into account the broadly held view of the Parties that a higher taxon listing is substantially different from a comprehensive listing of all individual species contained in that higher taxon, the document concluded that any conversion of a listing of individual species to a higher taxon listing, or a higher taxon listing converted to a listing of individual species, is a substantive change, which therefore requires a proposal to the Conference of the Parties compliant with the Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II specified in Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and/or Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18). It was concluded that the changes that may be proposed by the nomenclature specialists under the mandate of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) should be restricted to: taxon splits (i.e., recognition of new names applied to populations or taxa previously considered part of an already-listed species or higher taxon); and taxon merges (i.e., synonymisations).

The PC representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng) saw merit in revising Resolution Conf 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) and Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and supported the recommendations in the document, while the PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) did not.

The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson), the PC representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) and Australia expressed grave concerns about the changes proposed in paragraph 8 of the document since demonstrating for each of the species included in a higher taxon that it complies with the listing criteria would be a tall order for Parties. The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz), Argentina, Brazil and Israel expressed similar concerns about paragraph 8 and also opposed the amendments proposed in paragraph 10, mainly because a change to a higher taxon is not systematically a substantive change as indicated in document SC77 Doc. 74. The AC representative for North America (Mr. Benítez Díaz), Brazil and Israel supported the recommendation in paragraph 17 b) i) and 17 c) of document PC27 Doc. 40.2/AC33 Doc. 47.2 (Rev. 1).

The Center for Biological Diversity, also speaking on behalf of ADM Capital Foundation, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Born Free USA, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pan-African Sanctuary Alliance, ProWildlife, Species Survival Network and Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, as well as Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature also rejected the amendments proposed in paragraph 17 a) and supported maintaining the current system that examines the need for amendment proposals on a case by case basis.

The Plants and Animals Committees:

- a) agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the following amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*:

*whenever a change in the name of a taxon included in the Appendices, or the taxonomic level in which a taxon is included in the Appendices, is proposed, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Animals or Plants Committee, determine whether this change would alter the scope of protection for fauna or flora under the Convention. In the case where the scope of a taxon is redefined, the Animals or Plants Committee shall evaluate whether acceptance of the taxonomic change would cause additional species to be included in the Appendices or listed species to be deleted from the Appendices and, if that is the case, the Depositary Government should be requested to submit a proposal to amend the Appendices in accordance with the recommendation of the Animals or Plants Committee, so that the original intent of the listing is retained. Such proposals should be submitted for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which the recommendations of the Animals and Plants*

Committees that are determined not to alter the scope of protection for fauna and flora under the Convention will also be considered by the Conference of the Parties;

- b) agreed that Decision 19.272 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

40.3 Development of a standardized global checklist of species\*  
[Decision 19.274].....PC27 Doc. 40.3/AC33 Doc. 47.3

The specialist on botanical nomenclature (Ms. Klopper) introduced document PC27 Doc. 40.3/AC33 Doc. 47.3 and presented an update on the work of the Checklist Governance Working Group established under the auspices of the International Union of Biological Sciences. The nomenclature specialists considered that the Global Checklist process is a long-term process and proposed incorporating the participation in initiatives to develop a standardized global checklist of species in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*. They also presented possible priorities for the selection, preparation, or updating, and adoption of nomenclature standard references based on feedback received from members of the joint intersessional working group on nomenclature.

The United States of America and Canada preferred the renewal of Decision 19.274, rather than incorporating it in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and expressed concerns about the possibility of deflecting the resources and time of the nomenclature specialist on the Global Checklist Process. The AC representative for Oceania (Mr. Robertson) signalled that they were amenable to either option. The United States of America proposed additional text to Decision 19.274 in order to clarify its value for CITES.

France, noting that nomenclature was the fourth language of CITES, wished to include *Pandinus* spp. in the list of nomenclature priorities, while the United States of America wished to add corals.

Conservation Force asked whether the nomenclature specialists were involved in the Global Taxonomy Initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to which the specialist on botanical nomenclature (Ms. Klopper) responded that that initiative focused on promoting capacity and had limited relevance for CITES.

The Animals and Plants Committees:

- a) noted the list of priority taxa for the adoption of nomenclature standard references in paragraph 7 of document PC27 Doc. 40.3/AC33 Doc. 47.3 as amended by the United States of America and France (see below);

REPTILIA: SAURIA

Gekkonidae: *Carphodactylus* spp., *Nephurus* spp., *Orraya* spp., *Phyllurus* spp., *Saltuarius* spp., all listed *Sphaerodactylus* species, *Strophurus* spp., *Underwoodisaurus* spp., and *Uvidicolus* spp.

Helodermatidae: *Heloderma* spp.

Phrynosomatidae: *Phrynosoma* spp.

Scincidae: *Egernia* spp.

ARTHROPODA: ARACHNIDA

Scorpionidae: *Pandinus* spp.

INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA

Papilionidae: *Bhutanitis* spp., *Teinopalpus* spp.

MOLLUSCA: BIVALVIA

Tridacnidae spp.

MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA

Achatinellidae: *Achatinella* spp.

Cepolidae: *Polymita* spp.

## ANTHOZOA

### FLORA

- Amaryllidaceae: *Galanthus* spp., *Sternbergia* spp.  
Apocynaceae: *Hoodia* spp.  
Asparagaceae: *Beaucarnea* spp.  
Bignoniaceae: *Handroanthus* spp., *Roseodendron* spp., *Tabebuia* spp.  
Crassulaceae: *Rhodiola* spp.  
Cyatheaceae: *Cyathea* spp.  
Dicksoniaceae: *Dicksonia* spp.  
Didiereaceae spp.  
Euphorbiaceae: Succulent *Euphorbia* spp.  
Leguminosae: *Afzelia* spp.  
Meliaceae: *Cedrela* spp.  
Nepenthaceae: *Nepenthes* spp.  
Portulacaceae: *Anacampseros* spp., *Avonia* spp.  
Primulaceae: *Cyclamen* spp.  
Sarraceniaceae: *Sarracenia* spp.  
Stangeriaceae: *Stangeria* spp., *Bowenia* spp.  
Thymelaeaceae: *Aquilaria* spp., *Gyrinops* spp., *Gonystylus* spp.  
Zamiaceae spp.  
Zygophyllaceae: *Guaiacum* spp.

