

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 mattersHARVESTING OF AND TRADE IN *PRUNUS AFRICANA*

1. This document has been submitted by the Acting Chair of the Plants Committee.*
2. At its 22nd meeting, the Plants Committee considered a report on 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 report.
3. The Committee adopted the recommendations of the working group ([PC22 Com. 4 \(Rev. by Sec.\)](#)) which included submission of draft decisions (in the Annex to [PC22 Doc. 13](#)) for adoption by the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to hold an International Workshop on the sustainable use and the control of international trade in *Prunus africana*.
4. Draft Decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx1 *The Secretariat shall:*

a) organize, within one year after the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subject to available resources, an International Workshop on the sustainable use and the control of international trade in Prunus africana with the participation of all relevant Parties, including exporting and importing countries, forestry experts and stakeholders with a view to producing recommendations, among others, on methodologies to be used for inventories (including regarding the sampling design and the inventory data set), sustainable harvesting techniques, monitoring and traceability systems, and perspectives in terms of developing plantations or agroforestry systems as a possible complementary mean of producing bark of Prunus africana in a sustainable manner, as well as any other relevant issues;

b) seek external funding, in particular from interested Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the International Tropical Timber Organization; in order to organize the International Workshop as called for under paragraph a); and

c) report to the Plants Committee about the recommendations made by the International Workshop for discussion, endorsement and adoption by the Plants Committee.

Directed to exporting and importing Parties

17.xx2 *Exporting and importing Parties of Prunus africana shall cooperate with the Secretariat in the organization of the International Workshop by providing expertise among others on*

* *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.*

methodologies to be used for inventories, sustainable harvesting techniques, monitoring and traceability systems, perspectives in terms of developing plantations or agroforestry systems and funding on a voluntary basis.

Directed to the Plants Committee

17.xx3 *The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) cooperate with the Secretariat with regard to the organization of the International Workshop;*
- b) review the recommendations from the International Workshop for discussion, endorsement and adoption by the Plants Committee; and*
- c) submit a report and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee and to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties .*

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that the Conference of the Parties adopt the decisions in Paragraph 4 above.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. At its twenty second meeting (PC22, Georgia, 19-23 October 2015), the Plants Committee agreed to eliminate most range States of *Prunus africana* from the review of Significant Trade of Appendix-II species for that species, and it agreed that only Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo should be kept in the review. According to paragraph g) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*, the Secretariat shall proceed with the compilation of information regarding the species; h)... compile information about the biology and management of and trade in the species ...; and report these findings to the next meeting of the Plants Committee (PC23, Paraguay, 22-26 May 2017). In line with paragraph m) of the same Resolution, the PC23 in May 2017, shall, ... formulate recommendations for ... the range States concerned.
- B. The current procedure described in A. may change in the event that the Conference of the Parties adopts the revisions proposed to current Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) as presented in CoP17 Doc. 33 on *Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade*. If the amendments in Annex 1 of that document are adopted, then, following the CoP17, *The Secretariat shall request range States to provide the scientific basis by which it is established that exports from their country are not detrimental to the survival of the species concerned and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. In its letter, the Secretariat shall ... inform the range States that the responses will be made available on the CITES website as part of the agenda for meetings of the Animals or Plants Committee.*
- C. Document CoP17 Doc. 33 Annex 2 also proposes to give the Secretariat 6 months to make progress on a variety of aspects of the revised procedure. The deadline for submission of documents to be considered at PC23 is also 6 months after the CoP17th. Draft decision 17.xx1 a) of the present document gives the Secretariat one year to organize a workshop to discuss various elements of the management of *Prunus africana* that would also be considered in the report of the Secretariat proposed in current Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) and, in the revisions in document CoP17 Doc. 33. The Secretariat is concerned that the proposed workshop in Draft decision 17.xx1 a) of paragraph 4, may create a parallel process to the significant trade review for this species, already undertaken by the Plants Committee and, potentially, result in additional detailed recommendations that may not necessarily end up being in line with those meant to be adopted at PC23. Document CoP17 Doc. 33 also highlights, in paragraph 27., *the importance of clear communication of the process to help ensure positive outcomes* and, in paragraph 33. it calls for *the formulation of recommendations that are time-bound, feasible, measurable, transparent, proportionate and promote capacity-building*. The implementation of the draft decisions in paragraph 4 of the present document might cause conflicting time frames with the ongoing review of significant trade process, and perhaps create confusion in range States under review. They might find it difficult to understand what formal CITES process for *Prunus africana* to follow.

The Secretariat is not convinced that the proposed workshop would benefit the implementation of the review of significant trade for *Prunus africana*. However, if a workshop is to be held, it would be more appropriate to hold it after the Plants Committee formulated its recommendations for the countries still kept under review. If this was agreed, the draft decision could be amended to read:

Directed to the Secretariat

17.xx1 *The Secretariat shall:*

a) ~~organize, within one year after the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and subject to available resources, an International Workshop on the sustainable use and the control of international trade in *Prunus africana* with the participation of all relevant Parties, including exporting and importing countries, forestry experts and stakeholders with a view to producing recommendations, among others, on methodologies to be used for inventories (including regarding the sampling design and the inventory data set), sustainable harvesting techniques, monitoring and traceability systems, and perspectives in terms of developing plantations or agroforestry systems as a possible complementary mean of producing bark of *Prunus africana* in a sustainable manner, as well as any other relevant issues;~~

....

c) *report to the Plants Committee at its 24th meeting (PC24, Madagascar, 2018) about the recommendations made by the International Workshop for consideration and advise to the range States of *Prunus africana* discussion, endorsement and adoption by the Plants Committee.*

...

Directed to the Plants Committee

17.xx3 *The Plants Committee shall:*

a) cooperate with the Secretariat with regard to the organization of the International Workshop;

b) review the recommendations from the International Workshop for consideration and advise to the range States of Prunus africana discussion, endorsement and adoption by the Plants Committee; and

c) submit a report and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and report to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties .

D. Finally, the Secretariat expresses its appreciation to Parties interested in actively contributing to the implementation and strengthening of CITES processes and, in this regard, it would like to invite those Parties involved in the management and trade of *Prunus africana*, to contribute financially to those tasks in paragraph E. of the COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT in CoP17 Doc. 33.

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

Tentative budget: USD 100,000

Source: External funding.

Interested Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the International Tropical Timber Organization are encouraged to consider contributing funds to support the international workshop as proposed in the draft decisions.