

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September -5 October 2016

Strategic matters

Committee reports and recommendations

Plants Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

1. This document has been submitted by Ms. Adrienne Sinclair, the Acting Chair of the Plants Committee^{*}
2. The Plants Committee held two meetings since the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties: the 21st meeting (PC21) in Veracruz, Mexico, from May 2 – 8, 2014 and the 22nd meeting (PC22) in Tbilisi, Georgia from October 19 – 23, 2015. The 21st and 22nd meetings were attended by 99 and 109 participants, respectively. The Committee is grateful to the authorities of Mexico and Georgia for the extensive work organizing the meetings, providing support throughout, and for the gracious hospitality. The Committee and participants gained a better understanding of the CITES issues of importance to Mexico and Georgia.
3. The Committee is also grateful to the Secretariat for the organization and preparation of the documentation for both meetings, and for all its intersessional support.
4. The membership of the Plants Committee at PC21 and PC22 is presented below. The representatives attended both meetings, except for Mr. David Hafashimana of the African region who was replaced by Alternate Representative Mr Quentin Luke; Ms Zhihua Zhou who attended PC22 but was replaced by Alternate Representative Ms Shereefa Al-Salem at PC21; and Mr Edwino Fernando who did not attend PC22 and was not replaced by the Alternate.

Region	Representative	Alternate
Africa	Ms Beatrice Khayota (Kenya) Mr David L.N. Hafashimana (Uganda)	Mr Koffi Akpagana (Togo) Mr Quentin Luke (Kenya)
Asia	Mr Edwino S. Fernando (Philippines) Ms Zhihua Zhou (China)	Ms Joeni Setijo Rahajoe (Indonesia) Ms Shereefa Al-Salem (Kuwait)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Ms Vera Teresinha Rauber Coradin (Brazil) Ms Dora Ingrid Rivera (Costa Rica)	Sra. Ella Karina Ramírez (Peru) Sra. Delhy Basilia Albert Puentes (Cuba)

^{*} *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

Region	Representative	Alternate
Europe	Ms Margarita África Clemente Muñoz (Spain) Chair Mr Maurizio Sajevo (Italy)	Mr David Kikodze (Georgia) Mr Paulo J.L. Carmo (Portugal)
North America	Mr Hesiquio Benítez Dias (Mexico) (Vice-Chair)	Ms Adrienne Sinclair (Canada)
Oceania	Mr Greg Leach (Australia)	Mr Marika Vuli Tuiwawa (Fiji)
Nomenclature specialist		
Mr Noel McGough (United Kingdom)		

5. At PC22, the vice-Chair of the Plants Committee announced he was stepping down as member of the Plants Committee and its vice-Chair. The Chair of the Plants Committee also announced that she was stepping down as Chair. The Committee agreed that the Alternate Representative of North America (Ms. Sinclair) would replace the Representative of North America (Mr. Benítez), and also be the vice-Chair of the Plants Committee until CoP17.
6. Based on the request of the Plants Committee, the Chair of the Animals Committee (Ms. Caceres) reported on the joint AC/PC agenda items at the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee and the Alternate Representative of Asia (Ms. Al-Salem) reported on the PC agenda items.
7. The Committee extends its deep gratitude and recognizes the outstanding and enormous amount of work carried out by Ms. Margarita Clemente whose service to the Plants Committee extends over 20 years, beginning as Vice-chair in 1995 at the 6th meeting. She served as Acting Chair from 1996 to 1997 and then as Chair in 1997 after CoP10. The Nomenclature Specialist, Mr Noel McGough, captured her legacy well with reference to her creation, to date, of 303 CITES experts from 90 Parties through her development and direction of the Master's Course "Management and Conservation of species in trade: the International Framework" at the International University of Andalusia, Spain. Her dedicated work has put flora on equal footing with fauna and this will have a long-lasting effect on the work of CITES for years to come.
8. The Committee is also grateful for the contributions of Mr Hesiquio Benitez who stepped down at PC22 having served as Regional Representative for North America and Vice-chair of the Plants Committee since its 19th meeting in 2011. Prior to this, in 2008, he was responsible for a watershed event in CITES, the International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings held in Cancun, Mexico. Many issues have been advanced through lively debates with M. Benitez given his expertise and passion for the work of CITES. Strategic linkages with other international frameworks such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) are also attributed to his efforts. The Committee wishes M. Benitez well in preparations for the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Mexico in December 2016. Finally, Ms Dora Ingrid Rivera, the Representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean will also be leaving the Committee after joining at its 15th meeting in 2005. Ms Rivera has been a gentle, authoritative and respected voice of the region. Highly respected by her Committee members, she always knew what approaches and solutions would be acceptable and work well. The Committee offers its best wishes for her future endeavours and will miss her knowledge, kindness and ability to build consensus.
9. Progress and achievements of the Plants Committee between CoP16 and CoP17 (2014-2016) are presented below in terms of their contribution to the Goals and Objectives of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 (Resolution Conf. 16.3).

