

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

Species specific mattersAgarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR AGARWOOD-PRODUCING TAXA

1. This document has been submitted by the Plants Committee.*
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.):

Directed to exporting and importing countries of agarwood-producing taxa

16.155 *To facilitate the implementation of the annotation to agarwood-producing taxa, based on document CoP16 Inf. 3 and further information available, exporting and importing countries of agarwood-producing taxa should produce an identification manual for agarwood products and communicate it to the Secretariat.*

Directed to the Plants Committee

16.156 *The Plants Committee shall consider the current production systems of tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations, and assess the applicability of the current definitions of artificial propagation in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) respectively, and report back at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

16.157 *The Plants Committee shall monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 (Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa) to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, and shall report on these issues at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the Secretariat

15.95 (Rev. CoP16) *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall, in cooperation with the agarwood range States and the Plants Committee, organize a workshop to share experiences, discuss management of wild and plantation-source agarwood, identify and agree on strategies that balance the conservation and use of the wild populations, while relieving the pressure on these by using the planted material.*

16.158 *The Secretariat shall, upon receipt of the identification manual mentioned in Decision 16.155, make it available to Parties via the CITES website.*

* *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.*

3. With respect to Decision 16.155, at the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee, Indonesia and Thailand submitted a document containing a Glossary of Agarwood Products. The Committee established a working group to improve the Glossary intersessionally, including incorporation of input through a side event to be organized by the Alternate Representative of Asia (Ms. Al-Salem) during the agarwood workshop specified in Decision 15.95 (Rev. CoP16). The Committee agreed to have the Glossary presented at its 22nd meeting.
4. A side event was organized accordingly during the *Asian Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa* hosted by the Government of India in Guwahati, Assam (19 to 23 January 2015). The working group presented the revised Glossary at the 22nd meeting of the Committee (PC22 Doc.17.5.3 Annex 1). The Committee noted the revised Glossary and asked the Secretariat to publish a Notification inviting Parties to provide more information and comments to improve this glossary, if necessary.
5. In accordance with Decision 16.156, the Plants Committee at its 21st meeting established an intersessional working group on plantations and artificial propagation of tree species. The working group prepared and circulated a questionnaire (Notification 2015/046) to gather information regarding production systems for CITES-listed tree species, including monospecific and mixed plantations. The working group presented the results orally at the 22nd meeting of the Committee.
6. The Committee noted the progress made by the working group, asked the Secretariat to publish an updated version of Notification 2015/046 at the request of the working group, and agreed to submit the following decision to CoP17 to renew the mandate of the working group. The working group decided to postpone publication of an updated version of the Notification until after CoP17, pending agreement by the CoP to renew the mandate.

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 16.156 (Rev. CoP17) *The Plants Committee shall consider the current production systems of tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations, and assess the applicability of the current definitions of artificial propagation in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) respectively, and report back at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
7. The Committee also agreed to submit the following draft decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting in order to continue the work of the Plants Committee on agarwood-producing taxa:

Directed to the Plants Committee

- 16.157 (Rev. CoP17) *The Plants Committee shall monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 (Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa) to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, and shall report on these issues at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Directed to the range, transit, consumer and producer Parties of agarwood products,

- 17.XX *Range, transit, consumer, and producer Parties of agarwood products are invited to compile and publish identification manuals on agarwood products, taking into consideration the updated version of the Glossary provided in the Annex to document PC22 Doc.17.5.3, and any further updated version, if appropriate. They are encouraged to distribute these identification manuals as training material to management and enforcement officials.*
8. At its 22nd meeting, the Committee recommended deletion of Decision 16.155 and Decision 15.95 (Rev. CoP16) by the Conference of the Parties. Progress regarding implementation of the Decision 15.95 (Rev. CoP16) is reported in a separate document submitted by the Secretariat. While the summary record of the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC22 Sum.5 (Rev. 1)) does not specify that the Committee agreed to delete Decision 16.158, given that this decision directs the Secretariat to carry out action relevant to Decision 16.155, deletion of Decision 16.158 is implied.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decisions presented in Paragraph 6 and Paragraph 7 above.
10. It is recommended that the Conference of the Parties delete Decisions 16.155, 16.158 and 15.95 (Rev. CoP16).

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

11. The Secretariat supports this document prepared by the Acting Chair of the Plants Committee on the implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa and, recommends deletion of Decisions in paragraph 10 as well as the adoption of proposed draft decisions in Paragraph 6 and Paragraph 7.
12. More information on the implementation of Decision 15.95 (Rev. CoP16) and on the *Asian Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa* hosted by the Government of India in Guwahati, Assam (19 to 23 January 2015) as mentioned in paragraph 4, is presented in document CoP17 Doc. 53.2.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DRAFT DECISIONS

With respect to the proposed decision in paragraph 6, to date, consideration of current production systems and assessment of the applicability of definitions of artificial propagate has involved surveying Parties through a Notification. It is expected that this method of work would be used again and therefore there are minimal if any budget implications. External sources of funding would be needed should the working group identify other means necessary to carry out their work.

With respect to the proposed decisions in paragraph 7, the decision as drafted invites and encourages Parties to compile, publish, and distribute identification manuals on agarwood product. There are no funding implications in terms of an impact on the budget allocated for Committees or Secretariat work. The monitoring of the implementation of the Resolution on implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa by the Plants Committee would involve reviewing reports to the Committee. External sources of funding would be needed should the Committee decide to carry out specific activities to assist with monitoring that have budget implications.