

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Strategic matters

Committee reports and recommendations

Plants Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee.*

Introduction

2. This report covers the activities of the CITES Plants Committee in the period between the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17; Johannesburg, South Africa, 24 September-05 October 2016) and 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. During this period, the Plants Committee met twice: at its 23rd meeting, 22-27 July 2017 (held jointly with the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee) and its 24th meeting, 20-26 July 2018 (held jointly with the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee) in Geneva, Switzerland. The details and summary records of the meetings can be found on the CITES website. The Committee extends its warm and sincere appreciation to the government of Switzerland for hosting our Committee.
3. The composition of the Plants Committee for the reporting period is presented in the table below.

Region	Regional Representative <i>* Members and Alternate Members whose term ends at the close of CoP18</i>	Alternate
Africa	- Prof. Ali Mahamane (Niger) - Ms. Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo (Gabon)	- Ms. Kirsti Nghidinwa (Namibia) - Ms. Beatrice Khayota (Kenya)
Asia	- Mr. Edwino S. Fernando (Philippines)* - Mr. Byoung Yoon Lee (Republic of Korea)	- Ms. Joeni Setijo Rahajoe (Indonesia)* - Ms. Shereefa Al-Salem (Kuwait)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	- Ms. Vera Teresinha Rauber Coradin (Brazil)* - Mr. César Augusto Beltetón Chacón (Guatemala)	- Ms. Ella Karina Ramírez (Peru)* - Ms. Delhy Basilia Albert Puentes (Cuba)*
Europe	- Mr. Paulo J.L. Carmo (Portugal) - Mr. Maurizio Sajevo (Italy)*	- Mr. David Kikodze (Georgia) - Ms. Ursula Moser (Switzerland)
North America	Ms. Adrienne Sinclair (Canada; Chair)	Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico)
Oceania	Mr. Greg Leach (Australia)*	Mr. Marika Vuli Tuiwawa (Fiji)

* 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.

Nomenclature specialist	Mr Noel McGough (United Kingdom)*
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3. At its 23rd meeting (PC23, July 2017) the Plants Committee adopted its work plan for 2017-2019 (CoP17-CoP18, [PC23 Doc. 6.2 \(Rev. 1\)](#)), which covers all instructions given to the Plants Committee, or which require consultation with or reporting to the Committee, included in valid Resolutions and Decisions. The work plan has been annotated to provide information regarding the actions taken in fulfilment of the instructions to the Plants Committee (see Annex).
4. At PC24, Dr. Greg Leach, Representative for Oceania, announced that he was stepping down. Dr. Leach served on the Plants Committee from 1997 to 2018. As a dedicated sailor, Greg is aware of the words “thought is the wind and knowledge the sail” as he brought much thought, wisdom and knowledge to his role as regional representative. His organisational skills were quickly tested when he arrived in Pucón, Chile to attend his first Plants Committee and was tasked with organising the next meeting in Darwin. Dr. Leach successfully Chaired Committee I at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in The Hague in 2007 and proudly wears his gold CITES pin to this day. As Co-Chair of the Perennial Plants Working Group at the International Expert Workshop on CITES NDFs, Cancun (Mexico), his contributions significantly enhanced the ability of Parties to make science-based non-detriment findings - the outcomes of his working group formed the basis for the 9 Step Process. Having been actively engaged in the CITES Plants Committee agendas over three decades, Dr. Leach’s judgement, leadership and ability to make the complex simple has enabled advancement on issues that are fundamental to the function and success of CITES. His exceptionally balanced, transparent, and easy-going approach will be missed. The Plants Committee is deeply grateful for Dr. Leach’s contributions and as we know “a bad day sailing is 100 times better than a good day at work” – we wish him many bad days sailing!
5. Prof. Maurizio Sajeve is also stepping down as a European Regional Representative. Prof. Sajeve is a veteran of the first Plants Committee meeting in the UK in 1988 – when 36 participants met at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. With over 30 years’ experience in CITES combined with his encyclopaedic knowledge of cacti and succulents, he has played a critical role in advising on application of the Convention to this group of plants, being one of the first to research plant internet trade. Within his Region he also pioneered the regional meeting-approach to build capacity and share experiences. His experience and lightly carried knowledge will not be lost to CITES. In his university role, he will continue CITES-related research and publications and gently steer his best students to careers in the Convention. Humble, skilled, and committed, he will continue to promote CITES as an ambassador of the Convention. We wish him well.
6. I would also like to recognize Vera Rauber Coradin, who served as the regional representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean from 2004 to 2018, a period during which she represented the countries of the Region in a timely manner and through her extensive knowledge contributed significantly in technical and scientific advice aimed at ensuring effective implementation of the Convention for flora, with emphasis on tree species. Particularly, during the CoP17-CoP18 intersessional period, Vera served as co-chair of the Plants Committee timber identification working group, a task to which she brought an in-depth knowledge of wood anatomy and wood identification techniques. Vera’s presence greatly assisted the Plants Committee to determine how best to assist and strengthen capacities for forensic work on identification of CITES-listed tree species in trade.
7. Furthermore, I would like to thank my colleague, the Chair of the Animals Committee, for sharing co-chairing responsibilities. I have appreciated his leadership, expert advice, and comprehensive discussions to advance the mandates of our Committees.
8. The Plants Committee extends its thanks to working group Chairs and all the working group members who have participated in-sessions and intersessionally. Their contributions and expertise have enabled the Plants Committee to address the directions from the Conference of the Parties.
9. Finally, I would like to thank the Secretariat, especially Karen Gaynor and Maria Isabel Camarena Osorno, for the tireless planning and preparation of documents for the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Plants Committee, and the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendation

10. The Conference of the Parties is invited to note the report of the Plants Committee.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The outcomes of the implementation of the various items of the work plan for 2017-2019 are subject of separate agenda items of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as reflected in the third column of the Annex. The Secretariat provides its comments on these issues under the corresponding agenda items, including tentative budgets and sources of funding in those cases where draft resolutions or decisions are proposed.
- B. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties takes note of the Report of the Chair of the Plants Committee.