- b) agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the renewal of Decision 19.274 as amended by the United States of America:

#### ***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees***

##### **19.274 (Rev. CoP20)**

*Subject to external funding, the Animals and Plants Committees shall, through their respective nomenclature specialists, participate in the initiative of the International Union of Biological Sciences to develop a standardized global checklist of species, and report on progress to the 20th 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including views on the prospective values, benefits, and the potential limitations of participating in such effort as it relates to improving CITES implementation and with consideration of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19).*

- c) agreed to propose for deletion paragraph 11 of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*.

### Flora

41. Report of the specialist on botanical nomenclature  
[Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) and Decisions listed below]

- 41.1 Overview of flora nomenclature matters for the period CoP19-CoP20  
[Decision 18.306 (Rev. CoP19), Decision 19.291].....PC27 Doc. 41.1

The specialist on botanical nomenclature of the Plants Committee (Ms. Klopper) presented an update on the implementation of those flora nomenclature Decisions that are not addressed in a separate document of the meeting.

The United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre indicated that the changes proposed in paragraphs 11 and 17 of the document entailed changes to the Appendices and should therefore be proposed to the Conference of the Parties. They further noted that the distribution information contained in the extracts of *Plants of the World Online* for *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp. are based on traditional botanical units rather than country ISO code level which is the level where CITES Management Authorities operate.

41.2 Nomenclature for aloes (*Aloe* spp.)  
[Decisions 19.279 and 19.280].....PC27 Doc. 41.2

The Secretariat introduced document PC27 Doc. 41.2 that proposed an updated nomenclature reference for aloes in Annexes 1 and 2. The Secretariat pointed out in paragraph 8 of the document that recent taxonomic publications proposed the inclusion of four additional species (*Aloe welwitschii*; *Aloe bergeriana*; *Aloe jeppeae* and *Aloe subspicata*) into the genus *Aloe* spp., which were previously considered as not listed in the Appendices as they pertained to the non-CITES listed genus *Chortolirion* spp.

The PC nomenclature specialist, echoed by the representative for Europe (Ms. Moser), proposed that the question raised in paragraph 8 be included as part of the mandate of an in-session working group on nomenclature.

41.3 Nomenclature of Appendix-II listed orchids (*Orchidaceae* spp.)  
[Decision 19.285].....PC27 Doc. 41.3

The Secretariat summarized the feedback received from Parties on their experience of 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. The Secretariat proposed that the Plants Committee revise the current nomenclature reference with various concise amendments that would allow for the production of a comprehensive update of the current standard nomenclature reference for consideration by CoP21, in accordance with the process outlined in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*.

The PC nomenclature specialist, echoed by Germany, proposed that agenda item 41.3 be included as part of the mandate of an in-session working group on nomenclature.

The representative for Africa (Mr. Balama) highlighted the importance of the nomenclature work on orchids that requires in-depth studies in order to allow for the clear naming of orchid species and for the distinction of look-alike species.

41.4 Nomenclature for ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.)  
(populations of Madagascar) [Decision 19.282].....PC27 Doc. 41.4

The Secretariat presented a draft checklist for *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar, large tree species) prepared in collaboration with the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) that recognized 88 species and provided context on the information and methodology used to prepare the checklist. The Secretariat noted that the CITES Checklist included species that are not large tree species (based on the previous nomenclature reference) and therefore should be amended. The Secretariat noted that both the current taxonomic reference for *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar, large tree species) (Lowry *et al.*, 2022) and the draft CITES checklist in Annexes 1 and 2 recognized a total of 88 species of the genus *Diospyros* spp. that have been delineated as large tree species of Madagascar. Therefore, the new proposed nomenclature reference would not alter the scope of the current listing.

The PC nomenclature specialist proposed that agenda item 41.4 be included as part of the mandate of an in-session working group on nomenclature.

The United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre highlighted that the proposed nomenclature change would entail changing the trade records for one species, *Diospyros mcphersonii*, that would need to be reported as *Diospyros* spp.

41.5 Standard nomenclature for cumarus (*Dipteryx* spp.)  
[Decision 19.283].....PC27 Doc. 41.5

The Secretariat, in consultation with the PC nomenclature specialist, proposed the adoption of the time-stamped extract of the *Plants of the World Online (POWO)* database for the genus *Dipteryx* contained in the Annex to document PC27 Doc. 41.5 as the standard nomenclature reference for the *Dipteryx* spp.

The PC nomenclature specialist proposed that agenda item 41.5 be included as part of the mandate of an in-session working group on nomenclature since the issue of the level of distribution information raised by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre also applied to this extract.

Brazil inquired as to why *Dipteryx hermetopascoaliana*, a species endemic to Brazil, was not included in the extract. This matter was also referred to the in-session working group for consideration.

41.6 Standard nomenclature for African mahoganies (*Khaya* spp.)  
[Decision 19.284].....PC27 Doc. 41.6

The Secretariat, in consultation with the PC nomenclature specialist, presented in paragraphs 6 to 8 of document PC27 Doc. 41.6 an updated time-stamped extract for the genus *Khaya* from the *Plants of the World Online (POWO)* database dated 13 February 2024 and compared it to the time stamp of the current nomenclature reference for *Khaya* spp. in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19). The PC nomenclature specialist noted that they are identical. The Secretariat therefore noted that there would be no need to pursue an update of the timestamp for *Khaya* spp. under Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19).

The PC nomenclature specialist proposed that agenda item 41.6 be included as part of the mandate of an in-session working group on nomenclature since the issue of the level of distribution information raised by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre also applied to this extract.