**Instructions to Plants Committee that contribute to Goals and Objectives of
CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 (Resolution Conf. 16.3)**

Goal 1: Ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the Convention

Objective 1.4: The Appendices correctly reflect the conservation needs of species

Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) on Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II

Progress achieved under the periodic review process is reported below.

With respect to proposals for possible consideration at CoP17, the Committee considered and noted two documents submitted by Mexico, one on Assessment of *Beaucarnea recurvata* based on the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP16) for amending Appendices I and II, and the other on Risk assessment for the tree species of the genus *Dalbergia* in Mexico; a document submitted by Thailand on the Amendment of the annotation to the listing of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* included in Appendix II; and a document submitted by the United States regarding an Amendment proposal for *Sclerocactus* spp.. The Committee supported the submission of these documents for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

Based on discussion of a document submitted by Switzerland seeking advice on submission of a proposal to amend annotation #4 (paragraph f) for Appendix-II orchids in order to include an exemption for finished products, the Committee established an intersessional working group to report to CoP17 (with terms of reference drafted by a working group and agreed by the Committee at PC22). The report of the intersessional working group is provided in [CoP17 Doc. 83.3](#).

Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP16) on Inclusion of species in Appendix III

At PC22, the Committee noted that Senegal is considering to include *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Appendix III and advised that Senegal should consult all range States should it decide to submit a proposal to include the species in Appendix II. The Committee also noted that Brazil is considering including *Cedrela fissilis* and *Cedrela lilloi* in Appendix III.

Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) on Establishment of Committees

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

At PC22, along with the Animals Committee, the Plants Committee agreed to seek a mandate at CoP17 to review the Terms of Reference of the Scientific Committees contained in the Resolution. The draft decision seeking a mandate from CoP17 is contained within the Report of the Chair of the Animals Committee.

Based on discussion of what was agreed at the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee, the Plants Committee adopted amendments to their Rules of Procedure (Rules 13, 20, and 22, see [PC22 Sum. 1 \(Rev.1\)](#)). With respect to election of the Chair and Vice Chair (Rule 13):

1. Immediately following each regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the members of the Committee, or their alternates, present shall elect its Chair and Vice-Chair from among the Committee.
2. In the absence of a quorum of the members or their alternates, the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be conducted by the postal procedure contained in Rules 32 to 34, in which case the duties of the Chair shall be discharged by the previous Chair or Vice-Chair *ad interim*.

Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16) on Identification Manual

The Committee was kept apprised of the status of the Identification Manual at PC21 and PC22 (AC27/PC21 Doc. 14 and PC22 Doc. 15, respectively).

Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16) on Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II

See paragraphs 10-15 below.

In addition, during the joint session of the Committees (AC27/PC21), the Committees agreed to undertake an inter-sessional review of the Resolution to improve the process. The inter-sessional working group reported to AC28 and PC22. The Committees agreed to a series of revisions to the Resolution which are presented in CoP17 Doc. 82.1.

Decision 16.162 on Annotations**Decision 14.148 (Rev. CoP16) on Annotations for tree species included in Appendices II and III**

At PC22, the Committee considered the report of the Secretariat (PC22 Doc. 6.1) and an oral report from the Chair of the interim Standing Committee working group on Annotations. The Committee requested the Secretariat to seek continuation of the work undertaken under Decisions 15.35, 14.148 (Rev. CoP16) and 16.162 in order to consider the final results of the timber trade study at its 23rd meeting.

Other progress on Annotations is reported in CoP17 Doc.83.1.

Decisions 14.40 (Rev. CoP16) on Reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants

Work is complete and it is recommended that Decision 14.40 (Rev. CoP16) be deleted.

At PC21, the Plants Committee established a working group to discuss the report of the Secretariat (PC21 Doc. 16) and decided to form an inter-sessional working group to further consider the issue and report back to PC22. The Committee therefore requested the Standing Committee at its 65th meeting to allow more time for implementing Decision 14.40 (Rev. CoP16) and reporting at the Standing Committee's 66th meeting.

