

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Administrative matters

Committee reports

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

Introduction

1. This report has been prepared by Ms Margarita Clemente-Muñoz, Chairman of the Plants Committee, with the kind assistance of the members of the Committee and the CITES Secretariat, and covers the period from 5 May 2004 to 4 January 2007. During this period, the Committee held two meetings: the 15th, in Geneva (Switzerland), from 17 to 21 May 2005, and the 16th, in Lima (Peru), from 3 to 8 July 2006. The 15th meeting was attended by representatives of 22 countries, one United Nations body, two intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and nine non-governmental organizations (NGOs); the 16th meeting was attended by representatives of 25 countries, one United Nations body, three intergovernmental organizations and 13 non-governmental organizations.
2. The Committee would like to express its gratitude to the authorities of Peru, which hosted the 16th meeting, for organizing and supporting it so effectively.
3. The Committee also wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the organization and preparation of the documentation for both meetings.
4. During the two meetings, joint meetings were held with the Animals Committee for two full days, allowing discussion of topics of common interest and the preparation of a joint report (document CoP14 Doc. 8.4) by the Chairmen of the Committees.
5. Listed below is the composition of the Plants Committee. On 14 October 2004, immediately after the closure of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13), the members and alternate members of the Plants Committee and the CITES Secretariat met unofficially in Bangkok (Thailand), and Ms Margarita Clemente-Muñoz (Spain) was designated Chairman elect, and Mr Thitiprasert (Thailand) Vice-Chairman elect. At the beginning of the 15th meeting of the Committee, in Geneva (Switzerland), both were formally elected.
6. All representatives attended both meetings, except for one of the representatives of the African region (Mr Hafashimana), who was unable to attend the 16th meeting and indicated that he would need to be replaced by his alternate (Mr Akpagana). The Secretariat promptly arranged for the latter's attendance, but then owing to problems that occurred during the journey he too was unable to attend. The required regional reports were presented at the two meetings, listing in detail the activities undertaken in the various regions.

Region	Regional representative	Alternate
Africa	Mr David L.N. Hafashimana (Uganda) Ms Beatrice Khayota (Kenya)	Mr Koffi Akpagana (Togo) Mr Quentin Luke (Kenya)
Asia	Ms Irawati (Indonesia) Mr Wichar Thitiprasert (Thailand) Vice-Chairman	Mr Zul Mukshar bin Md. Shaari (Malaysia) Mr M. Sanjappa (India)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Ms Fátima Mereles (Paraguay) Ms Dora Ingrid Rivera (Costa Rica)	Ms Mariana de Jesús Mites Cadena (Ecuador) Mr George Proctor (Jamaica)
Europe	Ms Margarita África Clemente Muñoz (Spain) Chairman Mr Giuseppe Frenguelli (Italy)	Ms Nika Debeljak Sabec (Slovenia) Mr Jonas Lüthy (Switzerland)
North America	Mr Robert R. Gabel (United States of America)	Ms Adrienne Sinclair (Canada)
Oceania	Mr Greg Leach (Australia)	Mr Osia Gideon (Papua New Guinea)

7. The Chairman of the Plants Committee took part in the meetings, seminars and visits listed below:
- a) The 51st, 53rd and 54th meetings of the Standing Committee. The participation of the Chairman of the Plants Committee in these meetings was funded by Spain.
  - b) Workshop on the Management and Enforcement of the CITES Timber Trade in the European Region, held in Perugia (Italy) from 11 to 13 April 2005.
  - c) Sixth European Regional CITES Plants Meeting, held in Perugia on 18-21 October 2006. Both meetings were organized by the authorities of Italy, and the participation of the Chairman of the Plants Committee in both of them was funded by Spain and Italy.
  - d) Seminar organized by the CITES Secretariat with financial support from Spain, held in Peru on 25-29 April 2005, directed to the CITES Authorities of Peru. Before the seminar the Chairman visited various mahogany sawmills and zones for the control of bigleaf mahogany, and had discussions with licence-holders, exporters and officials entrusted with mahogany control at the local level.
  - e) Working visit to Chile between 28 August and 3 September 2005 at the invitation of the Chilean authorities to review the situation of the populations of Chilean timber species listed in CITES and their propagation in nurseries. The visit was funded by Chile and Spain.
  - f) Visit to Equatorial Guinea in 2004 as a member of the working team that drew up a project, financed by Spain, to evaluate the exploitation of *Prunus africana* bark on Bioko Island and to design a management plan to enable sustainable use of the species. The Chairman also took the opportunity to have meetings with the CITES Authorities of Equatorial Guinea for the purpose of understanding the problems involved in utilization of the species.
  - g) Participation, financed by Spain, in the mission of the European Union to Peru to learn of the status of the bigleaf mahogany, which took place from 26 to 28 June 2006. This visit included meetings with the CITES Authorities, the control authorities, non-governmental organizations and other actors involved in the management of the species.
  - h) Meeting of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, held in Lima (Peru) from 29 June to 1 July 2006. The attendance of the Chairman of the Plants Committee was funded by Spain. This

Working Group meeting was also attended by the two representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Mereles and Ms Rivera).

- i) Meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group, held in Geneva on 15-19 January 2007. The attendance of the Chairman of the Plants Committee was financed by the Secretariat.
- j) The Nomenclature Committee (Plants) met during the 15th and 16th meetings of the Plants Committee and submitted reports on both occasions. See document CoP14 Doc. 8.5.

