

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



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Strategic matters

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee on behalf of the Committee.\*
2. The twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee was held in Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015. The executive summaries of the meeting can be found on <https://cites.org/eng/com/pc/22/sum/index.php>
3. The Plants Committee agreed to transmit the following issues to the Standing Committee:
4. The Committee agreed to report to the Standing Committees that it was supportive of an overall review of the Rules of Procedure for the meetings of the committees.
5. The Committee agreed to seek a mandate at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to review the Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committees contained in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) on Establishment of committees.
6. Regarding the Amendment of the annotation for Appendix-II orchids to exempt finished products package and ready for retail trade which contain components of Appendix-II orchids (PC22 Doc. 22.1). The Committee established a working group on annotations for Appendix-II orchids (agenda item 22.1) with the following mandate: To draft the terms of reference for an intersessional working group of the Plants Committee on annotations for Appendix-II orchids addressing, inter alia, the relationship between the Plants Committee's intersessional working group on annotations for Appendix-II orchids and the Standing Committee's Working Group on annotations.
7. The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC22 Com. 1 with the following amendments:
  - Inclusion of Germany as a member of the working group.
  - At the beginning of paragraph 8 of the Terms of Reference, add the following sentence: "At its 17th meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall review the outcomes of the work undertaken by the working group, and evaluate the need for continuing such a working group. If maintained, the working group will report its findings to the 23rd and 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC23 and PC24) as appropriate, with the request that PC23 and PC24 report to the Standing Committee for its consideration and inform the Standing Committee Working Group on annotations."
8. Regarding the Development of a timber identification manual (PC22 Doc. 14.2). The Committee noted document PC22 Doc. 14.2 (Rev. 1) and the draft decisions included in Annex 2 of that document. The Committee supported the work undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to improve identification of CITES-listed tree species, and recognized the importance for the Committee to

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provide assistance in this regard. The Committee invited the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to bring this issue to the attention of the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting.

9. Regarding Exports and imports of CITES timber subject to national decisions (PC22 Doc. 18). The Committee noted that the issue of court-ordered CITES documents is applicable to all CITES-listed species (both animal and plant species) and referred this matter to the Standing Committee for its consideration at its 66th meeting.
10. The vice-Chair of the Plants Committee announced that he was stepping down as member of the Plants Committee and its vice-Chair. The Committee agreed that the Alternate Representative of North America (Ms. Sinclair) would replace the Representative of North America (Mr. Benítez), and she was chosen as vice-Chair of the Plants Committee until the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Chair announced that she would be unable to attend the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC66). The Committee asked the Chair of the Animals Committee (Ms. Caceres) to present at SC66 the joint AC/PC agenda items and the Alternate Representative of Asia (Ms. Al-Salem) to present the PC agenda items.