Based on the report presented at PC22 by the inter-sessional working group formed at PC21, the Committee recommended that Parties continue to report trade in artificially propagated Appendix-II plants at the species level consistent with the *Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of CITES Annual Reports* when possible, taking into account data entry capacity and in consideration of conservation priorities such as the value in species level reporting for new species in trade. The Committee requested the Secretariat to incorporate the above recommendation into the *Guidelines*. The findings Committee were reported to SC66.

Decisions 16.164 on Extinct or possibly extinct species

Progress on this joint work with the Animals Committee is reported in CoP17 Doc. 85.

Decisions 16.45 on Review of reporting requirements

At the joint session of the Animals and Plants Committees (AC27/PC21), the Committees established a working group to review each of the reporting requirements relevant to them and advise whether the requirement is still current and valid, or outdated or otherwise unnecessary, and therefore no longer required. The Committees adopted the recommendations of the working group (AC27/PC21 WG1 Doc. 1) on special reporting requirements identified as still current and valid to one or both Committees. In compliance with Decision 16.45, the Standing Committee Working Group on Special Reporting Requirements was advised.

Other Resolutions and Decisions where PC gives its support:**Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15) on Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes Annex 3**

No summary conclusions were presented to the Plants Committee and therefore no action to report.

Decision 16.150 on *Hoodia* spp.

The Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms. Clemente) was a member of the Standing Committee working Group on Annotations tasked with reviewing the annotation to the listing of *Hoodia* species.

Decision 16.151 on Ginseng (*Panax ginseng* and *P. quinquefolius*)

The Chair of the Plants Committee (M. Clemente) was a member of the Standing Committee working Group on Annotations tasked with reviewing the annotation to the listing of *Hoodia* species.

Decisions 16.44 on Review of reporting requirements

Part of this decision calls for the Standing Committee to review the joint Animals and Plants Committees' review requested in Decision 16.45. The joint review was done as reported above.

Objective 1.5 : Best available scientific information is the basis for non-detriment findings

Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16) on Establishment of Committees

See above as the Committee's work under this Resolution also contributes to Objective 1.4.

Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) on Regulation of trade in plants

No request for consideration of specific implementation problems was received by the Plants Committee.

<p>Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species See paragraphs 16-21 below.</p>
<p>Resolution Conf. 16.7 on Non-detriment findings With respect to the direction to the Secretariat “to maintain a prominent section for non-detriment findings on the CITES website and to update it regularly with information from the Animals and Plants Committees, Parties and other sources”, at PC21, the Plants Committee recommended that Germany submit the <i>Guidance on making non-detriment findings for perennial plants</i> (overview provided in PC21 Doc. 9.2 and the full Guidance contained in PC21 Inf. 1.) to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website, and that Parties be invited to try out the Guidelines and provide feedback to Germany. The Committee also invited Germany to submit a revised version of the Guidance at one of its future meetings that might incorporate and build on experiences from Parties with the Guidance, results of tests on the applicability of the Guidance to different life forms of plants, outcomes of capacity building seminars, and case studies. Germany submitted the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance to the Secretariat, which has put it on its website.</p> <p>At PC22, the Committee considered a document submitted by Germany providing an update on progress (PC22 Doc. 9.1) including three workshops that were held to test the applicability of the Guidance (November 2014 Workshop with the CITES Authorities of the South American States of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO); June 2015 Workshop with the Georgian CITES Authorities; November 2015 Workshop with the CITES Authorities of China and the Chinese Academy of Science). Germany planned to publish an improved version of the 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance in 2016 to be launched at CoP17. The Committee noted the update provided by Germany at PC22 and encouraged Parties to use the guidance for making non-detriment findings for CITES-listed tree species and provide feedback to Germany. The Committee also requested Germany to report to PC23 on progress achieved in the development of its NDF guidance.</p>
<p>Decision 13.67 (Rev. CoP14) on the Review of Significant Trade Progress on the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade is reported in CoP17 Doc. 33</p>
<p>Decision 16.152 on Malagasy ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.) and Malagasy rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.) The Secretariat and Madagascar presented to PC 21 and PC22 their respective reports on the overall implementation of the Action Plan (PC21 Doc. 18.3.1 and PC21 Doc. 18.3.2; PC22 Doc. 17.3.1 and PC22 Doc. 17.3.2). At both meetings, the Committee established a working group to a) advise on an appropriate format and provide guidance to enable Madagascar to report on progress at CoP17; and b) review Madagascar’s report on the implementation of the Action Plan and provide it with relevant support and advice. The guidance and advice provided are reported in PC21 WG3 Doc. 1 with amendments presented on page 12 of PC21 ExSum. Cons. P. 12 and in PC22 Com.6 (Rev. by Sec.).</p> <p>The Committee was also tasked with recommending and facilitating the preparation of a standard reference for the names of <i>Diospyros</i> spp. (populations of Madagascar) and <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. (populations of Madagascar) to be adopted, if appropriate, at CoP17. Progress is reported by the Nomenclature Specialist in CoP17 Doc. 55.2.</p>
<p>Decisions 16.153 and East African sandalwood (<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>) 154 Progress is reported in CoP17 Doc. 65</p>
<p>Decisions 16.156 and 16.157 on Agarwood-producing taxa (<i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp.) Progress is reported in CoP17 Doc. 53.1.</p>
<p>Decisions 16.159 on Neotropical tree species Progress is reported in CoP17 Doc. 76.</p>
<p>Decision 16.45 on Review of reporting requirements Progress is reported above as this work also contributes to Objective 1.4.</p>
<p>Other decisions where PC gives its support:</p> <p>Decisions 16.154 on East African sandalwood (<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>) The Secretariat was to work with the Plants Committee to seek the external funding required for the implementation of Decision 16.153.</p> <p>Decisions 15.95 (Rev. CoP16) on Agarwood-producing taxa (<i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp.) Progress regarding the workshop is reported in CoP17 Doc. 53.2.</p> <p>Decisions 16.44 on Review of reporting requirements Progress is reported above as this work also contributes to Objective 1.4.</p>

