

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



Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Doha (Qatar), 13-25 March 2010

Summary record of the third session of Committee I

16 March 2010: 09h20 - 12h00

Chairman: J. Donaldson (South Africa)  
Secretariat: D. Morgan  
M. Sosa Schmidt  
Rapporteurs: J. Gray  
T. Inskipp  
J. Jorgenson  
J. Robinson

35. Standard nomenclature

The Nomenclature Specialist for the Plants Committee presented the flora portion of document CoP15 Doc. 35 (Rev. 3), in a resumption of discussions on this item the preceding day.

The observer from the Humane Society International intervened to clarify, in contrast to the view of the Secretariat expressed in paragraph D b) ii) of their comments, he believed paragraph b) of the draft decision directed to the Animals Committee was necessary, as it related to decisions in which a change in nomenclature changes the number of States required to issue a certificate of origin (e.g. when a taxonomic split reduced the number of range States sharing the listed species).

The Chair noted that this item would be discussed again when the Com. document was available.

55. Trade in epiphytic cacti (Cactaceae spp.)

Document CoP15 Doc. 55 was presented by Switzerland as the Depositary Government. Thailand supported the document and commented on the substantial trade in these taxa from that country. Spain, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, appreciated the Secretariat's comments in the document, but did not support the Secretariat's proposal to review the listings of epiphytic cacti and *Euphorbia* spp. under a joint Decision. They suggested a budget of USD 30,000 for implementing the draft decision in Annex 1, and in this they were supported by Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Arab States.

As there were no further interventions on this item, the draft decision in Annex 1 of the document was accepted, and the estimated budget proposed by Spain, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States was noted.

56. *Euphorbia* spp.

Document CoP15 Doc. 56 was presented by the Chair of the Plants Committee, who suggested USD 30,000 as the budget required for implementation of the draft decision in the Annex. Switzerland, supported by Spain, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, supported the draft decision. The draft decision, with the provision of this budget, was then accepted.

57. Cedrela odorata, Dalbergia retusa, Dalbergia granadillo and Dalbergia stevensonii

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP15 Doc. 57, drawing attention to the budget of USD 1,000,000 estimated for implementation of the draft decision and associated action plan contained in its annex. Canada, in their capacity as Co-Chair of Working Group 7 of PC18, informed the delegates of the recommendations of that Working Group. Mexico, in their capacity as Chair of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, supported document CoP15 Doc. 57. They reported that they had now sent reports analysing information received from range States and trading entities on *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *D. granadillo* and *D. stevensonii* to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat, as recommended by the aforementioned Working Group 7. From information received for these reports, they concluded: that there was very little information on these four species and little of that was quantitative; that populations of *C. odorata* in Costa Rica and Guyana were in good condition and those in Mexico were stabilizing; and that information from importing Parties was more detailed than that available from re-exporting Parties. They urged Parties to continue to ask for support from the Secretariat and the International Tropical Timber Organization, in the context of Resolution Conf. 14.4, and to join the virtual communications group within the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group on *Cedrela* and *Dalbergia* species.

Spain, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, also supported document CoP15 Doc. 57, citing Objective 2.1.4 of the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013 as a basis for work within the Convention on unlisted species. They further suggested establishing a working group to streamline the draft decision. Italy, as Chair of the Working Group on Timber Identification and Physical Inspection of Timber Species, encouraged range States of the *Cedrela* and *Dalbergia* species in question to join that group if the draft decision under discussion were adopted. Norway, while welcoming the exhortation to range States to include populations of the species in Appendix III contained in the draft decision, questioned this choice of Appendix, expressing the view that the Parties had often waited too long before listing endangered timber species in Appendix II. Consequently, they suggested inserting such as Appendix-II listing after "propose the relevant recommendations" and replacing "at" with prior to in 3.d) of Annex X of the draft decision.