41.7 Nomenclature for pachypodiums (*Pachypodium* spp.)  
[Decision 19.288].....PC27 Doc. 41.7

The Secretariat, in close cooperation with the PC nomenclature specialist and with support from the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, presented an updated nomenclature reference for pachypodiums (*Pachypodium* spp.) in Annexes 1 and 2 to document PC27 Doc. 41.7.

The PC nomenclature specialist, echoed by the representative for Europe (Ms. Moser), proposed that agenda item 41.7 be included as part of the mandate of an in-session working group on nomenclature since the issue of the level of distribution information raised by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre also applied to this extract.

41.8 Standard nomenclature for roseroots (*Rhodiola* spp.)  
[Decision 19.289].....PC27 Doc. 41.8

The Secretariat, in consultation with the PC nomenclature specialist, presented in Annex 1 to document PC27 Doc. 41.8 a time-stamped download from *Plants of the World Online (POWO)* for *Rhodiola* spp. that contained 73 species and in Annex 2 a comparison of this extract with the reference Ohba (2003), which was used in proposal CoP19 Prop. 45. The Secretariat noted two major differences between the two checklists. Based on the differences between the two sources, the Secretariat indicated that that the POWO extract in Annex 1 would be the best nomenclature reference for the genus *Rhodiola* spp.

The PC nomenclature specialist proposed that agenda item 41.8 be included as part of the mandate of an in-session working group on nomenclature since the issue of the level of distribution information raised by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre also applied to this extract and since there had been update to POWO since the submission of the document.

The Russian Federation called for more work on the nomenclature for *Rhodiola* spp. since many nomenclature classifications dated back to the time of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

IWMC-World Conservation Trust indicated that Annex 2 seemed to be missing from the document, to which the Secretariat responded that all annexes had been attached one after the other in the document.

The Plants Committee agreed to establish an in-session working group on nomenclature with the mandate to take into consideration the comments made by the specialist on botanical nomenclature, the regional representative for Africa (Mr. Balama), Brazil, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre on documents PC27 Doc. 41.1 to Doc. 41.8 and:

- a) consider the proposed recommendations for all the flora nomenclature matters addressed in document PC27 Doc. 41.1 as contained in paragraph 19 of document PC27 Doc. 41.1.
- b) consider the recommendations contained in the following documents:
  - i) document PC27 Doc. 41.2 on *Nomenclature for Aloes (Aloe spp.)*,
  - ii) document PC27 Doc. 41.3 on *Nomenclature for Appendix-II listed orchids (Orchidaceae spp.)*,
  - iii) document PC27 Doc. 41.4 on *Nomenclature for ebonies (Diospyros spp.) (Populations of Madagascar)*,
  - iv) document PC27 Doc. 41.5 on *Standard nomenclature for cumarus (Dipteryx spp.)*,
  - v) document PC27 Doc. 41.6 on *Standard nomenclature for African mahoganies (Khaya spp.)*,
  - vi) document PC27 Doc 41.7 on *Nomenclature for Pachypodium spp.*,
  - vii) document PC27 Doc. 41.8 on *Standard nomenclature for roseroots (Rhodiola spp.)*; and
  - viii) addendum PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add on *Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species*, Annexes 2 to 4; and
- c) report its recommendations to the Committee.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: Nomenclature specialist (Ms. Klopper);

Members: representative for Africa (Mr. Balama), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra), representative for Europe (Ms. Moser);

Parties: Brazil, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Mexico, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America;

IGOs and NGOs: United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, World Wide Fund for Nature.

Later in the meeting, the nomenclature specialist (Ms. Klopper) introduced document PC27 Com. 4. The nomenclature specialist and the Secretariat proposed some edits to draft decision 20.AA under *Trade in medicinal and aromatic plants species* to align the text with the draft decisions agreed under agenda item 32. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland proposed edits to draft decision 20.AA regarding *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.

The Plants Committee agreed the recommendations in document PC27 Com. 4 as amended by the nomenclature specialist (Ms. Klopper), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Secretariat as follows:

The membership of the working group included the alternate representative for Europe (Mr. de Boer).

The Plants Committee:



- a) invited the nomenclature specialist to develop draft decisions for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to liaise with the editors of global databases containing plant distribution information on the possibility of providing such information on an ISO country level;
- b) invited the Secretariat to, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC and the nomenclature specialist, consider a best practice approach for presenting species included in higher taxon listings in CITES databases, which are not included in the most recently adopted standard nomenclature references (such as the cases of *Diospyros* spp. and Orchidaceae spp.); and
- c) agreed the following recommendations:

Regarding Cactaceae:

The Plants Committee agreed:

- a) to submit the following draft decisions on Cactaceae nomenclature for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

***Directed to the Secretariat, in close consultation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee***

**20.AA** *The Secretariat, in close consultation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee, shall, subject to external funding, propose an updated checklist for the family Cactaceae, taking into account information contained in document PC26 Doc. 43.3 and agreements contained in summary record PC26 SR, as well as other available information, and report to the Plants Committee.*

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

**20.BB** *The Plants Committee shall advise the Secretariat on the updated checklist for the family Cactaceae and report its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, including with regard to the adoption of the checklist as standard nomenclature reference in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP2019) on Standard nomenclature.*

- b) with the proposal to consider that the matter related to *Turbinicarpus ×roseiflorus*, explained in paragraph 12 of document PC27 Doc. 41.1, be addressed as part of the terms of reference for a revised nomenclature checklist for the Cactaceae.
- c) that Decisions 18.304 (Rev. CoP19) to 18.306 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

Regarding *Dalbergia* spp.:

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted that 12 new *Dalbergia* species have been described since the adoption of the checklist on *Dalbergia* spp. and
- b) recommended that any required revisions to the checklist be coordinated under the provisions of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19).
- c) agreed that Decisions 18.307 (Rev. CoP19) and 18.308 (Rev. CoP19) have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion.