Objective 1.6: Parties cooperate in managing shared wildlife resources
<p>Decisions 15.53 on Production systems for specimens of CITES listed species Progress concerning the work carried out with the Animals Committee is reported in CoP 17 Doc. 32.</p>
<p>Other Decisions where PC gives its support:</p> <p>Decision 16.149 on Bushmeat This Decision directed to the Standing Committee calls for the Plants Committee to be consulted as appropriate in the review of Resolution Conf. 13.11 on Bushmeat. Progress is reported in CoP Doc. 75.1.</p>
Objective 1.8: Parties and the Secretariat have adequate capacity-building programmes in place
<p>Decision 16.59 on Identification Manual Progress on Decision 16.59 is reported in CoP17 Doc. 48.2.</p> <p>In addition, at PC21, the Committee noted a document (PC21 Doc. 15) on the development of a timber identification directory for CITES-listed Species submitted by the European representatives (Mr Sajeve and Ms Clemente) on behalf of the European Union (EU). The document provided a summary of ongoing work by TRAFFIC, supported by the EU and its Member States, to create a directory on institutions with morphological or molecular timber identification expertise, details of experts in timber identification and tools/manuals available to help authorities with identification. This work followed from Decision 16.60 which was directed to the Parties and included encouragement to consult with enforcement and inspection officials to assess identification needs. The Committee invited the Representative of Europe and the European Union to submit a further progress report at PC22. The report was submitted (PC22 Doc. 14.1) and the Committee noted the document, welcomed the cooperation of the Global Timber Tracking Network in the development of the directory and recommended the inclusion of relevant information from range States in the directory.</p> <p>At PC22, the Committee noted a document on development of timber identification guidance (PC22 Doc. 14.2) submitted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The document provided a summary of the ongoing work led by UNODC within the framework of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to strengthen the development and use of tools and technologies to address illicit trafficking of timber. The Committee supported the work undertaken by UNODC to improve identification of CITES-listed tree species, and recognized the importance for the Committee to provide assistance in this regard. The Committee invited UNODC to bring the issue to the attending of the Standing Committee at its 66th meeting. Information on this matter is provided in CoP17 Doc. 48.1.</p>
<p>Other Resolutions and Decisions where PC gives its support:</p> <p>Resolution Conf. 14.3 on CITES compliance procedures Beyond the specific tasks entrusted to the Plants Committee related to the Review of Significant Trade, the Committee was not given instructions from the Conference of the Parties to advise and assist the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties with regard to compliance matters, inter alia, by undertaking necessary reviews, consultations, assessments and reporting.</p> <p>Resolution Conf. 16.2 on Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2014-2016 In accordance with paragraph c), the Chair was consulted by the Secretariat on the assignment of scientific consultants and definition of terms of reference for specific science-based projects.</p> <p>Decision 16.29 on Capacity building In accordance with paragraph b) of the Decision, the Secretariat collaborated with the Plants Committee on relevant capacity-building activities. Progress regarding this Decision is presented in CoP17 Doc. 15.</p>