#### Main topics covered

8. The Secretariat prepared document PC15 Doc. 6.2 (Rev. 1) which was submitted for consideration by the Committee at its first meeting after CoP14. Annexes 1 and 2 to this document present all the instructions directed to the Plants Committee or concerning which it might be necessary to consult or inform the Committee. These instructions are contained in the Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties currently in effect.
9. The topics that were covered at the Committee's joint meetings with the Animals Committee are listed, and the recommendations that emerged from the discussions are recorded, in document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 prepared jointly by the Chairmen of the two Committees.
10. Listed below are the Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Plants Committee and the results achieved. The documents cited are available on the CITES website. Where specific measures are recommended, these are repeated in the Annex at the end of the document, for ease of reference.

#### Resolutions directed to the Plants Committee

##### **Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II [Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP13)]**

11. The Plants Committee agreed at its 15th meeting to establish a working group (PC15 WG3) to determine a schedule for the review of plants species included in Appendices I and II, and to develop a list of species to be reviewed during the two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14 and CoP15). This working group should consider working via email [see document PC15 WG3 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1) for membership].
12. The Chairman of PC15 WG3, the observer from Switzerland, presented document PC15 WG3 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1). He explained that the working group had also considered tree species currently included in the Appendices (see agenda item 22), and that there was full consensus on the selection in PC15 WG3.
13. The Plants Committee noted the report and agreed to the list of candidate taxa for review specified in document PC15 WG3 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1) with the addition of *Sclerocactus* spp. The agreed list was therefore as follows:

*Saussurea costus*; *Dioscorea deltoidea*; *Balmea stormiae*; *Platymiscium pleiostachyum*; *Podocarpus parlatorei*; *Agave arizonica*; *Agave parviflora*; *Agave victoriae-reginae*; *Euphorbia antisiphilitica*; *Hedychium philippinense*; *Nolina interrata*; *Orothamnus zeyheri*; Appendix II, *Protea odorata*; *Shortia galacifolia*; *Tillandsia* spp.: *T. kammii*; *T. kautskyi*; *T. mauryana*; *T. sprengeliana*; *T. sucrei*; *T. harrisii*; *Welwitschia mirabilis*; *Pereskia* spp. and *Peresklopsis* spp.; *Sclerocactus* spp.; *Cycas beddomei*; Didiereaceae spp.; *Euphorbia* spp.: all species in Appendix I; *Aloe* spp.: all Malagasy species included in Appendix I; Orchidaceae spp.; *Peristeria elata*.
14. The Committee agreed to establish an intersessional working group to work further on this matter, that would be chaired by the PC alternate representative of Europe (Mr Lüthy) and comprise the observers from Chile, Mexico, the Netherlands, the United States of America, UNEP-WCMC, IWMC-World Conservation Trust and TRAFFIC.
15. At PC16, the Committee examined document PC16 Doc. 11 (Rev. 1) and its Annexes 1-4, prepared by the Chairman of the Working Group. The Committee noted the document and established a

working group (PC16 WG2), chaired by the observer from Mexico (Mr Benitez), with the specific mandate to deal with matters raised under agenda item 11 of that meeting.

16. Later in the meeting, the Chairman of Working Group PC16 WG2, the observer from Mexico, presented document PC16 WG2 Doc. 1.
17. The Plants Committee adopted all recommendations made by the Working Group, including those on the revision of 'Periodic Review of the Appendices – Recommendations of the Standing Committee adopted at its 51st meeting' and the proposed course of action concerning the involvement of the Animals and Standing Committees, as follows:
  - a) The Plants Committee adopted for review those taxa that it had agreed to at its 15th meeting, and rejected all modifications mentioned in Annex 3 of document PC16 Doc. 11 (Rev. 1).
  - b) The Plants Committee acknowledged the countries volunteering to undertake reviews for selected taxa, as indicated in Annex 1 of document PC16 WG2 Doc. 1. The Committee representatives of the relevant regions were asked to communicate to Parties in their regions about these reviews and to invite them to participate in the process.
  - c) The Plants Committee would inform the Standing Committee about its final list of taxa that it intended to review between CoP13 and CoP15.
  - d) For the following taxa, the Plants Committee, and particularly the relevant regional representatives, were asked to identify countries willing and able to undertake reviews: Asia: *Dioscorea deltoidea*, *Hedychium philippinense*, *Cycas beddomei*; North America: *Agave victoriae-reginae*, *Sclerocactus* spp.; North America and Central and South America and the Caribbean: *Tillandsia kammii*, *Tillandsia mauryana*, *Pereskia* spp.; Africa: *Didieraceae* spp., *Euphorbia* spp. in Appendix I, Malagasy species of *Aloe* in Appendix I.
  - e) In case that the draft review by Mexico of *Pereskia* spp., contained in document PC16 Inf. 6, became a proposal to amend the Appendices for submission at CoP14, the Plants Committee would express its support.
  - f) Concerning species mentioned in document PC16 Inf. 7, Argentina and Switzerland were encouraged to submit draft reviews of *Pereskia* spp. and *Quiabentia verticillata* for consideration by the Plants Committee.
18. The Plants Committee adopted the amended and simplified version of 'Periodic review of the Appendices – Recommendations of the Standing Committee adopted at its 51st meeting' and agreed to request comments from the Animals Committee on this review. See document CoP14 Doc. 66.
19. The PC representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Mereles), on behalf of Paraguay, presented information on the status of the genus *Bulnesia* with a view to including it in Appendix II.
20. The Committee acknowledged the value of the research on *Bulnesia* spp. that Paraguay had initiated and encouraged Paraguay to continue compiling information on conservation of and trade in *Bulnesia sarmientoi* with the aim to develop a proposal for consideration at CoP14.

