

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Geneva (Switzerland), 17–28 August 2019

Committee II

Amendments to resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15)
on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*

RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of document CoP18 Doc. 50 after discussion in the tenth session of Committee II (see document CoP18 Com. II Rec. 10).

**Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18)
*Implementation of the Convention for tree species***

RECOGNIZING that amendment proposals should contain the maximum amount of biological and trade information on the taxon concerned;

AWARE that such information is frequently available from international organizations that have expertise related to timber trade or forest management;

RECOGNIZING that parts and derivatives mentioned in the Interpretation of Appendices I, II and III should be clearly defined;

EMPHASIZING the need for Parties to report adequately on their annual trade in timber and to use agreed units of measurement;

AWARE that unambiguous identification of timber, by its nature, can be a complex procedure, requiring particular expertise;

RECOGNIZING that the development of timber identification materials is essential for the effective implementation of the Convention and that the cost of production will be considerable;

NOTING that the approach that authorities of some countries have taken, whereby they meet with timber trade groups and enforcement officers and agree to use standard nomenclature for vernacular and corresponding scientific names of tree species, appears to be a useful one;

NOTING further that the objective of the Convention is to ensure the conservation of wild fauna and flora for this and future generations through the protection of certain tree species against over-exploitation through international trade;

NOTING also that the Convention can play a positive role in promoting the conservation of animals and plants, including tree species, through trade in accordance with the requirements of Articles III, IV and V of the Convention and through improving trade monitoring for evaluation of biological status and effective enforcement;

RECOGNIZING that commercial trade may be beneficial to the conservation of species and ecosystems when carried out at levels that are not detrimental to the survival of the species in question;

RECOGNIZING also that Parties have the right to take stricter domestic measures concerning any species included in the Appendices;

AWARE that such measures can have effects unrelated to the conservation of listed species and could be taken for purposes not directly related to the purpose for which the species concerned were included in the CITES Appendices;

NOTING also that there are misconceptions that inclusion of a species in Appendix II or III represents a ban on trade in that species;

RECOGNIZING that such misconceptions can have negative impacts including the prohibition of or restriction on the use of CITES-listed tree species by architects, engineers, commercial businesses and others, and reduced use of such items by consumers;

ACKNOWLEDGING that education is an important tool in the effective implementation of the Convention;

NOTING that many internationally traded tree species, boreal, temperate and tropical, can be managed on a sustainable basis through the application of appropriate silvicultural techniques, but that for other tree species such knowledge is currently lacking;

NOTING that some tree species may be under threat because of detrimental levels of use and international trade;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. RECOMMENDS that:

Regarding international organizations

- a) any Party that intends to present an amendment proposal for a tree species (irrespective of other agreed procedures) should consult with at least four different organizations listed in the table below [two from each of the two types (B and T)], to verify or request biological and trade data, and should include any relevant information in the amendment proposal before this is sent to the Secretariat for distribution to the Parties; and

Acronym	International organization	Data	
		B = Biological data	T = Trade data
ATTO	Asian-Pacific Timber Trade Organization		T
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research	B	
FAO*	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations; Forestry Department	B	T
IBFRA	International Boreal Forest Research Association	B	
ITTO*	International Tropical Timber Organization	B	T
IUFRO	International Union for Forest Research Organizations	B	
IUCN*	International Union for Conservation of Nature	B	
IWPA	The International Wood Products Association		T
SPT-TCA	Pro-tempore Secretariat of the Treaty for Amazonian Cooperation	B	
TRAFFIC		B	T
UCBD	Union pour le Commerce des Bois Durs dans l'U.E. (European Hardwood Federation)		T
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre	B	
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature	B	

* *International organizations from which the CITES Secretariat should seek views on proposals to amend the CITES Appendices for tree species, as appropriate.*

- b) when any proposal is submitted to amend the CITES Appendices for tree species, including for the implementation of paragraph 3 h) of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)¹, the Secretariat should seek the views of FAO, ITTO and IUCN and present these to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate;

Regarding parts and derivatives

- c) the following definitions be applied with respect to annotations in the CITES Appendices:

i) Logs

All wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared, for processing, notably into sawn wood, pulpwood or veneer sheets (HS code 44.03²);

ii) Sawn wood

Wood simply sawn lengthwise or produced by a profile-chipping process. Sawn wood normally exceeds 6 mm in thickness (HS code 44.06², HS code 44.07²);

iii) Veneer sheets

Thin layers or sheets of wood of uniform thickness, usually 6 mm or less, usually peeled or sliced, for use in making plywood, for veneering furniture, veneer containers, etc. (HS code 44.08²); and

iv) Plywood

Consisting of three or more sheets of wood glued and pressed one on the other and generally disposed so that the grains of successive layers are at an angle (HS code 44.12.13², HS code 44.12.14², and HS code 44.12.22²); and

- d) for the purpose of annotations in the Appendices for parts and derivatives of species traded as timber, definitions to be used should, to the extent possible, be based on the tariff classifications of the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization;

¹ Corrected by the Secretariat following the 16th and 17th meetings of the Conference of the Parties: originally referred to Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15).