<p>Goal 3: Contribute to significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and to achieving relevant globally-agreed goals and targets by ensuring that CITES and other multilateral instruments and processes are coherent and mutually supportive</p>
<p>Objective 3.2 : Awareness of the role and purpose of CITES is increased globally</p>
<p>Committee activities contribute to this objective (e.g., PC meetings involve awareness activities).</p>
<p>Objective 3.3: Cooperation with relevant international environmental, trade and development organizations is enhanced</p>
<p>Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP16) on Standard nomenclature Progress is reported in CoP17 Doc. 81.1.</p>
<p>Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16) on Transport of live specimens The Plants and Animals Committees noted the document provided by the Secretariat (AC27/PC21 Doc.13) to inform the Committees of activities to cooperate with the Secretariat of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Activities carried out after AC27 and PC21 were reported at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65 Doc. 30).</p>
<p>Resolution Conf. 14.4 on Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber The extensive progress, positive impact and areas for future work for the joint CITES-ITTO programme were noted by the Committee at PC21 and PC22 (PC21 Doc.15 and PC22 Doc. 17.1.)</p>
<p>Objective 3.4: The contribution of CITES to the relevant Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals set at WSSD, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is strengthened by ensuring that international trade in wild fauna and flora is conducted as sustainable levels</p>
<p>Resolution Conf. 16.5 on Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity Progress on implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.5 was reported at PC21 and PC22. At PC21, the Committee established an intersessional working group to monitor compliance with the Resolution and report progress at PC22. Based on progress reported at PC22 (PC22 Doc. 7.2 (Rev. 2)), the Committee requested the Secretariat to upload on its website the “<i>Summary of Periodic Review proposals submitted to CoPs for amendments to Appendices I and II (Article XV of the Convention), taxa selected for Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16)] and Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12 (Rev. CoP13)] since CoP13 to date</i>” presented in Annex 4 of document PC22 Doc. 7.2 (Rev. 2). The Committee also encouraged Parties to fill in the questionnaire on the implementation of the Resolution presented in Annex 2 of document. The Vice Chair of the Plants Committee (Ms. Sinclair) has requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to CITES Parties to encourage those who have not done so to fill out the questionnaire.</p> <p>Mexico has submitted a document to the CoP (CoP17 Doc. 14.6) with an overview of progress achieved, including a <i>DRAFT Report on CITES contribution to the implementation of GSPC 2011-2020</i> as an Annex which they will build on pending further input from the Parties. The document also includes a recommendation for the CoP to agree to send an updated version of the Report to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for consideration of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13-CBD, Cancun, México; December 2016).</p>

Decisions 16.15 on Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Progress was reported at PC21 (AC27/PC21 Doc. 8.1) and PC22 (PC22 Doc. 7.1 (Rev. 1)). At the AC27/PC21 joint session, the Committees noted the progress achieved and agreed to incorporate some information into the report to Standing Committee regarding involvement of experts in the 'Assessment of Sustainable Harvest and Trade of Wild Resources'. At PC22, the Committee encouraged Parties to contact their national IPBES focal points and provide their views regarding the draft scoping of the assessment which would be considered at the IPBES plenary in February 2016. Members of the Animals and Plants Committee also participated in the IPBES sponsored e-conference aimed at preliminarily scoping the IPBES assessment of Sustainable Use.

Animals or Plants Committee representatives participated in the following IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) meetings and reported to the Standing Committee accordingly:

- MEP 1 (Bergen, Norway, June 2013), Ms. Carolina Caceres, Chair, Animals Committee
- MEP 2 (Cape Town, South Africa, August 2013), Mr. Hesiquio Benítez, Vice-Chair, Plants Committee
- MEP 3 (Bonn, Germany, March 2014), Mr. Vincent Fleming, Vice-Chair, Animals Committee
- MEP 4 (Bonn, Germany, July 2014) and MEP 5 (Bonn, Germany, April 2015), neither the Chairs nor Vice-Chairs were able to participate
- MEP 6 (Bonn, Germany, October 2015), Ms. Carolina Caceres, Chair, Animals Committee

Other Decisions where PC gives its support:

Decision 16.14 on Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

This decision directed at the Standing Committee calls for establishment of an IPBES working group that includes the Chair of the Plants Committee. Progress on IPBES is reported in [CoP17 Doc. 14.4](#).