#### **Establishment of committees [Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP13)]**

21. With respect to the requirements laid down in Annex 2 of the Resolution, the Plants Committee fulfilled the responsibilities and functions assigned by the Conference of the Parties.

### Selection of species to be reviewed

22. The Committee agreed at its 15th meeting that all matters raised in relation to the ongoing Reviews of Significant Trade and the selection of species for further reviews should be addressed in a working group, chaired by the observer of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (PC15 WG2) [see document PC15 WG2 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1) for membership]. The Chairman of PC15 WG2 presented document PC15 WG2 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1) which incorporated the changes and corrections agreed to by the Plants Committee and included additional information on the reasons why certain species had not been selected for the Review of Significant Trade. This document was adopted by the Plants Committee and the species that were included were: *Aloe ferox*; *Christensonia vietnamica*; *Euphorbia candelabrum*; *Euphorbia stellata*; *Myrmecophila tibicinis*; *Nardostachys grandiflora*; *Pachypodium bispinosum*; *Pachypodium succulentum*; *Pterocarpus santalinus*; *Rauvolfia serpentina* and *Taxus wallichiana*.
23. The Committee also discussed document PC15 Doc. 10.2.2, submitted by Germany, and concluded that from the seven Asian medicinal species that were studied, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Rauvolfia serpentina* and *Taxus wallichiana*, might warrant selection for the Review of Significant Trade. The Committee agreed that the information and recommendations contained in document PC15 Doc. 10.2.2 that had not been selected for the Review of Significant Trade or for the discussion on annotations would be taken up at its next meeting.
24. At PC16 the problems caused by seven Asian medicinal plant species (document PC16 Doc. 10.5) were discussed again. Participants concurred that controlling trade in these species, of which four had been selected for the Review of Significant Trade, remained very difficult in the Himalayan region. The ongoing illegal trade between Nepal and India was of particular concern and the enforcement problems were not directly related to the implementation of Article IV and could therefore not be dealt with through the Review of Significant Trade. The Plants Committee endorsed the implementation and enforcement recommendations presented in the Annex to document PC16 Doc. 10.5, and requested the Chairman of the Plants Committee to forward them to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph I) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13). The recommendations were forwarded to the Secretariat for action.
25. The Committee agreed to draw attention to the Conference of the Parties to ongoing problems with the effective implementation of the Convention for trade in CITES-listed medicinal plant species, and the urgent need for coordinated regional actions and effort in Himalayan range States to improve the management of and trade in the seven species of medicinal plants discussed in document PC16 Doc. 10.5 (*Cistanche deserticola*; *Dioscorea deltoidea*; *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Picrorhiza kurrooa*; *Pterocarpus santalinus*; *Rauvolfia serpentina* and *Taxus wallichiana*). Furthermore, this effort and these actions could include measures to combat illegal trade, regional capacity-building workshops, harmonization of regulations and legislation, etc. For all of these reasons, the Committee recommends that the following draft decision be adopted:

***Directed to the range States of Cistanche deserticola; Dioscorea deltoidea; Nardostachys grandiflora, Picrorhiza kurrooa; Pterocarpus santalinus; Rauvolfia serpentina and Taxus wallichiana, to the regional representatives for Asia on the Plants Committee, and to the Secretariat:***

- 14.XX a) Implementation of regionally coordinated actions to improve the management of and prevent illegal trade in the seven species, including *inter alia*: measures to combat illegal trade, regional capacity-building workshops and harmonization of regulations and legislation.
- b) Submission of progress reports at the 17th and 18th meetings of the Plants Committee.

#### Consultation with the range States concerning implementation of Article IV

26. The consultations with the range States were carried out on schedule and in due form by the Secretariat, as stipulated in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13).

#### Compilation of information and preliminary categorization

27. In accordance with paragraphs k) and l) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), the Plants Committee reviewed the reports and the responses received from range States and the preliminary categorization proposed by the consultant. Problems identified that were not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), were referred to the Secretariat.
28. In accordance with paragraphs m) to o) of the same Resolution, the Plants Committee formulated recommendations for species in the following categories:
- a) 'species of urgent concern': *Prunus africana* (Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, United Republic of Tanzania); *Dendrobium nobile* (Viet Nam); and
  - b) 'species of possible concern': *Cibotium barometz* (Viet Nam); *Cyathea contaminans* (Indonesia); *Dendrobium nobile* (Lao People's Democratic Republic); *Galanthus woronowii* (Georgia).
29. The recommendations made a distinction between short-term and long-term measures, and they are directed to the relevant range States. Species categorized of least concern [category iii] were eliminated from the review. The complete results and recommendations reached by the Committee on the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)] are indicated in the PC16 Summary Record.
30. At PC16, the Committee was informed of the results of a one-year pilot project conducted by Spain and entitled: *Evaluation of the Harvest of Prunus africana Bark on the Bioko Island (Equatorial Guinea): Guidelines for a Management Plan* (document PC16 Doc. 10.2.1).
31. The Committee considered that the results of this study were important since it dealt with a species included in the Review of Significant Trade, that the project was an excellent example of the way to make effective non-detriment findings for an Appendix-II species, and that it could be used as a model.
32. The Committee supported the recommendations at international, national and local level mentioned on page 13 of document PC16 Doc. 10.2.1, and emanating from the project and it advised the Working Group on the Review of Significant Trade to take into consideration these recommendations when discussing *Prunus africana*.
33. The Plants Committee agreed to establish an intersessional working group on *Prunus africana* that would provide guidance to relevant range States concerning their implementation of recommendations emanating from the Review of Significant Trade in this species, and that would address general issues concerning management of and trade in *Prunus africana*, the establishment of precautionary quotas and the making of non-detriment findings, research needs and priorities, training efforts and capacity building, etc.
34. The Committee also agreed to the following terms of reference and functioning for the *Prunus africana* working group:
- a) liaise with the CITES Secretariat regarding the status of the Review of Significant Trade communications with countries where the species has been categorized as of 'urgent concern';
  - b) raise funds and organize a workshop that will develop a programme of work for meeting significant trade responsibilities, taking into account relevant case studies such as *P. africana* research in Bioko;