² HS refers to the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization describing and coding goods in trade. The codes referred to in this document for timber include the following:

44.03 Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared

44.06 Railway or tramway sleepers of wood

44.07 Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm

44.08 Veneer sheets and sheets for plywood (whether or not spliced) and other wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed, of a thickness not exceeding 6 mm

44.12.13 Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, each ply not exceeding 6 mm in thickness, and with at least one outer ply of tropical wood specified in Subheading Note 1 below[†]

44.12.14 Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, each ply not exceeding 6 mm in thickness, and with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood

44.12.22 Other (meaning one ply, or more, that is greater than 6 mm in thickness), with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood, and with at least one ply of tropical wood specified in Subheading Note 1 below[†]

[†] Subheading Note 1: For the purposes of subheadings 44.03.41 to 44.03.49, 44.07.24 to 44.07.29, 44.08.31 to 44.08.39, and 44.12.13 to 44.12.99, the expression 'tropical wood' means one of the following types of wood:

Abura, Acajou d'Afrique, Afrosmosia, Ako, Alan, Andiroba, Aningré, Avodiré, Azobé, Balau, Balsa, Bossé clair, Bossé foncé, Cativo, Cedro, Dabema, Dark Red Meranti, Dibétou, Doussié, Framiré, Freijo, Fromager, Fuma, Geronggang, Ilomba, Imbuia, Ipé, Iroko, Jaboty, Jelutong, Jequitiba, Jongkong, Kapur, Kempas, Keruing, Kosipo, Kotibé, Koto, Light Red Meranti, Limba, Louro, Maçaranduba, Mahogany, Makoré, Mandioqueira, Mansonia, Mengkulang, Meranti Bakau, Merawan, Merbau, Merpauh, Mersawa, Moabi, Niangon, Nyatoh, Obeche, Okoumé, Onzabili, Orey, Ovengkol, Ozigo, Padauk, Paldao, Palissandre de Guatemala, Palissandre de Para, Palissandre de Rio, Palissandre de Rose, Pau Amarelo, Pau Marfim, Pulai, Punah, Quaruba, Ramin, Sapelli, Saqui-Saqui, Sepetir, Sipo, Sucupira, Suren, Teak, Tauari, Tiana, Tola, Virola, White Lauan, White Meranti, White Seraya, Yellow Meranti.

Regarding amendment proposals for tree species

- e) proposals for the inclusion of tree species in Appendix II or III indicate clearly which parts and derivatives should be regulated;

Regarding the definition of 'artificially propagated'

- f) timber or other parts or derivatives of trees grown in monospecific plantations be considered as being artificially propagated in accordance with the definition contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17);

Regarding tree species of concern

- g) the range States pay particular attention to internationally traded tree species within their territories for which the knowledge of the biology, population density and structure and the lack of appropriate silvicultural techniques gives cause for concern;

Regarding the establishment of export quotas for tree species

- h) whilst fully respecting the requirements of paragraphs 2 (a) and 3 of Article IV of the Convention, Parties exporting timber specimens from species listed in Appendix II consider establishing voluntary annual national export quotas for such exports; and
- i) Parties are encouraged to make use of adequate conversion factors when making non-detriment findings and establishing voluntary annual national export quotas, aiming in particular at converting volumes of traded commodities into volumes of round wood;

Regarding identification and forensics for tree species

- j) Parties acknowledge the fundamental importance of timber identification and continued development of advanced analytical wood identification techniques and operational tools to the successful implementation of CITES for timber species;
- k) Parties are encouraged to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to create and maintain wood sample collections and facilitate exchange of wood samples and associated database information, including guidelines for the collection of wood samples, and make these available to support timber identification and development of analytical methodologies and identification protocols for CITES-listed and look-alike tree species; and
- l) Parties are encouraged to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop shared priorities for timber identification, including priority species, and on developing identification techniques, such as DNA analysis, chemical analysis and imaging, Near Infrared Spectrometry (NIRS), Directed Analysis in Real Time mass spectrometry (DART), and macro- and microscopic identification of wood and fibre samples;

Regarding improvement of public understanding of the role of the Convention in the conservation of tree species

- m) Parties consider any possible deleterious conservation and trade impacts before they impose stricter domestic measures on trade in timber specimens of species included in Appendix II or III; and
- n) Management Authorities work with governmental agencies (including local governments), non-governmental organizations, industry and the general public to develop and provide information on the objectives, provisions and implementation of the Convention to counter the misconception that the inclusion of species in the Appendices represents a ban on the trade in specimens of these species, and to disseminate the message that international trade and utilization of tree species included in Appendices II and III are generally permitted and can be beneficial to tree species conservation and livelihoods.