Periodic Review of Species included in Appendices I and II [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16)]

10. An overview of species under review was provided by the Secretariat at PC22 [PC22 Doc. 20.1 (Rev.1)], including a table which provides a useful summary of the status of reviews by review period. The document also provided a record of plant species selected for review between CoP13 and CoP15 (Annex 1 of the document) and a record of those to be reviewed between CoP15 and the CoP17 (Annex 2 of the document). The Committee noted the document and corrected the record for *Tillandsia mauryana* in Annex 1 to show that the review has been completed.
11. At PC22, the Committee formed a working group to consider four documents: Overview of species under review [20.1 (Rev.1)]; Periodic review of *Didieraceae*, *Aloe* spp. and *Euphorbia* spp. (20.3.1); Periodic review of *Pachypodium brevicaule* [20.3.2 (Rev. 1)]; and Periodic review of *Sclerocactus* spp. [20.3.3 (Rev. 1)]. Regarding species to be reconsidered between CoP15 and CoP17, the Committee agreed (PC22 Com.2 Rev. by Sec.) to request the Secretariat to send a letter to the range States of *Dioscorea deltoidea* and *Hedychium philippinense* to ask whether there is a volunteer willing to undertake the periodic review of each species; and to remove *Tillandsia kammii* from the process due to lack of volunteers to undertake the review, considering that the species has been under the periodic review process for more than two intersessional periods between CoPs (since 2005), and in compliance with para. e) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16)

Regarding species to be reviewed between period CoP13 and CoP15:

<i>Aloe</i> spp. (17 species)	Still meet the criteria and should be retained in that Appendix.
<i>Balmea stormiae</i>	Removed from the review due to lack of volunteers to undertake the review, considering that the species has been under the periodic review process for more than two intersessional periods between CoPs (since 2005), and in compliance with para. e) of Res. Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP16).
<i>Didieraceae</i> spp. (11 species)	Still meet the criteria and should be retained in Appendix II.
<i>Euphorbia</i> spp. (10 species)	Still meet the criteria and should be retained in Appendix I.

<i>Lewisia serrata</i>	United States currently undertaking the review.
<i>Pachypodium brevicaule</i>	Still meets the criteria and should be retained in Appendix II. The Committee noted there has been resurgence in the wild-collection of plants in recent years, particularly small plants, which are sought-after by tourists. There has also been an increase in the trade of seeds, which are not regulated under the Appendix-II listing (Annotation #4) for the species.
<i>Sclerocactus</i> spp.	The Committee: (a) took note of the findings regarding the 7 taxa endemic to the United States (as specified in Table 1 of document PC22 Doc. 20.3.3 (Rev. 1)); (b) endorsed the recommendation to maintain all taxa listed in Table 3 of document PC22 Doc. 20.3.3 (Rev. 1) as currently listed in the Appendices, with the exception of <i>S. blanei</i> , <i>S. cloverae</i> and <i>S. sileri</i> which should be transferred from Appendix II to Appendix; and (c) regarding taxonomy and updating the CITES Cactaceae Checklist, requested the Nomenclature Specialist (with the assistance of specialists appointed both by Mexico and the USA) to address the taxonomic issues identified (in document 20.3.3), namely the evidence that supports the inclusion of <i>S. erectocentrus</i> within <i>S. johnsonii</i> and, review of the taxonomy of <i>Glandulicactus uncinatus</i> (Galeotti) Blackberg, <i>Glandulicactus crassihamatus</i> , <i>Glandulicactus uncinatus</i> ssp. Wrightii.
<i>Tillandsia mauryana</i>	Mexico undertook the review of the species, and presented the findings at PC21 (PC21 Doc. 19.3.2), with a recommendation to delete the species from Appendix II. The recommendation was endorsed by the Plants Committee, and the amendment proposal will be presented by Mexico at this 17 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

12. Regarding the newly discovered species *Pachypodium enigmaticum* (Pavelka, Prokes, V.Vlk, Lavranos), the Plants Committee requested the Nomenclature Specialist to review the taxon and include it in the standard reference as appropriate; and on the basis of the findings of the Nomenclature Specialist, requested the Secretariat to update the CITES Checklist of Species and the Species+ database in order to include this new species; and suggested that Madagascar assess whether the species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.
13. Regarding Madagascar's implementation of CITES listings for plant species, the Committee requested that the Secretariat seek clarification from Madagascar concerning a policy which apparently allows tourists to export (up to) 5 specimens of CITES-listed plants without CITES permits or certificates.

Review of Significant Trade

14. At PC21, a working group was established on the Review of Significant Trade in Appendix-II species and the Committee agreed to the inclusion of the following taxa for review: *Galanthus elwesii*, *Hoodia gordonii*, *Carnegiea gigantea*, *Euphorbia abdelkuri*, *Euphorbia globosa*, *Euphorbia labatii*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*, *Dendrobium moschatum*, *Prunus africana*, *Taxus cuspidata*, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi*.
15. The Plants Committee also agreed to categorize the species selected following CoP15 as follows:

Species	Country	Proposed Category	Recommendation
<i>Dendrobium eriiflorum</i>	India	Least Concern	Category confirmed and eliminated from review.