Brazil was generally supportive of the draft decision and indeed had requested listing of their *C. odorata* populations in Appendix III. However, they, and Guyana, wanted restoration of the original wording of paragraph 1.f) of the annex linked to the decision, believing Parties should not be under an obligation to list species in Appendix III. Peru, on behalf of the Central and South America and the Caribbean region, supported Brazil, but suggested a further amendment, namely to add in keeping with available budgets in the range States to the end of paragraph 1.b) of Annex X of the draft decision. The Plurinational State of Bolivia and Costa Rica supported Brazil and Peru. The Plurinational State of Bolivia also said that they had put forward their population of *C. odorata* for listing in Appendix III. In response to concerns over the tone of language used in paragraph 1.f), the Chair of the Plants Committee clarified that the principle of more direct language had been agreed with range States present.

Liberia informed the delegates that new research under way in its country had the potential to discover new species. When available, the resulting information would be provided to the Parties.

The observer from TRAFFIC, recalled discussions of *Swietenia macrophylla* by the Conference of the Parties that had culminated in its listing in Appendix II, yet drew attention to the current critical conservation status of the species. He feared that procedures put forward in document CoP15 Doc. 57 were insufficient: investment should rather be in collaborative efforts to tackle organized crime groups involved in the trade and in the means to verify legality of trade.

Summarizing the discussion, the Chair of Committee I declared the draft decision and its annex in document CoP15 Doc. 57 accepted, with the amendments proposed by Brazil, Norway and Peru, and confirmed that the Committee endorsed the associated budget of USD 1,000,000.

58. Bigleaf mahogany

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP15 Doc. 58. She emphasized that the guidelines contained in the document would require modification in order to respond to the specific national requirements of the country concerned. She added that several of the countries were still included in the Review of Significant Trade, and proposed that the work of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group be continued, as outlined in the draft decisions in the Annex to the document.

Mexico, as Chair of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, reported on its work. He recognized that the group had not achieved all of its goals, primarily due to financial limitations within range States, and added that this problem had worsened during the last year. He stressed the importance of continued financial support to the group, and due to his already significant responsibilities, he stated that it would not be appropriate to add new tasks to the mandate of the group at present. He drew on the importance of facilitating communication between the range States and importing countries, and noted that a virtual forum had been set up to increase availability and exchange of information. He announced that he would be standing down as Chair, owing to the current budgetary austerity, and requested that the feasibility and relevance of seeking a new candidate be explored between now and the next meeting of the Plants Committee, and that the new Chair be selected at that next meeting.

Noting that it had already been agreed that the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group would incorporate *Cedrela odorata* and the other species discussed in document CoP15 Doc 57 in its mandate, the Chair of the Plants Committee sought clarification on whether the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group agreed to taking on these extra species. She stated that Spain, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, had called for a working group to be established to clarify some issues, including the relationship between documents CoP15 Doc. 57 and CoP15 Doc. 58. She expressed her support for a working group at the present CoP and Spain, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, fully supported this. The Chair of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group clarified that he was not suggesting the exclusion of the species already considered by the Working Group (mahogany and three species of *Dalbergia*), but that of additional species. In order to ensure a harmonious changeover to the new Chair of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, he suggested an amendment to paragraph d) of the draft decision in the Annex to include deletion of ~~one month after the coming into effect of the present Decision~~, after “selected by the Plants Committee”, and the addition of should any of the members resign or leave as a result of a decision of the CoP, it would be advisable that, at the proposal of the Plants Committee, the selection is undertaken within two months after the decision of the CoP or the resignation of the member after “candidates from the range States”, and the addition of temporarily after “Caribbean shall act”.

Peru, on behalf of the range States of the species, and supported by Honduras, also agreed to the establishment of a CoP working group and suggested an amendment to the draft decisions to add the name of the Working Group on Bigleaf Mahogany and other timber species of Central and South America and the Caribbean after “under” in paragraph a) directed to the Plants Committee; to add whose representatives would act as the Chair and vice-Chair after “all range States”; to indent i) of paragraph c); to replace a—with two regional representatives at the beginning of indent iii) of paragraph c); to add two organizations with working experience in the region, “after non-governmental organizations” in indent v) of paragraph c); and to add a paragraph directed to the Secretariat stating Seek external financial support from interested Parties, intergovernmental organizations, exporters, importers and other interested donors to support compliance of this decision.

