

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

Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Gigiri (Kenya), 10-20 April 2000

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Timber species

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document deals with all the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties related to timber. These are discussed in their numerical sequence.
2. Decisions 10.51 to 10.53 contain instructions to the Parties regarding the identification of timber.
3. Decision 10.51 states that:

the Parties should determine whether national standards organizations have already developed agreed vernacular nomenclatures for timber species and, if so, should provide this information to the Secretariat.
4. The Secretariat has not received any information on the subject, and it is recommended that this decision be repealed at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Decision 10.52 states that:

a list of agreed scientific names and their agreed vernacular names should be provided to timber importers and agencies dealing with CITES enforcement and border inspection for the standardization mentioned in Decision 10.51 to be useful and effective.
6. With Notification to the Parties No. 1998/19 of 27 April 1998, the Secretariat distributed a list of vernacular names of timber species. This list was prepared by the Scientific Authority of Spain as part of their work on the preparation of identification materials for timber species included in the CITES appendices.
7. In the Notification, the Secretariat requested that the list be distributed to national standards organizations and timber trade agencies who should be asked to provide comments, additions and corrections. Only a few minor corrections were proposed.
8. When necessary, the Secretariat will continue distributing updated versions of this Notification on an annual basis. It is therefore recommended that Decision 10.52 be repealed.
9. Decision 10.53 states that:

Parties that have proposed and obtained the inclusion of timber species in the appendices should comply with their obligation to produce identification materials for the species concerned.
10. No such materials have been received by the Secretariat, but as explained in document Doc. 11.11.3, identification materials for timber have been prepared by the Scientific Authority of Spain, in close co-operation with the Botanic Garden of Cordoba and the Secretariat (see also paragraphs 24 to 27 below).

11. Although it is important to constantly remind the Parties that have successfully submitted proposals to include species in the appendices of their obligation to submit materials for the Identification Manual, because many Parties do not comply with this (see also document Doc. 11.11.3), the Secretariat recommends that this particular decision be repealed. In any case, the substance is already dealt with in Resolution Conf. 9.1 (Rev.) in the terms of reference of the Identification Manual Committee.
12. Decisions 10.67 to 10.69, directed to the Standing Committee relate to the Timber Working Group.
13. Although one request to reconvene the Timber Working Group was received from a Party (the Philippines) the Standing Committee decided at its 41st meeting that there was no urgent need to reconvene the Working Group.
14. The Secretariat recommends that the current decisions be maintained after the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and that Decisions 10.67 (new reference to 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) and 10.69 (reference to other Decisions) be amended as appropriate.
15. Decision 10.87 directed to the Plants Committee, regarding the review of the appendices, states that:

in accordance with the terms of reference specified in Resolution Conf. 9.1 (Rev.) Annex 3, paragraph vii), all timber species currently included in the appendices all be reviewed and the results of the review shall be reported at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
16. At its eighth meeting (Pucon, Chile, November 1997) the Plants Committee established a programme of work for the review of the appendices. Regarding the review of the timber species it was agreed to wait for the results of the work done by WCMC under contract to the Netherlands on the evaluation of tree species using the CITES listing criteria in Resolution Conf. 9.24.
17. The results of this work (Contribution to the evaluation of tree species using the new CITES listing criteria. WCMC, 440 pp.) became available only shortly before the ninth meeting of the Plants Committee (Darwin, Australia, June 1999). The Committee was therefore not in a position to discuss the document, although it was noted that their might be additional sources with valuable information
18. The Plants Committee therefore suggested that the document should be made available through the WCMC web site (www.wcmc.org.uk/species/tree_studies), allowing interested Parties and organizations to provide comments, corrections and additions.
19. The Plants Committee will continue discussing the subject at its next meetings.
20. It is therefore recommended that this Decision be maintained, and amended to refer to the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
21. Decision 10.127 provides the following direction to the Secretariat:

The potential for silvicultural techniques (e.g. enrichment plantings, assisted natural regeneration) to be dealt with in the general context of Resolutions on ranching and quotas, as well as in accordance with the definition of "artificially propagated" contained in Resolution Conf. 9.18 (Rev.), shall be investigated to determine whether these concepts provide useful bases for establishing trade regimes for timber species listed in the appendices.
22. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Canadian representative to the former Timber Working Group, and the regional representative for North America, is currently working on this subject, and expects to be able to provide a more detailed report on the subject at the next meeting of the Plants Committee.

23. Decision 10.128 directed to the Secretariat states that:

with the assistance of members of the Timber Working Group, the existing timber identification materials shall be reviewed to determine their potential value for the enforcement of the Convention.

