

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

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Compliance and enforcement

National reports

REPORTING ON TRADE IN ARTIFICIALLY PROPAGATED PLANTS AND
HARMONIZATION OF REPORTING

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following revisions of decisions:

Directed to the Secretariat

14.39 *The Secretariat shall, subject to available funding, in consultation with the UNEP (Rev. CoP16) World Conservation Monitoring Centre:*

- a) *conduct a survey of reporting practices of Parties relating to trade in artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II, e.g. regarding the degree of completeness and detail;*
- b) *identify cases where the compilation of trade data pertaining to artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II has contributed to a significant extent to the detection of illegal trade or to any other analysis related to the conservation of wild flora;*
- c) *taking into consideration the results of paragraphs a) and b) above, analyse the Convention text and Resolutions in order to identify binding and non-binding elements of reporting, with special emphasis on artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II. The Secretariat shall list options for streamlining such reporting; and*
- d) *report on its findings to the Plants Committee prior to its 21st meeting.*

Directed to the Plants Committee

14.40 *The Plants Committee shall, after considering the report of the Secretariat: (Rev. CoP16)*

- a) *determine whether there are any taxa of Appendix-II plants artificially propagated for which detailed reporting is less valuable; and*
- b) *report its findings to the Standing Committee at its 65th meeting.*

Directed to the Standing Committee

14.41 *The Standing Committee shall:*
(Rev. CoP16)

- a) *taking into consideration the findings of the Plants Committee, determine whether it is possible to streamline the reporting of trade in artificially propagated Appendix-II plants; and*
- b) *report on its findings at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and submit draft wording to amend Resolutions concerned, where appropriate.*

3. The original text on which the above Decisions were based was adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007) and revised at the 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), and again at CoP16. The funds required for the implementation of the study called for in Decision 14.39 (Rev. CoP15), paragraph a), were obtained in February 2012, thanks to a generous contribution from the CITES Management Authority of Switzerland.
4. The Secretariat contracted the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to conduct the study referred to above and provide information to respond to the questions raised in paragraphs b) and c) of the Decision. UNEP-WCMC started to collect information at the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC20, Dublin, March 2012), and sought further information by means of a questionnaire circulated with Notification to the Parties No. 2012/032 of 28 March 2012. The study was completed in September 2013.
5. At the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (PC21, Veracruz, April 2014), the Secretariat presented the study mentioned in paragraph 4 above. It highlighted a number of proposals by UNEP-WCMC for dealing with paragraph c) of Decision 14.39 (Rev. CoP16). At that meeting, the Plants Committee established a working group on this matter with the following mandate:
 - a) In accordance with Decision 14.40 (Rev. CoP16), and taking account of the report of the Secretariat, consider whether there are Appendix-II taxa of plants for which detailed reporting of trade in artificially propagated specimens “is less valuable”; and
 - b) Draft findings for communication to the Standing Committee at its 65th meeting
6. There was however no agreement at PC21 on the working group’s recommendations in document [PC21 WG7 Doc. 1](#). The Committee therefore requested the Standing Committee at its 65th meeting to allow more time for implementing Decision 14.40 (Rev. CoP16), with reporting at the Standing Committee’s 66th meeting.
7. At PC21, the Plants Committee established an intersessional working group on artificially propagated plants and harmonization of reporting with the following mandate:
 - a) In accordance with Decision 14.40 (Rev. CoP16), and taking account of the report of the Secretariat, consider whether there are Appendix-II taxa of plants for which detailed reporting of trade in artificially propagated specimens “is less valuable”;
 - b) Consider the different options to revise reporting of trade in artificially propagated plants listed in Appendix II, presented in Annex 2 to document PC21 Doc. 16; and
 - c) Submit a report with draft findings and recommendations at the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee for its consideration.
8. At the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC22, Tbilisi, October, 2015), the cochairs of the intersessional working group (the Alternate Plants Committee representative of North America (Ms. Sinclair) and Switzerland) presented the results of the group in document [PC22 Doc. 19](#). After discussion, the Plants Committee recommended that Parties continue to report trade in artificially propagated Appendix-II plants at the species level consistent with the Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of CITES Annual Reports when possible, taking into account data entry capacity and in consideration of conservation priorities such as the value in species level reporting for new species in trade.

9. The Committee requested the Secretariat to incorporate the above recommendation into the Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of CITES Annual Reports (provided in Notification to the Parties No. 2011/019).

Recommendation

10. The Standing Committee is invited to take into consideration the findings of the Plants Committee with regard to reporting by Parties of trade in artificially propagated Appendix-II plants, as indicated in paragraph 8 above.
11. The Committee is furthermore invited to report on its findings at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and submit draft wording to amend Resolutions concerned, where appropriate.
12. The Committee is invited to note this report.