Regarding *Taxus* spp.:

The Plants Committee agreed to recommend the renewal of Decisions 19.290 and 19.291 to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to finalize a checklist on *Taxus* spp. for consideration at the 21st meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Regarding *Bulnesia sarmientoi*:

The Plants Committee agreed to propose to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the adoption of a standard nomenclature reference for *Gonopterodendron sarmientoi* in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) as follows:

**Godoy-Bürki, A.C., Acosta, J.M. & Aagesen, L. (2018). Phylogenetic relationships within the New World subfamily Larreoideae (Zygophyllaceae) confirm polyphyly of the disjunct genus *Bulnesia*. *Systematics and Biodiversity* 16(5): 453–468**, with a note that *Bulnesia sarmientoi* and *Plectrocarpa sarmientoi* should be considered as synonyms for *Gonopterodendron sarmientoi*.

Regarding the bulb genera *Cyclamen*, *Galanthus*, and *Sternbergia*:

The Plants Committee:

- a) requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with the nomenclature specialist, to develop separate updated checklists for consideration at CoP20 for inclusion in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19), based on time-stamped database extracts for the genera *Cyclamen*, *Galanthus*, and *Sternbergia*, taking into account information contained in document PC26 Doc. 43.1 and agreements contained in summary records PC26 SR and PC27 SR, as well as other available information.
- b) agreed to submit for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the following revised draft decisions on Nomenclature checklists for the genera *Cyclamen*, *Galanthus*, and *Sternbergia*:

***Directed to the Secretariat, in close consultation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee***

**20.AA** *The Secretariat, in close consultation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee, shall, subject to external funding, propose separate updated checklists for consideration at CoP21 for inclusion in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on Standard nomenclature.*

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

**20.BB** *The Plants Committee shall advise the Secretariat on the updated checklists for the genera *Cyclamen*, *Galanthus*, and *Sternbergia*, and report its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, including with regard to the adoption of the checklists as standard nomenclature references in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on Standard nomenclature.*

Regarding *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops*:

The Plants Committee agreed to:

- a) propose the adoption of updated time-stamped database extracts similar to those in Annexes 1 and 2 to document PC27 Doc. 41.1 as new standard nomenclature references for the genera *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and for inclusion in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19).
- b) propose revised draft decisions on *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp., as follows:

***Directed to the Secretariat, in consultation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee and range States and other Parties***

**20.AA** *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:*

*a) commission a study and field work, to:*

- i) review available data and information on the phylogeny, taxonomy, and distribution of *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.;*

- ii) *in collaboration with range States and other Parties, as appropriate and if not available otherwise, obtain representative sets of samples of agarwood specimens from all agarwood range States, that are suitable for phylogenetic and taxonomic analyses;*
- iii) *undertake the necessary analyses to clarify the phylogeny and taxonomy of *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.; and*
- iv) *in collaboration with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee, propose an updated checklist of the two genera for the consideration of the Plants Committee.*

**Directed to the Plants Committee**

**20.BB** *The Plants Committee shall advise the Secretariat on the updated checklists for the genera *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* and report its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, including with regard to the adoption of the checklists as standard nomenclature references in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on Standard nomenclature.*

**Directed to range States and other Parties**

**20.CC** *Range States and other Parties are invited to provide funding for the implementation of the study under Decision 20.AA, and to facilitate the collection and analysis of representative sets of samples of agarwood specimens from all range States, that are suitable for phylogenetic analyses, as appropriate.*

Regarding the nomenclature of *Beaucarnea*:

The Plants Committee:

- a) agreed that the inclusion of *Beaucarnea hookeri* and *B. glassiana* in a standard nomenclature reference for the genus is a substantive amendment to the current higher taxon listing of the genus, and to invite the Depositary Government, in consultation with Mexico, to assess *Beaucarnea hookeri* and *B. glassiana* with regard to the listing criteria under Resolution Conf. 9.24, and to submit listing proposals to CoP20 for Appendix II in accordance with paragraph 2f) of Resolution 12.11 (Rev. CoP19), as appropriate.
- b) agreed to recommend for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the adoption of Rojas-Pina et al. (2014) as a standard nomenclature reference for the genus *Beaucarnea* spp. in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19), and if appropriate, with a note to indicate the exclusion of *Beaucarnea hookeri* and *B. glassiana* from CITES regulations.

**[Rojas-Pina, V., Olsen, M.E., Alvaro-Cardenas, L.O. & Eguiarte, L.E. 2014. Molecular phylogenetics and morphology of *Beaucarnea* (Ruscaceae) as distinct from *Nolina*, and the submersion of *Calibanus* into *Beaucarnea*. *Taxon* 63(6): 1193–1211.]**

Regarding the correct name for *Nardostachys grandiflora*:

The Plants Committee agreed to propose for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the adoption of a standard nomenclature reference for *Nardostachys grandiflora* in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19), as follows:

**Mabberley, M.B. & Noltie, H.J. (2014). A note on *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones (Caprifoliaceae s.l.). *Blumea* 59: 37–41.**

Regarding a standard reference for *Anacampseros* (=Avonia):

The Plants Committee requested the nomenclature specialist to consider various options and to further investigate the best standard nomenclature reference for the genus *Anacampseros* spp. (=Avonia), including a potential update of the family name, and to propose draft decisions for consideration for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Regarding *Dipteryx* spp.:

The Plants Committee:

- a) requested that the nomenclature specialist reviews the publication Carvalho *et al.* (2020), to assess whether three species are correctly included in the time-stamped extract, and to download new time-stamped extracts shortly before CoP20, for submission and adoption as standard nomenclature reference in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature*.