Species	Country	Proposed Category	Recommendation
<i>Dendrobium eriiflorum</i>	Nepal	Least Concern	Category confirmed and eliminated from review.
<i>Euphorbia itremensis</i>	Madagascar	Possible Concern	Category confirmed.
<i>Alluaudiopsis ascendens</i>	Madagascar	Least Concern	Category confirmed and eliminated from review.
<i>Alluaudiopsis fiherenensis</i>	Madagascar	Least Concern	Category confirmed and eliminated from review.

16. The committee formulated recommendations for the species of possible concern (*E. itremensis*) in accordance with Resolution 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) as follows:

Within 6 months, the Management Authority should

- a) Inform the Secretariat of the methodology currently used for making Non-detriment findings
 - b) Review the available information and data on distribution, conservation, cultivation and trade status of the species concerned and based on this review and in association with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, establish a conservative export quota; and,
 - c) Inform the CITES Secretariat of this quota, so that it can be included in the national export quotas on the CITES website.
17. Lastly, at PC21, the Plants Committee requested the Secretariat to investigate the large discrepancies between trade reported by importing Parties and exporting Parties for some taxa, with a view of producing trade statistics for use in the Review of Significant Trade that better reflect actual trade.
18. At PC22, the Committee, in accordance with paragraph f) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), reviewed the available information to determine whether it was satisfied that Article IV, paragraphs 2(a) and 3 were being implemented; and proposed which species should be eliminated from or kept in the review with respect to the range State concerned. The Committee adopted the following:

Species selected following CoP16	Range State	Notes	Recommendation
<i>Bulnesia sarmientoi</i>	Argentina		Retain
	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	No export	Exclude
	Brazil	No export	Exclude
	Paraguay		Retain
<i>Carnegiea gigantea</i>	Mexico		Exclude
	USA		Exclude
<i>Dendrobium chrysotoxum</i>	Bangladesh	No export	Exclude
	Bhutan	No export	Exclude
	Cambodia	No export	Exclude
	China	No export	Exclude
	India	No export	Exclude
	Lao People's Democratic Republic		Retain
	Myanmar	No export	Exclude
	Nepal	No export	Exclude
	Taiwan Province of China	No export	Exclude
	Thailand	No export	Exclude
	Viet Nam	No export	Exclude
<i>Dendrobium moschatum</i>	Bhutan	No export	Exclude

Species selected following CoP16	Range State	Notes	Recommendation
	China	No export	Exclude
	India	No export	Exclude
	Lao People's Democratic Republic		Retain
	Myanmar	No export	Exclude
	Nepal	No export	Exclude
	Thailand	No export	Exclude
	Viet Nam	No export	Exclude
<i>Euphorbia abdelkuri</i>	Yemen	Error in reported trade	Exclude
<i>Euphorbia globosa</i>	South Africa	Error in reported trade	Exclude
<i>Euphorbia labatii</i>	Madagascar	No export	Exclude
<i>Galanthus elwesii</i>	Bulgaria	No export	Exclude
	Greece	No export	Exclude
	Netherlands	Naturalized in NL. No export	Exclude
	Romania	No export	Exclude
	Turkey		Retain
	Ukraine	No export	Exclude
<i>Hoodia gordonii</i>	Namibia		Retain
	South Africa		Retain
<i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i>	Bhutan	No export	Exclude
	China	No export	Exclude
	India	No export	Exclude
	Nepal		Retain
<i>Prunus africana</i>	Angola	No export	Exclude
	Burundi	No export	Exclude
	Cameroon		Retain
	Comoros	No export	Exclude
	Congo	No export	Exclude
	Democratic Republic of the Congo		Retain
	Equatorial Guinea	No export	Exclude
	Ethiopia	No export	Exclude
	Kenya	No export	Exclude
	Madagascar	No export	Exclude
	Malawi	No export	Exclude
	Mozambique	No export	Exclude
	Nigeria	No export	Exclude
	Rwanda	No export	Exclude
	Sao Tome and Principe	No export	Exclude
	South Africa	No export	Exclude
	South Sudan	No export	Exclude
	Sudan	No export	Exclude
	Swaziland	No export	Exclude
	Uganda		Exclude
	United Republic of Tanzania	No export	Exclude
	Zambia	No export	Exclude
	Zimbabwe	No export	Exclude
<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>	India		Retain
	Sri Lanka	No export. Not a range state.	Exclude
<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	China	No export	Exclude
	Japan	No export	Exclude
	Republic of Korea	No export	Exclude
	Russian Federation	No export	Exclude

19. Regarding problems not related to the implementation of Article IV, the Committee requested the Secretariat, as appropriate, to inform the Standing Committee that some illegal exports of *Bulnesia sarmientoi* from Bolivia might be occurring under the name “guayacán”; and to review possible means of assistance to countries who, in their responses, sought assistance to carry out field surveys and address illegal trade.