24. As already mentioned at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, identification materials for timber species included in the appendices have been prepared by the Scientific Authority of Spain, partially funded through the Secretariat.

25. The Secretariat has been working on these materials in order to prepare them in a manner that makes them easily accessible to Customs officers and others who are involved in CITES controls.

26. A more comprehensive version of these identification materials for timber species has been prepared by the Scientific Authority of Spain on a compact disk (CD) (Spanish only) and will also be accessible through the Web site of the Botanic Garden of Cordoba. The Secretariat is very grateful for this initiative.

27. In view of the above, it is recommended that Decision 10.128 be repealed.

28. Decisions 10.129 directed to the Secretariat states that:

external funding shall be sought for the production and publication of identification materials for the timber species included in the appendices and currently in international trade.

29. Funds for the preparation of these Identification Manual sheets have been provided by the Scientific Authority of Spain, the Management Authority and the Ministry of Development Aid of the Netherlands and the European Commission. The Secretariat is very grateful for this support.

30. In view of the above, it is recommended that Decision 10.129 be repealed.

31. Decision 10.130 instructs the Secretariat to:

a) *investigate the reasons for non-reporting on timber trade, in particular by importing countries;*

b) *investigate the extent to which Parties (in particular the main countries of export and import of CITES-listed species) have informed the traders in their countries of CITES procedures; and*

c) *report back on these issues at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties through the Timber Working Group or the Plants Committee, as appropriate.*

32. A first analysis of trade data provided by the Parties since the adoption of this decision found inconsistencies between the quantities exported and imported as included in the annual reports of the countries concerned.

33. These inconsistencies were partly due to the fact that annual reports of exporting countries frequently refer to the quantities included in the permits issued, and not the quantities actually exported. In addition, not all relevant Parties have provided their annual reports in a timely manner (see also document Doc. 11.19).

34. The investigation referred to in paragraph a) of Decision 10.130 will require a large amount of time of the Secretariat and the Parties concerned. Because of its heavy workload, the Secretariat was not in a position to initiate and complete this work before the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

35. For the same reason, the Secretariat has also not been able to investigate the subject referred to in paragraph b) of Decision 10.130, although it has the strong impression that, through its contacts with trader organizations, the traders have been adequately informed about CITES procedures.

36. The Secretariat therefore recommends that this Decision be maintained after the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, that it report on the subject at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and that paragraph c) be amended accordingly.
37. Decision 10.131 provides detailed instructions to amend the "Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of Annual Reports", with the concurrence of the Standing Committee.
38. At its 42nd meeting, the Standing Committee approved revised guidelines proposed by the Secretariat. These guidelines were distributed to the Parties with Notification to the Parties No. 1999/85 of 5 November 1999.
39. This Decision has therefore been complied with and will be deleted after the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
40. Decision 10.132, paragraph a), instructs the Secretariat to establish and maintain good contacts with the secretariats or relevant departments of five named organizations.
41. The Secretariat has established and maintains these contacts, by regularly informing them of issues related to CITES implementation for timber species and, where appropriate, seeking their opinions.
42. The Secretariat recommends that this Decision be repealed.
43. Decisions 10.132, paragraph b), instructs the Secretariat to:
- inform the Convention on Biological Diversity and the appropriate organization succeeding to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) about the discussions in the Timber Working Group by sending these organizations the reports of the Group.*
44. Since the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Timber Working Group has not been reconvened. Therefore no reports have been sent.
45. However, the Secretariat has established good co-operation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (see also agenda item 12).
46. Contact has also been established with the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, the successor to IPF.
47. This decision has been complied with and can therefore be repealed.
48. Decision 10.133 states that:
- For the purpose of facilitating identification of the primary products in trade, permit issuance and annual reporting, trade in CITES timber species shall be examined on a taxon-specific basis.*
49. This is an instruction to the Secretariat on how to carry out its work with regard to timber species, and the Secretariat has done so in accordance with these instructions. The Decision can therefore be repealed.
50. Decision 10.134 requires that:
- at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties a report shall be submitted on the implementation of the special procedures regarding time validity and change of destination for permits issued for timber species, and recommendations shall be provided on whether these special procedures should be maintained or not.*
51. The procedures referred to are contained in Resolution Conf. 10.2, section II, paragraph f) under RECOMMENDS and in section VII respectively.
52. Because these procedures relate to importing countries only, the Secretariat has contacted the main importing countries, asking them whether they have used any of these provisions. Those who

responded indicated that, since the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, these special procedures had not been implemented by them.

53. Although these procedures have not apparently been used so far, the Secretariat recommends that they be maintained, in case a need for using them might arise in the near future.
54. Decision 10.134 will, however, be out of date after the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will then be deleted.