- c) work with the CITES Secretariat on fund-raising for and implementation of significant trade work programme activities, such as the conducting of non-detriment findings and establishment of preliminary quotas;
  - d) facilitate and promote the submission by the Parties concerned of reports on progress of the Review of Significant Trade to the Secretariat no later than 90 days before the 17th meeting of the Plants Committee for compilation into reports that will be presented at that meeting; and
  - e) the working group will make use of the online forum available at the CITES website.
35. In order to facilitate the fulfilment of these terms of reference, the Plants Committee decided to establish a working group with at least the following members:
- a) Scientific and Management Authority representatives of countries with populations categorized as being of 'urgent concern';
  - b) the African representatives of the CITES Plants Committee, Ms Khayota and Mr Hafashimana (Co-Chairmen of the WG);
  - c) the African alternate representatives of the CITES Plants Committee, Mr Akpagana and Mr Luke (Deputy Co-Chairmen of the WG);
  - d) at least one *Prunus africana* importing Party (e.g. France, Italy or Spain), including the industry of importers and exporters;
  - e) a member of the CITES Secretariat; and
  - f) other organizations and consultants that may assist with fund-raising to support the implementation of the Review of the Significant Trade recommendations in the countries concerned, for instance in terms of capacity building and conducting non-detriment findings.
36. The working group shall conduct its work intersessionally (between PC16 and PC17), mainly through remote communication (email, fax or phone) and shall present at PC17 substantive results in accordance with the terms of reference mentioned above.
37. Once selected, the Co-Chairmen and Deputy Co-Chairmen were to start their work at the beginning of September 2006 by contacting the members of the working group and initiating the work specified in the terms of reference mentioned above.
38. The CITES Secretariat sent to the Parties concerned (range States and importing countries), on behalf of the Plants Committee, the present agreement right after the end of PC16, for general information and required action.

**Financing and budgeting of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties (Resolution Conf. 13.1)**

39. The requirements of subparagraphs (b) and (c) were met, since two meetings were held between CoP13 and CoP14, back-to-back with the two meetings of the Animals Committee and in the same place, namely the 15th meeting in Geneva (Switzerland) and the 16th in Lima (Peru) thanks to the generous invitation of the Government of Peru.

**Trade in alien invasive species (Resolution Conf. 13.10)**

40. This topic was addressed in the joint meeting of the Plants and Animals Committees, see document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 prepared jointly by the Chairmen of both Committees.

Resolutions in force with respect to which it might be necessary to consult or inform the Plants Committee

**Guidelines for the registration of nurseries exporting artificially propagated specimens of Appendix-I species [Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP13) Annex 3, paragraph d]**

41. Summary conclusions were not presented to the Plants Committee by the Secretariat.

**Inclusion of species in Appendix III [Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev.)]**

42. The Committee received no request for assistance.

**Transport of live animals (Resolution Conf. 10.21)**

43. This topic was addressed in the joint meeting of the Plants and Animals Committees, see document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 prepared jointly by the Chairmen of both Committees.

**Regulation of trade in plants [Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP13)]**

44. The Committee received no request for assistance.

**Identification Manual (Resolution Conf. 11.19)**

45. The Secretariat presented reports on the Identification Manual at PC15 and PC16. The Committee noted with concern the lack of identification material in the Manual for the great majority of plants included in the Appendices and that, as of 2006, there was no longer a budget line in the Trust Fund for further work by the Secretariat on the Identification Manual. It was pointed out that several Parties had started to develop identification materials independently from each other, resulting in considerable scope for duplication which was unfortunate given the scarcity of resources available for CITES work.

46. The Plants Committee recommends to the Conference of the Parties that the situation of the CITES Identification Manual for Plants be studied and the necessary efforts made so that preparation of those materials might be pursued by the Secretariat, since the Committee considers them to be of extreme importance for proper implementation of the Convention.

**Procedure for approval of externally funded projects (Resolution Conf. 12.2, Annex 1)**

47. There were no discussions between the Secretariat and the Plants Committee covering approval of projects to be carried out nor determination of their priority.

**Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)]**

48. Regarding coordination of field studies, there were no consultations with the Chairman on contracting IUCN or other appropriate experts to coordinate, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, the conduct of the field studies required for Appendix-II species identified as being subject to significant levels of trade.

Decisions directed to the Plants Committee

**Strategic Vision (Decision 13.1)**

49. This topic was addressed in the joint meeting of the Plants and Animals Committees, see document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 prepared jointly by the Chairmen of both Committees. The PC Chairman participated in the meeting of the Working Group held in Geneva (January 2007).

**Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity [directed to the Animals and Plants Committees (Decision 13.6)]**

50. This topic was addressed in the joint meeting of the Plants and Animals Committees, see document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 prepared jointly by the Chairmen of both Committees.