The United States of America also supported continued work of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, the draft decision in the Annex to CoP15 Doc. 58 and the establishment of a CoP working group. The Chair clarified that it would not be possible to re-open discussion of document CoP15 Doc. 57. Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Spain (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States and TRAFFIC expressed their interest in participating in the working group. The Chair of Committee I suggested that the Plants Committee Chair should also participate as Chair of the proposed working group. The mandate of the Working Group was to amend the draft decision in the Annex to document CoP15 Doc. 58.

It was agreed that the CoP working group would report back to Committee I later in the meeting.

#### 59. *Taxus cuspidata*

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP15 Doc. 59 and called on the specialist on nomenclature of the Plants Committee, to give an overview of the document. Spain, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, supported the draft amendments contained in the Annex to the document. This was also supported by Australia, who added that the proposed text, regarding cultivars, could be simplified to read: Cultivars shall be subject to the provisions of the Convention unless excluded by a specific annotation in Appendix I, II or III.

The proposed amendments in the Annex to the document were accepted by consensus, with the inclusion of the simplified paragraph proposed by Australia.

#### 60. Agarwood-producing taxa

The Chair of the Plants Committee introduced document CoP15 Doc. 60 and noted that the Plants Committee had accepted the amendments proposed by the Secretariat to the draft decision directed to the Secretariat. The representative of TRAFFIC completed an introduction to the document, explaining some of the problems associated with this issue.

The inclusion of the word 'monospecific' in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP14) had been debated at length but no conclusion had been reached. Thailand and Viet Nam recommended that the word should be deleted, on the basis that many agarwood-producing trees were in mixed species plantations. The United States recommended that discussion of this issue should continue at the next meeting of the Plants Committee, as was suggested in document CoP15 Doc. 60, in a draft decision directed to the Plants Committee.

Indonesia noted that they were organizing a workshop to discuss this subject, which would take place in 2011.

Spain, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, supported the adoption of the current wording in the document, including the revisions made by the Secretariat. This position was also held by Cambodia, Kuwait and Malaysia, with the last of these also expressing support for developing a workshop on these issues.

The All Assam Agar Traders and Agaroil Manufacturers supported the need to clarify the definition of terms used in the document. They were concerned that no export permits had yet been issued for agarwood from cultivated sources in India.

The proposals in the Annex to the document were accepted by consensus, with the replacement of the text of the draft decision directed to the Secretariat replaced by the revised version in paragraph A of the *Comments from the Secretariat* and the associated budget in paragraph 22 of the document was noted.

#### 47. Saiga antelope

The Secretariat introduced document CoP15 Doc. 47, noting that, in the Annex, paragraph d) of draft decision 14.94 (Rev. CoP15) had been deleted by mistake and should be reinstated.

The representative of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals noted that all range States had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on this species, allowing progress with further conservation measures. She noted that a second meeting to discuss this issue was being arranged in Mongolia. Trade in horns remained a problem, as did extreme cold conditions that prevented the animals from feeding. Spain, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, supported the adoption of the document as revised, noting that a report on the five-year work programme had not been finished in time for the meeting. Kenya supported the draft revised decisions with the deletion of draft decision 14.92 from the document. Mongolia stated that the species that occurred in their territory was *S. borealis* but requested more study on the taxonomy of the species. China reported that they were planning to host a workshop on the subject of traditional medicines, which would include this species. The revised draft decisions in the Annex of the document were accepted by consensus, with the reinstatement of paragraph 14.94 (Rev. CoP15) d).

#### 50. Hawksbill turtle

The Secretariat introduced document CoP15 Doc. 50 and proposed amending the draft decision directed to the Secretariat by the deletion of the words ~~develop a joint proposal for the Global Environment Facility (GEF)~~ after "(SPAW Protocol) to" and the addition of explore opportunities for cooperation including development of joint proposals to donors. This was supported by Egypt.

The draft decision was accepted by consensus, with the suggested amendment.

The session was adjourned at 12h00.