

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 matters

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN EAST AFRICAN SANDALWOOD (*OSYRIS LANCEOLATA*)

1. This document has been submitted by Kenya.*

Background

2. At the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Bangkok, Thailand, 2013, and following Kenya's submission of a proposal to include in Appendix II, East African Sandalwood, *Osyris lanceolata*, the proposal to list the *Osyris* species of the Eastern African range States was adopted
3. The Conference of the Parties, adopted Decisions 16.153 & 16.154 accompanying the listing of East African Sandalwood, *Osyris lanceolata* as follows:

Decision 16.153

Directed to the Plants Committee and the Eastern African range States of *Osyris* species

*The Plants Committee and Eastern African range States of *Osyris* species shall:*

- a) *review and gather further information on the conservation status of, trade in and use of *Osyris* species within the region and internationally;*
- b) *assess the impact of such trade on the conservation status of *Osyris* species in Eastern Africa;*
- c) *assess the impact of such trade extending to populations not covered by the Appendix-II listings;*
- d) *assess the data required to make non-detriment findings following the existing guidance;*
- e) *identify mechanisms to help build capacity to carry out non-detriment findings for currently-listed populations; and*
- f) *report on their work at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, if necessary, prepare proposals to amend the Appendices for submission at that meeting.*

Decision 16.154

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall work with the Plants Committee to seek the external funding required for the implementation of Decision 16.153.

* *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.*

4. At its 22nd Meeting, Tbilisi, Georgia, the Plants Committee, reviewed reports provided by the Africa regional representative and the Secretariat, the progress made in implementation of Decision 16.153 and 16.154 and noted that, due to funding constraints, actions outlined in Decision 16.153 could not be fully implemented prior to CoP17 and enable the Plants Committee to substantively report at CoP17
5. Consequently, the Plants Committee recommended that Decision 16.153 and 16.154 be renewed at CoP17 to allow for their implementation. Further the Plants Committee noted that since CoP16, there had been emerging issues relating to *Osyris lanceolata* and that a proposal should be brought before the CoP17, for a revision of Decision 16.153 to include these emerging issues:
6. The emerging issues the Plants Committee recommended to be considered in the revision of Decision 16.153 are that:
 - i. *Osyris lanceolata* be considered a priority species and priority for funding
 - ii. Assessment of the impacts of look- alike with other species of Santalaceae on conservation of and trade in *Osyris lanceolata*
 - iii. Need for convening a consultative meeting of *Osyris lanceolata* range States to bring together relevant representatives of CITES Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities to share and exchange data, information, intelligence and law enforcement measures, in combating illegal trade in the species

Recommendations

7. The Conference of the Parties is requested to consider extension of Decisions 16.153 and Decision 16.154 until CoP18 to renew the mandate of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat working with range States for the *Osyris lanceolata* to implement the actions under these Decisions including those proposed in para 5 of this document and report as appropriately to PC 23 and CoP18 on progress made.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat notes that no trade in *Osyris lanceolata* has been recorded in the CITES trade database since the inclusion of this species in Appendix II in 2013. The absence of records may suggest that the provisions in Article IV have yet to be applied for international trade in this species. Therefore, little or no information would be available concerning CITES-regulated trade in, and the CITES management needs for *Osyris lanceolata* that could support the implementation of Decision 16.153. In view of the paucity of information on international trade in *Osyris lanceolata*, it seems premature to extend the scope of Decision 16.153 to an unspecified number of non-CITES listed *Osyris* species, as is being proposed.
- B. As explained in document CoP17 Doc. 25, in January 2014, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2014/005 at the request of Burundi on *Illegal trade in specimens of Osyris lanceolata (African sandalwood) from Burundi*. Burundi reported that more than 20 tonnes of illegally traded *Osyris lanceolata* had been seized in November 2013, and requested Parties to bring seizures of *Osyris lanceolata* from Burundi to its (and the Secretariat's) attention. No further information on illegal trade in this species has been obtained by the Secretariat since that time.
- C. It would be important for the range States of *Osyris lanceolata* to adhere to the provisions of the Convention when exporting specimens of this species. Eventual implementation problems could be addressed more effectively when sufficient information, data and experience are accumulated. The Parties are reminded of existing CITES mechanisms and processes that can help to alleviate concerns about non-detriment findings, identification, enforcement or compliance.
- D. The Secretariat suggests that the Conference of the Parties agree not to renew Decisions 16.153 and 16.154, as proposed in the document. In case some work were to continue, the Secretariat would advise it to focus on the CITES-listed species *Osyris lanceolata*.

E. The budget implications for implementing the proposed decisions are not mentioned in the document, but could be around USD 100,000 to 150,000, to be secured from external sources.