### **Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), of CDB (Decision 13.8)**

51. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted, at its seventh meeting, held in 2004, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, which included global targets directed towards obtaining results by 2010. Target xi is: "No species of wild flora endangered by international trade". Since 2004 the Committee has been cooperating with CBD on this target, providing documents and information.
52. The Committee agreed to establish a working group (PC15 WG4) at its 15th meeting to review and update document PC14 Doc. 18 taking into consideration Notification to the Parties 2005/O17; to determine how the Plants Committee could contribute to Target xi of the Global Strategy for Plants Conservation (and possibly to its Targets ii, x and xiv); and to recommend how the Plants Committee could best provide input to the Standing Committee's work concerning synergies between CITES and CBD in order to avoid duplication of efforts (see document PC15 WG4 Doc. 1 for membership).
53. The Chairmen of PC15 WG4, the observers from Austria and Mexico, presented document PC15 WG4 Doc. 1.
54. The Committee noted the report and agreed to establish an intersessional working group to be co-chaired by the observers from Mexico and Canada. With regard to development of a strategy to illustrate the activities of the Committee within the context of Target xi of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, the Committee agreed that PC15 WG4 should prepare a document for consideration at PC16. The Committee also requested the regional representatives to look out for documented cases of projects that demonstrated the synergy between CITES and CBD and to bring them to the attention of the Chairmen of PC15 WG4, namely the observers from Austria and Mexico.
55. The observer from Mexico presented document PC16 Doc. 13.2 at PC16, inviting participants to comment on the draft wording contained in its Annex, and to provide additional information on case studies so that it could be incorporated in the text, in particular on the way in which the activities of CITES contributed to the CBD's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.
56. The Committee agreed to amend the wording of the Annex to document PC16 Doc. 13.2, and document CoP14 Inf. 10 contains the final outcome of the modifications agreed, as well as those submitted by the Secretariat.
57. The Committee recommends that the content of Decision 13.8 be reworded to become Decision 14.XX:

#### ***Directed to the Plants Committee and to the Secretariat***

- 14.XX The Plants Committee shall collaborate with the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), especially regarding Target xi 'No species of wild flora endangered by international trade' and other issues related to flora species included in the CITES Appendices, and the Secretariat shall communicate the results of its work in the context of its Memorandum of Understanding with the CBD Secretariat.

### **Review of the scientific committees (Decision 13.9)**

58. This topic was addressed in the joint meeting of the Plants and Animals Committees, see document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 prepared jointly by the Chairmen of both Committees.

### **Improving regional communication and representation (Decisions 13.12 and 13.13)**

59. This topic was addressed in the joint meeting of the Plants and Animals Committees, see document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 prepared jointly by the Chairmen of both Committees.

### Medicinal plants (Decisions 13.50, 13.51 and 13.52)

60. At its 16th meeting the Committee reviewed the proposal for the annotations that had been agreed at the 15th meeting and discussed the proposals referring to *Hydrastis canadensis* and *Podophyllum hexandrum*.
61. The Plants Committee established a working group (PC16 WG3) on annotations for medicinal plants in Appendices II and III, chaired by the observer from Germany, to clarify the issues raised in document PC16 Doc. 17.1, which was noted.
62. On the basis of document PC16 WG3 Doc. 1, the Plants Committee agreed to the following:
- a) to endorse the proposed changes to the annotations laid out in paragraphs 7 to 15 of document PC16 Doc. 17.1 and summarized in its Annex in tables 1 and 2, except:
    - i) to remove the term "pharmaceutical" from the proposed revision of #10 in table 2;
    - ii) to annotate *Hydrastis canadensis* with "Designates underground parts (i.e. roots, rhizomes): whole, parts and powdered"; and
    - iii) to annotate *Podophyllum hexandrum* with #10 as described in recommendation a), above;
  - b) that, in accordance with Decision 13.52, the Scientific Authority of Germany should draft a single amendment proposal with respect to recommendations 1 a), b) and c), and 3; and
  - c) that a glossary of terms similar to Table 3 in the Annex to document PC16 Doc. 17.1 be included in the Interpretation of the Appendices after CoP14, a draft of which will be submitted in the amendment proposal.
63. Consequently, the Plants Committee requested the observer from Germany to draft, with editorial assistance of the intersessional Working Group established at PC15, a proposal to amend the annotations for medicinal plants on Appendices II and III, and to ask the Depositary Government to submit this proposal at CoP14 on behalf of the Plants Committee.
64. The Committee recommended that Decisions 13.51 and 13.52 be deleted.

### Tree species (Decision 13.54)

65. In the period between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Committee studied the advisability of drafting proposals to amend the Appendices on the basis of the document *Contribution to an Evaluation of Tree Species*, using the new CITES-listing criteria and the results of regional workshops on the sustainable management of timber species in 2005 and 2006.
66. At its 15th and 16th meetings the Plants Committee discussed various reports submitted by the Netherlands on *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*.
67. The Netherlands and Brazil submitted for consideration by the CoP proposals to amend the Appendices relating to the taxa *Cedrela* spp., *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*.
68. During the discussions on the advisability of drafting proposals on timber species, concerns were expressed about the overall lack of population studies and appropriate management plans for many trees species, which complicated the making of non-detriment findings required for exporting Appendix-II listed species.
69. To facilitate the inclusion in CITES of economically valuable species such as timbers and allow range States the necessary time to develop scientifically-based non-detriment findings, it was suggested to promote the adoption of precautionary export quotas by range States as an initial measure to implement the relevant provisions of the Convention.

