

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

ANNOTATIONS

REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP

Regarding Part a) of the mandate

1. The working group reached consensus on, and recommends the following approach for the revision of the existing Annotation #15:

All parts and derivatives, except:

- a) Leaves, flowers, pollen, fruits, and seeds;
- b) Finished products to a maximum weight of wood of the listed species of 500g per item;
- c) Finished musical instruments, finished musical instrument parts and finished musical instrument accessories.

Regarding Part b) of the mandate

2. The working group proposes the following revisions to Decision 16.168 Paragraphs e – l (Terms of Reference for the Annotations Intersessional Working Group):

Decision 18.XX

Directed to the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee

The Standing Committee shall re-establish the working group on annotations, in close collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees, recognizing that the Animals and Plants Committees are an important source of expertise and advice to Parties on such scientific and technical issues. The group shall include, but not be limited to, members from the Standing Committee, Animals Committee, Plants Committee, observer Parties, CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, enforcement authorities, including customs, and industry representatives. The Standing Committee shall particularly endeavour to ensure balanced representation of importing and exporting Parties. The terms of reference for the working group shall be:

- ~~a) to further consider procedures for crafting annotations and develop recommendations for improving them;~~
- ~~b) to evaluate and address issues related to the drafting, interpretation and implementation of annotations, and assist Parties in drafting future annotations, drawing on appropriate expertise from within and outside its membership;~~
- ~~c) to conduct any relevant additional work on evaluating the existing annotations for plant taxa listed in Appendices II and III, with an emphasis on ensuring that such annotations are clear as to the types of specimens to be covered by a listing, can be readily implemented, and focus on those parts and derivatives~~

primarily exported from the range States and those commodities that dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource;

- ~~d)~~ based on the results of the timber trade study directed to the Secretariat in Decision 15.35 (Rev. CoP16), AND to review existing annotations for tree species and, if appropriate, draft amendments to those annotations and prepare clear definitions for the terms used in the annotations in order to facilitate their use and understanding by CITES authorities, enforcement officers, exporters and importers;
- e~~a~~) in close collaboration with ongoing efforts in the Plants Committee, to continue reviewing the appropriateness and practical implementation of the annotation(s) of the agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), taking into consideration the previous work done by the range and consumer States of these species;
- f~~b~~) to review outstanding implementation challenges resulting from the listings of *Aniba rosaeodora* and *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in the Appendices, particularly concerning trade in extracts, and propose appropriate solutions;
- g~~c~~) to draft definitions of terms included in annotations, in cases where the terms are not easily understood or where there has been difficulty in implementing the listing as a result of confusion about what commodities are covered, and submit them to the Standing Committee for adoption by the Conference of the Parties and subsequent inclusion in the Interpretation section of the Appendices;
- d) consider and prepare clear definitions for terms used in the annotation, including, for example, the terms “musical instruments” and “transformed wood”, in order to facilitate their use and understanding by CITES authorities, enforcement officers, exporters and importers;
- h~~e~~) to conduct any work related to annotations directed to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Standing, Animals or Plants Committee; and
- f) to prepare reports on progress made in addressing the issues tasked to it and submit them for consideration at the ~~69~~ 73th and 70 74th meetings of the Standing Committee.

Regarding Part c) of the mandate:

3. The working group proposes the following draft decisions for the second and third recommendations in document SC70 Doc. 67, paragraph 27.

Draft decision 18.AA

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, in collaboration with the Animals and Plants Committees, determine requirements for development and adoption by the Conference of the Parties of:

- a) a mechanism for undertaking a periodic review of existing annotations; and
- b) a mechanism for the a priori review of annotations proposed for consideration at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, to support consistent implementation of the guidance on annotations provided in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP17).

Draft decision 18.BB

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall explore the feasibility of, and the requirements for developing an information system for the purpose of processing trade data associated with transactions in specimens of CITES-listed tree species authorized under the provisions of the Convention.