Additional Contributions to Objective 1.5 of the CITES Strategic Vision

20. The Chair (M. Clemente) presented a document at PC22 regarding exports and imports of timber species accompanied by CITES export permits under a court order (PC22 Doc. 18). The intent was to bring attention to the need to ensure that permits issued under court order are issued based on the required CITES findings. Based on discussion of the document, the Committee agreed to submit a revision to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on the *Implementation of the Convention for timber species* to CoP17. The Committee noted that the issue of court-ordered CITES documents is applicable to all CITES-listed species (both animal and plant) and referred this matter to the Standing Committee for its consideration at its 66th meeting. Based on a document submitted by the United States to SC66, the Standing Committee agreed to submit to CoP17 a new section to be added to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP16) on Permits and certificates regarding those issued under court orders (see [CoP17 Doc. 37](#)).
21. At PC22, the Committee considered three reports regarding non-detriment findings: Report on Non-detriment finding for *Pericopsis elata* submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (PC22 Doc. 12.1); Report on Non-detriment finding for *Bulnesia sarmientoi* submitted by Paraguay (PC22 Doc. 13); and Harvesting of and trade in *Prunus africana* (PC22 Doc. 13) submitted by the European Union. A working group was established to review and discuss the reports. The Committee commended the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Paraguay as well as the exporters of *Prunus africana* and ITTO, respectively. The Committee encouraged implementation of measures and recognized challenges and possible needs ([PC22 Com. 4 \(Rev. by Sec.\)](#)).
22. Regarding *Pericopsis elata*, the Committee encouraged DRC to report progress at PC23 and to bring the matter of stockpiles and compliance with Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas* to the attention of the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee. DRC submitted a document accordingly (see SC66 Doc.43; SC66 Com.14 (Rev. by Sec.)).
23. Regarding *Prunus africana*, the Committee agreed to submit decisions to hold an International Workshop on the sustainable use and the control of international trade in *Prunus africana* for consideration by CoP17 (see CoP17 Doc. 67). Further, the Committee agreed to create an intersessional working group on African tree species to report to CoP17 (see [CoP17 Doc. 77](#)). The Committee also requested the Secretariat to submit a document on possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species* to PC23.

Recommendation

24. The Conference of the Parties is invited to note this report.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

A. The report of the Vice-Chair in the role of the Acting Chair of the Plants Committee refers to specific Plants Committee activities and issues that are dealt with jointly by the Animals and Plants Committees and are the subject of separate agenda items. The Secretariat provides its comments on these issues under the corresponding agenda items.

B. On the basis of this report and as indicated by the Acting Chair of the Plants Committee, it is recommended that:

- i) the following Decision be deleted: 14.40 (Rev. CoP16);
- ii) the following Decisions be maintained: 15.35. and 16.150; and that
- iii) the following decisions that are referred to in the report be discussed under separate agenda items:

Dec. 14.148 (Rev. CoP16), Dec. 16.162, and Dec. 16.151 – see CoP17 Doc.83.1

Dec. 16.164 - see CoP17 Doc. 85

Dec. 16.44 and 16.45 – see CoP17 [Doc.35.1](#)

Dec. 13.67 (Rev. CoP14) - see CoP17 Doc.33

Dec. 16.152 - see CoP17 [Doc. 55.2](#)

Dec. 16.153 and Dec. 16.154 - see CoP17 [Doc. 65](#)

Dec. 16.156 and 16.157 - see CoP17 Doc. 53.1

Dec. 15.95 (Rev. CoP16) - see CoP17 [Doc. 53.2](#)

Dec. 16.159 - see CoP17 Doc. 76

Dec. 15.53 - see CoP17 [Doc. 32](#)

Dec. 16.149 - see CoP17 Doc. 75.1

Dec. 16.59 and Dec. 16.60 - see CoP17 [Doc. 48.2](#)

Dec. 16.29 - see CoP17 [Doc. 15](#)

Dec. 16.14 and Dec. 16.15 - see CoP17 [Doc. 14.4](#)