70. The Plants Committee established a small working group composed of the PC representative of North America and the observers from Chile, Mexico and Peru to draft, in consultation with the Secretariat, a text encouraging range States to establish cautious voluntary export quotas for timber species if they have limited information on the conservation status of the species or the impact of exports.
71. The Plants Committee discussed the text drafted by this small working group and agreed to include in the present report of the Chairman the following proposal to amend Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP13) on Implementation of the Convention for timber species by adding the following paragraph under '*Regarding the establishment of export quotas for timber species*':
- k) whilst fully respecting the requirements of paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 of Article IV of the Convention, Parties exporting timber specimens from species listed in Appendix II consider establishing voluntary fixed national export quotas for such exports.
72. The Committee furthermore stressed the importance of proper making of non-detriment findings by the Scientific Authorities so as to guarantee that exports did not jeopardize the survival of the wild species, recognizing that this was a task of the utmost priority that needed to be effectively promoted. The investigation of the sustained yield or offtake for a given population is methodically complex given the taxonomical, ecological and geographical diversity of uses of Appendix-II taxa. Guidance is needed for Scientific Authorities to enable them to address this important task in a coherent, reliable and still cost-effective way. Consequently the Plants Committee agreed at its 16th meeting to recommend the adoption of the following decision at CoP14:

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 14.XX The Plants Committee shall develop principles, criteria and indicators on the formulation of non-detriment findings for those taxa of high priority as timber species, *Prunus africana* and other medicinal plants.

73. The Committee recommends that the content of Decision 13.54 be maintained as Decision 14.XX:

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 14.XX The Plants Committee shall, during the period between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, consider the opportunity to develop proposals to amend the Appendices on the basis of the *Contribution to an Evaluation of Tree Species* using the new CITES-listing criteria, and the results of regional workshops on sustainable management of timber species in 2007 and 2008.

**Bigleaf mahogany (Decisions 13.55 and 13.56)**

74. See document CoP14 Doc. 64.

***Harpagophytum* spp. (Decision 13.60)**

75. The Committee has to decide what measures were necessary with regard to pending reports from importing countries of *Harpagophytum* spp. Once the few responses received had been analysed, participants did not consider it necessary for the Committee to continue addressing trade in this taxon as long as it was not included in the CITES Appendices. The observer from South Africa stated that the taxon was now protected through national legislation which facilitated the monitoring of exports, that regional collaboration between Botswana, Namibia and South Africa on *Harpagophytum* spp. management was ongoing, and that under the given circumstances, no matters remained to be addressed by the Plants Committee.
76. The Plants Committee decided that it had concluded the tasks assigned to it under Decision 13.60 and recommends that the Decision be deleted.

### **Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species (Decision 13.68)**

77. This topic was addressed in the joint meeting of the Plants and Animals Committees, see document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 prepared jointly by the Chairmen of both Committees.

### **Artificially propagated plants (Decision 13.72)**

78. The Plants Committee was tasked with monitoring the effects of the application of the revised definition of the term 'artificially propagated' contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP13), relating to the production of specimens of Appendix-I species cultivated from wild-collected seeds and spores, and providing its conclusions at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
79. The Secretariat introduced document PC16 Doc. 18. The observer from Chile elaborated on the country's response to Notification to the Parties No. 2005/O45 on this matter, explaining that in the case of the production of *Araucaria araucana* from wild-collected seeds, the revised definition of 'artificially propagated' had not caused negative effects on the conservation of the species.
80. The Plants Committee noted document PC16 Doc. 18. In the context of the implementation of Decision 13.72, the Committee concluded that for the time being, the revised definition of 'Artificially propagated' had not adversely effected the conservation of Appendix-I species that had been subject to it.
81. It is recommended that Decision 13.72 be deleted.

### **Annotation for Orchidaceae included in Appendix II (Decision 13.99)**

82. The Plants Committee was supposed to inform the Conference of the Parties at the present meeting of the application of the annotation for Orchidaceae spp. listed in Appendix II on the basis of the information received from the Parties (Decision 13.98). The required information was not received from the Parties, and in consequence it was not possible to produce a report. It is recommended that Decisions 13.98 and 13.99 be deleted.
83. At PC16, the PC representative of Asia (Mr Thitiprasert) introduced document PC16 Doc. 17.2 on behalf of the Management Authorities of Switzerland and Thailand.
84. The Plants Committee established a working group (PC16 WG4) on the implementation of annotations for Orchidaceae spp. in Appendix II.
85. The second recommendation of PC16 WG4, to extend the exemptions provided for in the annotations for Orchidaceae spp. listed in Appendix II to four additional genera from the New World was considered by the majority of participants to be premature. The Plants Committee took note of document PC16 Doc. 17.2.
86. On the basis of recommendation 1 in document PC16 WG4 Doc. 1, the Plants Committee adopted a revised wording for the annotations for Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II which the Depository Government has submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the request of the Plants Committee. See proposal CoP14 Prop. 35.
87. With regard to recommendation 2 in document PC16 WG4 Doc. 1, the Committee decided that it was premature to extend the current annotation to other genera of Orchidaceae.
88. The Plants Committee agreed the following draft decisions on this issue for adoption at CoP14:

#### ***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 14.XX The Plants Committee shall monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation for Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and shall report on the issue at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Parties and to Plants Committee***

14.XX Countries of export and import should make recommendations and prepare identification material on further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, in particular for the genera *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium*, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively. The results shall be sent to the Plants Committee, which shall evaluate them and adopt the appropriate measures.