**[Carvalho, C.S., de Fraga, N.C., Cardoso, D.B.O.S. & Lima, H.C. 2020. Tonka, baru and cumaru: Nomenclatural overview, typification and updated checklist of *Dipteryx* (Leguminosae). *Taxon* 69(3): 582–592. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.12238>]**

- b) agreed that Decision 19.283 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Regarding *Khaya* spp. (African populations):

The Plants Committee agreed that:

- a) the current standard nomenclature reference for the genus *Khaya* can be retained and does not require updates; and
- b) Decision 19.248 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

Regarding *Rhodiola* spp.:

The Plants Committee:

- a) agreed that the time-stamped extract does not contain substantive amendments to the reference Ohba (2003) that would alter the original scope of the listing;
- b) proposed the revision of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on *Standard nomenclature* to include a nomenclature reference on *Rhodiola* spp., with a new time-stamped extract similar to the one proposed in Annex 1 to document PC27 Doc. 41.8.
- c) agreed that Decision 19.289 has been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

Regarding aloes:

The Plants Committee:

- a) agreed to use the genus classification as outlined in paragraph 7 of document PC27 Doc. 41.2.
- b) invited the Depositary Government to work with South Africa to submit a listing proposal for the four *Aloe* species previously treated in the genus *Chortolirion* for Appendix II to CoP20, in accordance with paragraph 2f) of Resolution 12.11 (Rev. CoP19).
- c) contingent on the adoption of the listing proposal to be submitted by the Depositary Government, and any resulting amendments required for the four species previously treated in *Chortolirion*, agreed to propose the Aloe Checklist, as contained in the Annexes to document PC27 Doc. 41.7, for inclusion as standard nomenclature reference in Resolution 12.11 (Rev. Cop19).
- d) agreed that Decisions 19.279 and 19.280 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Regarding *Diospyros* spp. (large tree species of Madagascar):

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted that the listing of *Diospyros* spp. comprises the entire genus *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar).

- b) noted that the draft checklist includes eight unpublished species and requested the nomenclature specialist to assess whether these should be included and provide clarification in her report to CoP20. The Plants Committee requested a correction on page 3 (the CoP Decisions current cited are for on *Taxus* spp. and the Decision numbers should be corrected).
- c) agreed to submit the checklist for *Diospyros* spp., with any clarifications, for consideration and adoption to CoP20, for inclusion as standard nomenclature reference in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (CoP19).
- d) agreed that Decisions 19.281 and 19.282 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to CoP20.

Regarding the genus *Pachypodium*:

The Plants Committee:

- a) noted that the working group had no additional comments on the draft *Pachypodium* checklist.
- b) agreed to present the *Pachypodium* checklist, as contained in the annexes to document to PC27 Doc. 41.7, to CoP20 for inclusion as standard nomenclature reference in Resolution 12.11 (Rev. CoP19).
- c) agreed that Decisions 19.287 and 19.288 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion at CoP20.

Regarding Nomenclature for Appendix II-listed orchids

The Plants Committee

- a) noted that the working group had no additional observations on the responses contained in the Annexes to document PC27 Doc. 41.3,
- b) noted that the current standard nomenclature reference for orchids does not include all genera of the orchid family, but only those that dominate international trade in orchids.
- c) agreed to include in the draft decisions and the ToRs of the study an additional step to re-analyse which orchid genera are in trade and to tailor the update of the standard nomenclature reference to those genera found to dominate trade.
- d) requested the Secretariat to amend the title of the checklist to specify that it only comprises genera found in international trade.
- e) agreed to propose draft decisions on Orchid nomenclature for the consideration of CoP20 as follows:

***Directed to the Secretariat, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee***

**20.AA** *The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee and subject to continued availability of external funding:*

- a) *review which orchid genera are found in trade to inform updates of the standard nomenclature reference;*
- b) *prepare an update to the standard nomenclatural reference for Appendix-II listed orchids contained in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on Standard nomenclature, and add to the updated standard nomenclature reference any additional genera that are found in trade;*
- c) *in undertaking the above, take into account the views expressed in response to Notification 2024/010 and compiled in document PC27 Doc. 41.3 on Nomenclature for Appendix-II listed orchids (Orchidaceae spp.), as well as an updated comparison*

of the current standard nomenclature reference with the Plants of the World Online (POWO) database; and

- d) *report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee*

**Directed to the Plants Committee**

**20.BB** *The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 20.AA; and*
- b) *make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.*
- f) agreed that Decisions 19.285 and 19.286 have been implemented and can be proposed for deletion to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Regarding medicinal and aromatic plant species

The Plants Committee agreed that the draft decisions proposed in addendum PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add. be amended as follows submitted for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.:

**Directed to the Secretariat**

**20.AA** *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *work with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to consider the identified discrepancies listed in Annexes 2 to 4 of document PC27 Doc. 32.1 Add, and identify whether corrections or improvements to the nomenclature in CITES databases are necessary;*
- b) *subject to external funding, implement cross-references between CITES databases and the Medicinal Plant Names Services for CITES-listed MAPs, taking into account the technical advice of the Plants Committee agreed at its 26th meeting (see summary record PC26 SR); and*
- c) *report to the Plants Committee.*

**Directed to the Plants Committee**

**20.BB** *The Plants Committee shall review the report submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 20.AA; and report to the Conference of the Parties.*

**Regional matters**

42. Regional reports

42.1 Africa ..... *No document*

The representative for Africa (Mr. Balama) presented an oral report on the activities of their region.

42.2 Asia..... PC27 Doc. 42.2 (Rev. 1)

The acting representative for Asia (Mr. Chong) introduced document PC27 Doc. 42.2 (Rev. 1).

42.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean ..... *No document*

The representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra) presented an oral report on the activities of their region.

42.4 Europe..... PC27 Doc. 42.4

The representative for Europe (Ms. Moser) introduced document PC27 Doc. 42.4.

42.5 North America ..... PC27 Doc. 42.5

The representative for North America (Mr. Boles) introduced document PC27 Doc. 42.5.

42.6 Oceania..... PC27 Doc. 42.6

The representative for Oceania (Mr. Wrigley) introduced document PC27 Doc. 42.6.

