

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

AGENDA ITEM 35.1.1

Recommendations

Submitted by Belgium as Chair of the in-session working group on item 35.1.1.

The working group was unable to agree on a single proposal, and brings forward two options for the consideration of the Standing Committee.

Option 1:

1. As recommended by the range states of specimens of *P. erinaceus*, recommends all Parties to suspend commercial trade in specimens of *P. erinaceus* exported or re-exported from range states, in order to halt ongoing and shifting illegal trade, and to lay the groundwork for future legal trade in *P. erinaceus* in compliance with the Convention, until the conclusion of the ongoing Review of Significant Trade in *P. erinaceus*.
2. The SC requests the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties after the conclusion of the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.
3. Range States seeking a withdrawal in the trade suspension, on a range state by range state basis, must meet the recommendations emanating from the Plants Committee in regard to the Review of Significant Trade, and make efforts to combat the illegal trade, which efforts may be addressed on a regional level.
4. Range States may invite the Secretariat to conduct a technical assessment and a verification mission to range States to understand how the CITES authorities ensure that *P. erinaceus* is legally acquired and exported in full compliance with CITES requirements.
5. Progress made to address illegal trade shall be reviewed by the 77th or 78th Meetings of the Standing Committee, and pending outcome of the Plants Committee, may provide the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee information on how the CITES authorities ensure that *P. erinaceus* is legally acquired and exported in full compliance with CITES requirements, by the document deadline for the 77th or 78th meeting of the Standing Committee, as applicable.
6. SC requests the updated consultant's report referred to in para 12 and 13 of Doc SC74 Doc 35.1.1 (PC report on the inclusion of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in the Review of Significant Trade) be forwarded to the Standing Committee, along with the recommendations of the Plants Committee pursuant to their work under Stage 3 of the Review of Significant Trade for the eight range States selected as "action is needed."
7. Request the Secretariat to compile a list of CITES reference documents, decisions and activities relevant to addressing the issues of illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, to be provided to the Plants Committee and SC77.

8. Request the Standing Committee, with the Plants Committee, as appropriate, to facilitate *Pterocarpus erinaceus* range state efforts to prioritize regional and bilateral actions to address illegal trade in this species, drawing upon information and recommendations provided in the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report (available as Annex 4 to document CoP18 Doc. 34) and results to date, and taking into consideration the information found in SC74 Doc. 35.2 and 35.3, and other relevant information, in support of implementing this suite of decisions and other relevant.
9. Urges Parties in West and Central Africa identified as affected by illegal trade in wildlife within the region should:
  - a) continue to engage in regional and bilateral activities to share information on their national legislative and regulatory measures to address such illegal trade, exchange experiences and best practices, and identify opportunities for regional and cross-border cooperation and joint actions, including where appropriate the formulation of national or regional action plans as anticipated by paragraph 14 a) ii) and 10 f) of Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on Compliance and enforcement, taking into consideration the provisions of paragraph 15 q) of the same Resolution;
  - b) explore new or existing mechanisms to support a regional online data sharing platform to address enforcement, prosecution, and other actions to combat illegal trade, using *Pterocarpus erinaceus* as a pilot;
  - c) identify priority actions that could benefit from support and present these to the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), donors and the development community, in order to seek support to implement them.
10. Request Parties provide external support for proposed Decisions contained in SC74 Doc 35.3, Annex 1 and Annex 2, if approved by the 19th Conference of the Parties.
11. Encourage all 15 range states to participate in the regional coordination meeting ahead of CoP19 to discuss a common strategy to combat illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus* moving forward.
12. Range, transit and consumer countries are asked to assist their counterparts in West and Central Africa, by implementing measures that will address wildlife crime and support legal trade that is limited to sustainable levels, taking into account information found in sections 2 and 3 of SC74 Doc. 33.2 Addendum Annex (Annex to Addendum to the Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species), and to report seizures to the Secretariat and the exporting country know within 60 days for better information sharing and international collaboration between source, transit and destination countries.
13. Following the lifting of the trade suspension in any range State, importing countries should pay particular attention to the due diligence provisions for importing countries under Res. Conf. 11.3, which may include requesting the NDF and LAF prior to accepting permits and certificates, and should notify the Secretariat of any perceived irregularities, which information should be communicated to the Plants or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

Option 2:

1. The Standing Committee calls upon the Plants Committee to expedite its RST of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in order for the Committee to receive a progress report from the Plants Committee at SC75.
2. Calls on those Parties categorized as 'less concern' under the Review of Significant Trade (Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Senegal and Togo) to request the publication of a zero export quota as recommended in Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of national export quotas*.
3. In the context of the implementation of Decision 18.90, the Standing Committee noted that a number of range States of the species in West and Central Africa were of the view that with respect to trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, they would be best assisted if importing Parties would reject all export permits, based on concerns related to the sustainability and legality of the specimens and exercising due diligence having regard to Res. Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18), and request the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to this effect.
4. Request that all CITES permits and certificates for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* be verified by the Secretariat prior to acceptance by importing Parties.

5. In the light of the recommendations in the Outcome Document of the CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species, encourages range States for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* to:
  - a) explore opportunities to initiate targeted regional operations with support from the UNODC/WCO Container Control Programme;
  - b) undertake risk assessments to develop risk profiles specific to *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and to reach out to the WCO for support where needed;
  - c) capacitate and provide training to frontline officers responsible for physical inspections regarding timber identification, aiming to have at least one officer available with expert knowledge concerning timber and access to equipment to facilitate such work, seeking support from the Secretariat where required.
6. Further, the SC recalls the recommendations adopted at CoP18 in Annex 2 of document CoP18 Doc. 34 based on the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report, and encourage Parties to pursue the implementation of these Recommendations as relevant to them, also specifically in the context of combatting illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*.