**Agarwood-producing taxa [Decision 13.65, paragraph d)]**

89. Decision 13.65, paragraph d) required input from the Plants Committee so the Secretariat could present information on the identification of Agarwood products in trade at a capacity-building workshop, as well as information that would assist in determining sustainable harvest levels and in making non-detriment findings. The regional representatives for Asia (Ms Irawati), Oceania (Mr Greg Leach) and the alternate for Asia (Mr Zul Mukshar bin Md. Shaari) participated in the workshop held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 14 to 17 November.
90. The full report and recommendations from the workshop will be distributed by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia. However, in the final plenary session of the workshop, participants agreed to a number of actions that would be best progressed through a number of new decisions. The workshop participants requested that these draft decisions be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for approval through the Plants Committee Chairman's report.
91. There has been a substantial increase in the extent of agarwood plantations in a number of countries with a predicted significant increase in plantation-sourced agarwood entering trade in coming years. The agarwood workshop identified a number of definitional issues relating to artificial propagation, plantations, and non-timber forest products that needed further clarity.
92. It was also recognized that implementation of the agarwood listing would be facilitated by standardized units for reporting, identification materials of products in trade, an appropriate annotation that would exempt minor or highly processed products, further development of non-detriment finding methodology and improved information exchange.
93. There was recognition that a personal effect exemption could be developed but that further work was needed to establish the limits of such an exemption. The Gulf States have proposed a follow-up workshop to progress these issues.
94. It is proposed to amend the current definition of 'artificially propagated' for timber species as stated in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (CoP13) so as to read:
- g) timber and non-timber products taken from trees grown in monospecific plantations be considered as being artificially propagated in accordance with the definition contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP13);

Draft decisions

a) ***Directed to the Secretariat***

14.XX The Secretariat shall assist in obtaining funding from Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, exporters, importers and other stakeholders to support a workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of Parties to implement agarwood-related Decisions before the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

b) ***Directed to Parties involved in agarwood trade and to the Secretariat***

14.XX Parties involved in trade of agarwood should, in consultation with the Secretariat, provide funds and produce identification materials for all forms of traded products under CITES control.

- 14.XX Parties concerned should identify and agree on which agarwood products and quantities should be exempted from CITES controls. Once agreed, Parties concerned should agree which range State will prepare and submit a proposal for amendment of the current annotation for agarwood producing species to be considered at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 14.XX Draft standardized units of reporting to be considered at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 14.XX Parties involved in agarwood trade shall prepare a glossary with definitions that illustrate the content of the amended annotations, the terms used and their practical application during enforcement and border controls. The Secretariat should facilitate the preparation and production of these materials, and strategies for incorporating them in ongoing training material.

c) ***Directed to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat***

- 14.XX In consultation with relevant intergovernmental organizations such as FAO, the Plants Committee in consultation with the Secretariat should draft a definition of non-timber forest products to be considered at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 14.XX On the basis of the work on non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species, that has been developed by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and the Secretariat, the Plants Committee, in consultation with range States and the Secretariat, shall develop principles, criteria and indicators on the formulation of non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species.

d) ***Directed to Parties, the Secretariat and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations***

- 14.XX Parties, the CITES Secretariat and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations shall seek ways to share information through the establishment of networks, organization of regional workshops, capacity-building programmes, the exchange of experiences and the identification of financial resources.

**Transport of live specimens [directed to the Animals Committee (Decision 13.89)]**

- 95. This topic was addressed in the joint meeting of the Plants and Animals Committees, see document CoP14 Doc. 8.4 prepared jointly by the Chairmen of both Committees.

**Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade (Decisions 13.104 and 13.105)**

- 96. This topic was addressed in the joint meeting of the Plants and Animals Committees, see documents CoP14 Doc. 8.4, prepared jointly by the Chairmen of both Committees, and CoP14 Inf. 6.

Standard procedure for the measurement of logs and sawn wood of timber species included in Appendices II and III

- 97. At PC16, the observer from Italy, introduced document PC16 Doc. 19.3, explaining the discrepancies that can exist when measuring timber volumes and weight at the time of export and import, mainly because of the influence of humidity and water loss. The Committee recommended that the practical recommendations in document PC16 Doc. 19.3 be refined and developed into practical guidelines that countries could take into consideration when inspecting small timber shipments.

#### Implementation of the annotation for *Hoodia* spp.

98. The observer from South Africa confirmed that no regional agreement existed between Botswana, Namibia and South Africa on the production of *Hoodia* spp. Consequently, the proposed annotation was not operational and South Africa therefore issued CITES permits for all specimens of *Hoodia* spp. leaving the country. The Plants Committee requested the Secretariat to circulate a Notification to the Parties explaining that the exemption provided for in annotation #9 for certain labelled parts and derivatives of *Hoodia* spp. was currently not in application and that therefore, trade in all parts and derivatives of *Hoodia* spp. required the issuance of CITES documents.

#### Plants Committee budget

99. For the triennium 2009-2011, the Plants Committee requires as a minimum the same support as in the previous three years.

#### Acknowledgments

100. Finally I wish to express my most sincere gratitude to the members of the Plants Committee for their commitment, enthusiastic cooperation and the excellent work completed. I also wish to thank the Chairmen and members of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee, the Co-Chairmen of the Nomenclature Committee, and the Chairmen and members of Working Groups for their support, cooperation and interest in the activities of the Plants Committee. I should like to extend my gratitude to the observers from the Parties, to the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and to the CITES Secretariat, with a special mention for Mr Morgan, Ms Sosa Schmidt, Mr De Meulenaer, Ms Zentilli and Ms Campos for their extremely valuable contributions to the work of the Plants Committee. And lastly I wish to express my deepest thanks to the Scientific and Management Authorities of my country, Spain, and to the University of Córdoba, for their enormous help to me in fulfilling my functions as Chairman of the Plants Committee.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

A. The Secretariat recommends the adoption of all draft decisions by the Plants Committee as they are proposed in this report, except the draft decision proposed in paragraph 57. For this draft decision and, in view of the formal relationship that already exists between the CITES and CBD Secretariats, the Secretariat suggests the following amendment:

##### ***Directed to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat***

14.XX In the context of the implementation of its Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Secretariat, in conjunction with the Plants Committee, shall consult with the CBD on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), in particular with respect to Target xi: "No species of wild flora endangered by international trade" and issues relating to other matters having to do with the plant species covered by CITES.