The Committee noted the oral reports and documents PC27 Doc. 42.2 (Rev. 1) to PC27 Doc. 42.6.

No other intervention was made during discussion of this item.

#### Concluding items

43. Any other business ..... *No document*

There was no intervention.

44. Time and venue of the 28th meeting of the Plants Committee..... *No document*

The Plants Committee noted that the 28th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 34th meeting of the Animals Committee should take place in Geneva in July 2026.

45. 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 and the Secretariat; and the Chair closed the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED TO RANGE STATES RETAINED  
IN THE REVIEW PROCESS – AGENDA ITEM 15.4

The following recommendations, directed to the range States retained in the review process, are based on the principles outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP18) and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33.

**1. *Dalbergia melanoxylon*/Mozambique**

The Management Authority of Mozambique shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, a zero export quote/an interim conservative export quota within 90 days for <i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>ii. The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>iii. Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee</p>	<p>Precautionary approach as export levels appear unsustainable and immediate action is required</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Review and, as appropriate, revise management systems in place, including how population levels are calculated and sustainable off- take assessed, taking into account levels and frequency of harvest, annual growth rates for the species, the location of harvest, recruitment rate and regeneration. Critically review monitoring measures, the reporting and assessment of same, assess their effectiveness and amend as appropriate.</p> <p>Overall, the review should aim to ensure an effective NDF process with clearly defined harvest management</p>	<p>24 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee</p>	<p>Improve the knowledge and management of the species population at the National scale and support development of a science-based NDF</p> <p>Ensure harvest is sustainable</p>



Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p>measures (e.g., minimum rotation periods, minimum DBH, good harvesting techniques, impact of harvest) with a locally- appropriate and effective monitoring system.</p> <p>v. Undertake monitoring of the impact of harvest and implement harvest and export restrictions based on monitoring results.</p>		
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>vi. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p> <p>vii. Develop science-based export quotas using standardised terms and units used in reporting trade export quotas as found in the most recent version of the guidelines for the preparation of CITES annual reports.</p>	<p>24 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee</p>	<p>To assist in the evaluation of whether the NDF has improved as a result of the Review of Significant Trade Process</p> <p>Where quotas are used in the NDFs that Mozambique has developed, they must be science based and follow CITES requirements for quotas, in alignment with the terminology in the guidelines for CITES annual reports.</p>

## 2. *Dalbergia melanoxyton*/ United Republic of Tanzania

The Management Authority of United Republic of Tanzania shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Provide clarification regarding the discrepancies between the export volumes reported by the CITES MA of Tanzania (TZ) in response to the RST Consultation and export volumes reported in the CITES Trade Database</p>	<p>90 days following notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee</p>	<p>There appears to be a discrepancy between trade data presented in the CITES Trade Database and Tanzania's reported export volumes</p>
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>ii. Provide information on the location and extent of the areas under harvest management for export.</p> <p>iii. Submit management plans including any available information on inventories and monitoring systems currently in place.</p>	<p>90 days following notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee</p>	<p>Supporting information for future development of a science-based NDF(s)</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p>	<p>24 months following</p>	<p>Non-detriment findings are</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
iv. Develop non-detriment findings for all populations of <i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i> intended for export to enable the setting of an export quota at the relevant management unit level(s).	notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	required for all populations of <i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i> intended for export, to ensure sustainable annual harvest at the relevant management unit level.

### 3. *Dalbergia tucurensis*/Nicaragua

The Management Authority of Nicaragua shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<u>Short-term Actions</u>		
<p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, a cautionary export quota/an interim conservative export quota for <i>Dalbergia tucurensis</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p> <p>ii. Report what mechanisms are in place to ensure the wild harvested species are correctly identified.</p>	90 days following notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	<p>While non-detriment findings have been established at the management unit level, they are generic in nature, rather than focusing on the species-specific harvest levels.</p> <p>Nicaragua has not set an export quota for <i>Dalbergia tucurensis</i>.</p>

### 4. *Guibourtia tessmannii*/Equatorial Guinea

The Management Authority of Equatorial Guinea shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<u>Short-term Actions</u>		
i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, a zero export quote/an interim conservative export quota within	90 days following notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants	Precautionary approach as the species is prohibited by Cameroon yet export appears to be continuing.

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p>90 days for <i>Guibourtia tessmannii</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	Committee	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>ii. Review and, as appropriate, revise management systems in place, including how population levels are calculated and sustainable off- take assessed, taking into account levels and frequency of harvest, annual growth rates for the species, and the location of harvest. Critically review monitoring measures, the reporting and assessment of same, assess their effectiveness and amend as appropriate.</p> <p>Overall, the review should aim to ensure an effective NDF process with clearly defined harvest management measures (e.g., minimum rotation periods, minimum DBH, good harvesting techniques, impact of harvest) with a locally- appropriate and effective monitoring system.</p> <p>iii. Undertake monitoring of the impact of harvest and implement harvest and export restrictions based on monitoring results.</p>	24 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	<p>Improve the knowledge and management of the species population at the National scale and support an adequate NDF.</p> <p>Ensure harvest is sustainable to support an adequate NDF</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, to address the</p>	36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	To assist in the evaluation of whether the NDF has improved as a result of the Review of Significant Trade Process

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.		

## 5. *Osyris lanceolata*/Burundi

The Management Authority of Burundi shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<u>Short-term Actions</u>		
<p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, a zero export quote/an interim conservative export quota within 90 days for <i>Osyris lanceolata</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	Precautionary approach as export levels appear unsustainable and immediate action is required
<u>Short Term Action</u>		
<p>ii. Provide information on the location and extent of the areas under harvest management for export. Submit management plans including any available information on inventories and monitoring systems currently in place.</p>	90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	Supporting information for the development of a science-based NDF.
<u>Long-term Actions</u>		
<p>iii. Report on the status of the population at the relevant forest management unit level, based on existing forest inventories and forest inventories under development, and plans for a monitoring process.</p>	24 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	Improve the knowledge and management of the species population at the forest management unit level.
<u>Long-term Actions</u>		
<p>iv. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the</p>	36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the	To establish that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species.

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, to address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.	Plants Committee	

## 6. *Osyris lanceolata*/Ethiopia

The Management Authority of Ethiopia shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, a zero export quota/an interim conservative export quota within 90 days for <i>Osyris lanceolata</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	Precautionary approach as export levels appear unsustainable and immediate action is required.
<p><u>Short Term Action</u></p> <p>ii. Provide information on the location and extent of the areas under harvest management for export. Submit management plans including any available information on inventories and monitoring systems currently in place.</p>	90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	Supporting information for development of a science based NDF
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iii. Report on the status of the population at the relevant management unit level, based on existing inventories and inventories under development, and plans for a monitoring process.</p>	24 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	Improve the knowledge and management of the species population at the management unit level

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, to address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	To establish that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species

### 7. *Osyris lanceolata*/Uganda

The Management Authority of Uganda shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, a zero export quota within 90 days for <i>Osyris lanceolata</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a non-detriment finding justifying how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	Precautionary approach as export levels appear unsustainable and immediate action is required

### 8. *Osyris lanceolata*/United Republic of Tanzania

The Management Authority of United Republic of Tanzania shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants</p>	90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the	Precautionary approach as export levels appear unsustainable and immediate

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p>Committee, a zero export quota within 90 days for <i>Osyris lanceolata</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a non-detriment finding justifying how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>recommendations of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee</p>	<p>action is required</p>

#### 9. *Aquilaria malaccensis*/Indonesia

The Management Authority of Indonesia shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, an interim conservative export quota at the species level for source codes W within 90 days for <i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p> <p>ii. Report what mechanisms are in place to ensure the wild harvested species are correctly identified and</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee</p>	<p>Precautionary approach as export levels appear unsustainable and immediate action is required</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
distinguishable from artificially propagated specimens.		
<u>Long-term Actions</u> iii. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, to address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.	36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	To establish that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species

#### 10. *Aquilaria malaccensis*/Malaysia

The Management Authority of Malaysia shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<u>Short-term Actions</u> i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, an interim export quota within 90 days for <i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i> and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.  The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.  Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a non-detriment finding justifying how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement. ii. Report what mechanisms are in place to ensure the wild harvested species are correctly identified and distinguishable from artificially propagated specimens.	90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendations of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	Precautionary approach as export levels appear unsustainable and immediate action is required
<u>Long-term Actions</u> iii. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that	36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the	To establish that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species



<p>exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, to address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	<p>recommendation of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee</p>	
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### 11. *Gyrinops* spp./Papua New Guinea

The Management Authority of Papua New Guinea shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>i. Establish, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, a zero export quota/an interim conservative export quota within 90 days for the <i>Gyrinops</i> spp. and communicate the quota to the Secretariat. No exports should occur until the quota has been published on the Secretariat's website.</p> <p>The export quota should be justified as conservative based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information.</p> <p>Before making any increases to this interim quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee</p>	<p>Precautionary approach as export levels appear unsustainable and immediate action is required</p>
<p><u>Short Term Action</u></p> <p>ii. Provide information on the location and extent of the areas under harvest management for export. Submit management plans including any available information on inventories and monitoring systems currently in place.</p> <p>iii. Report what mechanisms are in place to ensure the wild harvested species are correctly identified.</p>	<p>90 days following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee</p>	<p>Supporting information for development of an adequate NDF</p>
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>iv. Report on the status of the population at the management unit level, based on existing forest inventories and forest</p>	<p>24 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the</p>	<p>Improve the knowledge and management of the species population at the National scale</p>

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
inventories under development, and plans for a monitoring process.	Plants Committee	
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>v. Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, to address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>	36 months following receipt of notification from the CITES Secretariat of the recommendation of the 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Plants Committee	

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RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED TO THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE – AGENDA ITEM 15.4

The following recommendations, directed to the Standing Committee, concern problems identified in the course of the review that are not directly related to the implementation of Article IV paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), following the principles outlined in Annex 3 of the Resolution.

**1. *Dalbergia melanoxylon*/Mozambique (MO)**

The Standing Committee is invited to consider tasking Mozambique (MO) with the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Actions</u></p> <p>Consider requesting Mozambique to develop and implement adequate control measures and inspection procedures to detect and intercept illegal shipments of specimens of <i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i></p>	<p>90 days prior to the 79<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee</p>	<p>Current efforts to control the illegal harvest of <i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i> do not appear to be effective and require strengthening</p>

**2. *Aquilaria crassna*/Viet Nam (VN)**

The Plants Committee invited the Secretariat to bring the issue of illegal trade in *Aquilaria crassna* from Viet Nam and of misreporting of artificially propagated exports by importers as wild-sourced specimens to the attention of the Standing Committee.

## Conf. 20.XX Medicinal and aromatic plant species

RECALLING that trade in CITES-listed species, including CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plant species (MAPs), must meet the requirements specified in the Convention and may also be subject to other relevant multilateral agreements;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for trade in wild MAP species to be biologically sustainable to ensure their survival in the wild consistent with their roles in their ecosystems;

RECALLING Decision 15/4 of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2022 adopting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and, in particular, Goals A, B and C, and Targets 4, 5, 9 and 13 thereof;

ALSO RECALLING the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation adopted by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2022;

RECOGNIZING the contribution of MAPs to human health, and the role of the sustainable management and trade of these species in a One Health approach<sup>2</sup>;

AWARE of World Health Organization reports that traditional medicine forms an integral resource for health in almost all countries, that a large share of pharmaceutical formulations is based on natural products and that landmark drugs, including aspirin and artemisinin, originated from traditional medicine<sup>3</sup>;