B. The financial implications of adopting the recommendations of the Plants Committee have been taken into consideration in the budget proposed in document CoP14 Doc. 7.3 (Rev. 1).

LIST OF DECISIONS PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION

Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)]

*Directed to the range States of Cistanche deserticola; Dioscorea deltoidea; Nardostachys grandiflora, Picrorhiza kurroa; Pterocarpus santalinus; Rauvolfia serpentina and Taxus wallichiana, to the regional representatives for Asia on the Plants Committee, and to the Secretariat:*

- 14.XX a) Implementation of regionally coordinated actions to improve the management of and prevent illegal trade in the seven species, including *inter alia*: measures to combat illegal trade, regional capacity-building workshops and harmonization of regulations and legislation.
- b) Submission of progress reports at the 17th and 18th meetings of the Plants Committee.

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), of CBD (Decision 13.8)

*Directed to the Plants Committee and to the Secretariat*

- 14.XX The Plants Committee shall collaborate with the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), especially regarding Target xi 'No species of wild flora endangered by international trade' and other issues related to flora species included in the CITES Appendices, and the Secretariat shall communicate the results of its work in the context of its Memorandum of Understanding with the CBD Secretariat.

No-detriment findings for timber species and medicinal plants

*Directed to the Plants Committee*

- 14.XX The Plants Committee shall develop principles, criteria and indicators on the formulation of non-detriment findings for those taxa of high priority as timber species, *Prunus africana* and other medicinal plants.

Tree species

*Directed to the Plants Committee*

- 14.XX The Plants Committee shall, during the period between the 13th and 14th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, consider the opportunity to develop proposals to amend the Appendices on the basis of the *Contribution to an Evaluation of Tree Species* using the new CITES-listing criteria, and the results of regional workshops on sustainable management of timber species in 2007 and 2008.

Annotation for Orchidaceae included in Appendix II (Decision 13.99)

*Directed to the Plants Committee*

- 14.XX The Plants Committee shall monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation for Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and shall report on the issue at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.



***Directed to the Parties and to Plants Committee***

- 14.XX Countries of export and import should make recommendations and prepare identification material on further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, in particular for the genera *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium*, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively. The results shall be sent to the Plants Committee, which shall evaluate them and adopt the appropriate measures.

Agarwood-producing taxa [Decision 13.65, paragraph d)]

a) ***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 14.XX The Secretariat shall assist in obtaining funding from Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, exporters, importers and other stakeholders to support a workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of Parties to implement agarwood-related Decisions before the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

b) ***Directed to Parties involved in agarwood trade and to the Secretariat***

- 14.XX Parties involved in trade of agarwood should, in consultation with the Secretariat, provide funds and produce identification materials for all forms of traded products under CITES control.
- 14.XX Parties concerned should identify and agree on which agarwood products and quantities should be exempted from CITES controls. Once agreed, Parties concerned should agree which range State will prepare and submit a proposal for amendment of the current annotation for agarwood producing species to be considered at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 14.XX Draft standardized units of reporting to be considered at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 14.XX Parties involved in agarwood trade shall prepare a glossary with definitions that illustrate the content of the amended annotations, the terms used and their practical application during enforcement and border controls. The Secretariat should facilitate the preparation and production of these materials, and strategies for incorporating them in ongoing training material.

c) ***Directed to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat***

- 14.XX In consultation with relevant intergovernmental organizations such as FAO, the Plants Committee in consultation with the Secretariat should draft a definition of non-timber forest products to be considered at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 14.XX On the basis of the work on non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species, that has been developed by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and the Secretariat, the Plants Committee, in consultation with range States and the Secretariat, shall develop principles, criteria and indicators on the formulation of non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species.

d) ***Directed to Parties, the Secretariat and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations***

- 14.XX Parties, the CITES Secretariat and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations shall seek ways to share information through the establishment of networks, organization of regional workshops, capacity-building programmes, the exchange of experiences and the identification of financial resources.

## AMENDMENT PROPOSAL OF RESOLUTION CONF. 10.13 (COP13) ON TIMBER SPECIES

It is proposed to amend the current definition of 'artificially propagated' for timber species as stated in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (CoP13) so as to read:

- g) timber and non-timber products taken from trees grown in monospecific plantations be considered as being artificially propagated in accordance with the definition contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP13);

It is also proposed to add the following paragraph under *'Regarding the establishment of export quotas for timber species'*:

- k) whilst fully respecting the requirements of paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 of Article IV of the Convention, Parties exporting timber specimens from species listed in Appendix II consider establishing voluntary fixed national export quotas for such exports.

## RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE BUDGET OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

For the triennium 2009-2011, the Plants Committee requires as a minimum the same support as in the previous three years. In the case of meetings held back-to-back with the Animals Committee and joint sessions of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Plants Committee should be able to meet on its own for four days. If no joint sessions of the Animals and Plants Committees take place, then the duration of each Plants Committee meeting should be five days.