ACKNOWLEDGING the diversity of production systems that contribute to international trade in MAPs, including traditional forms of community management and assisted production as well as novel techniques to produce specimens through biotechnology and RECALLING provisions on source codes A, D, W and Y for plants as contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*, and Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*;

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING that international trade in MAPs involves manifold specimens from live plants to highly processed extracts, parts and derivatives, some of which subject to exemptions from CITES regulation through listing annotations, and that pose particular challenges to specimens identification, traceability and regulation; and FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of annotations of CITES-listed MAPs to align with the criteria specified in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP19) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*;

RECOGNIZING the requirement to make non-detriment findings (NDFs) and legal acquisition findings (LAF), as appropriate, and AWARE of the guidance contained in Annexes 1 to 3 of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings* to verify legal acquisition along the chain of custody;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of ensuring correct reporting, in their national reports, of source, quantity and units of MAPs, in line with the most recent version of the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports*;

RECOGNIZING the particular complexity of international trade in MAPs, which often is regional, informal, and increasingly taking place on online platforms; the high diversity of stakeholders and uses of medicinal and aromatic plant products; and the cultural and ecological values of MAPs that include but go beyond utilitarian or economic benefits referred to in Resolution Conf. 8.3 (Rev. CoP13) on *Recognition of the benefits of trade in wildlife*;

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/2831701368>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.who.int/initiatives/who-global-centre-for-traditional-medicine/>

RECALLING that close collaboration with groups of traditional-medicine practitioners and consumers can improve public education and awareness programmes towards the elimination of illegal use, and the avoidance of overexploitation of MAPs, as recommended in Resolution Conf. 10.19 on *Traditional medicines*;

EMPHASIZING the knowledge local practitioners and communities have of MAP populations, habitats and ecology, often developed by managing MAP populations locally, as also referred to in Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* and Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP18) on *CITES and livelihoods*;

AWARE of Resolution Conf. 19.2 on *Capacity building*;

RECALLING Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines*, which focuses on local and national decision-making and governance structures and emphasizes benefits of systemic approaches, adaptive mechanisms and participation for managing biological resources sustainably; and

ALSO RECALLING that the sustainable management of MAPs benefits from synergies at the international level, as called for in Resolution Conf. 18.3 on the *CITES Strategic Vision: 2021-2030*, Resolution Conf. 18.4 on *Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, Resolution Conf. 18.5 on *Cooperation and synergy with the World Heritage Convention*, Resolution Conf. 16.5 on *Cooperation with the Global strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity*, Resolution Conf. 16.4 on *Cooperation of CITES with other biodiversity-related conventions*, and Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity*;

## THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

### **Regarding a characterization of the scope of the term medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs)**

1. AGREES that medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) can be characterized as the group of plant species that are used for therapeutic, aromatic and/or culinary purposes, including as components of cosmetics, foods and beverages, medicinal products, other natural health products, oils and waxes;

### **Regarding identification, traceability and legal acquisition findings for CITES-listed MAPs**

2. AWARE of the guidance contained in Annexes 1 to 3 of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings* to verify legal acquisition along the chain of custody;<sup>4</sup>
3. ENCOURAGES Parties to develop traceability systems for medicinal and aromatic plants to verify legal acquisition along the chain of custody, whilst acknowledging the complexity of trade in MAPs, including large-scale e-commerce;

### **Regarding species monitoring and management and non-detriment findings**

4. ENCOURAGES Parties to use the information available through the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's Medicinal Plant Names Services<sup>5</sup> on local, traditional, and trade names of MAP specimens when monitoring trade in MAPs and INVITES Parties to provide feedback to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's Medicinal Plant Names Services by submitting MAPs names in various languages from referenced sources to expand and update the portal;<sup>6</sup>
5. ENCOURAGES Parties to consult with local practitioners and communities to use local and traditional knowledge in the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) and for participatory species monitoring and management in line with guidance contained in the CITES guidance on livelihoods<sup>7</sup> and relevant sections of the CITES NDF guidance<sup>8</sup>;

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<sup>4</sup> The Secretariat notes that this paragraph should be included in the preamble.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/science-services/medicinal-plant-names-services>

<sup>6</sup> The Secretariat notes that the second part of this paragraph should be a separate paragraph 5 starting with "INVITES".

<sup>7</sup> Part I: [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Livelihoods/Guia\\_Parte1\\_CITES\\_eng\\_final.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Livelihoods/Guia_Parte1_CITES_eng_final.pdf);  
Part II: [https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Livelihoods/Guia\\_PART2\\_CITES\\_ENG\\_FINAL.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/Livelihoods/Guia_PART2_CITES_ENG_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php>

6. INVITES Parties to share non-detriment findings for CITES-listed MAPs with the Secretariat for publication on the CITES website, including NDFs that apply relevant sections of the CITES NDF guidance<sup>9</sup> for CITES-listed MAPs;

**Regarding capacity-building to improve CITES implementation for MAPs**

7. URGES Parties to develop and share adequate knowledge and tools, to raise awareness, and to build capacities at national level to support regulation of trade in CITES-listed MAPs in line with the recommendations contained in the present Resolution, and to contribute financially to international capacity-building programmes such as the CITES Tree Species Programme or specific initiatives focused on MAPs, as appropriate;
8. ENCOURAGES Parties to share any relevant guidance to aid with the interpretation and understanding of annotations for MAPs;
9. ENCOURAGES Parties to engage with all CITES MAPs trade stakeholders to create, support and strengthen collaborative platforms, including e-commerce platforms, to prevent illegal trade and to define best practices and share experiences towards sustainable and legal use and trade in CITES-listed MAPs;
10. *INVITES the submission of best practices (case studies, conservation action plans, guidance, etc.) in the management of CITES-listed MAPs, as appropriate for the publication on the CITES website and for consideration of the Plants Committee; and*
11. DIRECTS the Secretariat to maintain a section on MAPs on the CITES website to publish relevant information, as appropriate.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/ndf/index.php>