PLANTS COMMITTEE PLANNING 2017-2019

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS DIRECTED OR RELEVANT TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE¹

Resolution or Decision	Title	Plants Committee activities
Administrative and financial matters		
Resolution Conf. 17.2	Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2017-2019	No action to report, reference documents under CoP18 agenda item 7 on Administration, finance and budget of the Secretariat and of meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
Strategic matters		
Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17)	Establishment of Committees	The Chair of the Plants Committee co-chaired a working group with the Chair of the Animals Committee to fulfil the mandate and proposed revisions to Resolution 11.1 (Rev. CoP17) accordingly. Progress and outcomes are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 13 (Revision of Resolution Conf. 11.1 [Rev. CoP17] on <i>Establishment of committees</i>)
Decisions 17.4, 17.7, 17.9	Rules of Procedure	
Decision 16.10 (Rev. CoP17)	Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees	The Chair of the Plants Committee reported no concerns with the current procedure nor with the way forward as agreed by the Standing Committee at SC70. Details on this are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 14 (Potential conflicts of interest in the Animals and Plants Committees).
Resolution Conf. 16.3 (Rev. CoP17)	CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020	The Chair of the Plants Committee participated in the Standing Committee's working group. Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 10 (CITES Strategic Vision Post-2020).
Decision 17.18	CITES Strategic Vision	
Resolution Conf. 16.5	Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 15.3 (Global Strategy for Plant Conservation).
Decisions 16.14 (Rev. CoP17), 16.15 (Rev. CoP17), and 16.16 (Rev. CoP17)	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	Activities undertaken are reported in CoP18 Doc. 15.4 (IPBES).
Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)	Non-detriment findings	The Committee welcomed updates from Germany on the 9-step Guidance for making NDFs for perennial plants and tree species at

¹ To the extent possible, Resolutions and Decisions have been clumped thematically (as appropriate), and aligned to CoP18 agenda. Therefore, the structure differs slightly from the PC Work Plan as adopted at PC23.

Resolution or Decision	Title	Plants Committee activities
		<p>PC23 and PC24. At PC24, the Committee also welcomed a draft version of an "Information Guide on the development of sustainable forest management programmes and standardized technical documents for harvesting mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) under CITES" submitted by Mexico. The Committee invited Parties and others to review the Guide, and send their feedback to the Mexican Scientific Authority. The Committee congratulated Germany and Mexico for developing and making available guidance, and encouraged all Parties to continue sharing guidance on making NDFs with the Secretariat and the Plants Committee.</p> <p>The Plants and Animals Committees also considered a set of Decisions to further advance work on non-detriment findings as reported in document CoP18 Doc. 45.</p>
Decisions 17.32, 17.33, 17.34, and 17.35	Capacity building	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 21.1 (Capacity-building and identification materials).
Interpretation and implementation matters / Compliance and enforcement		
Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17)	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	<p>PC23 categorized six species-country combinations as 'action is needed' and adopted recommendations directed to the range States (see PC23 Com.5 [Rev. by Sec.]):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Bulnesia sarmientoi</i>-Paraguay 2) <i>Hoodia gordonii</i>-Namibia 3) <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>-India 4) <i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i>-Nepal 5) <i>Prunus africana</i>-Cameroon 5) <i>Prunus africana</i>-Democratic Republic of the Congo <p>PC24 categorized four species-country combinations as 'action is needed' and adopted recommendations directed to the range States (see PC24 Com. 04 [Rev. By Sec.]):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>-Nicaragua <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>-Panama <i>Pericopsis elata</i>-Democratic

Resolution or Decision	Title	Plants Committee activities
		Republic of the Congo 2) <i>Pericopsis elata</i> -Republic of Congo)
Decision 17.111	Review of Significant Trade	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 29 (Country-wide Significant Trade Reviews).
Resolution Conf. 14.3	CITES compliance procedures	No action to report.
Interpretation and implementation matters / Trade control and traceability		
Decisions 17.89 to 17.91	Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 43 (Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA).
Resolution Conf. 11.19 (Rev. CoP16)	Identification Manual	Activities related to the Identification Manual are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 54.1 (Identification Manual).
Decisions 17.167 and 17.168	Identification (timber)	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 54.2 (Identification of CITES-listed tree species).
Resolution Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15)	Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes	No action to report.
Decisions 16.156 (Rev. CoP17), 17.175, 17.176, and 17.177	Definition of the term 'artificially propagated'	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 59.1 (Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated') and 59.2 (Source codes for plant specimens in trade).
Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP16)	Transport of live specimens	No action to report.
Species specific matters		
Resolution Conf. 16.10	Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 65 (Implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on <i>Implementation of the Convention for agarwood producing taxa [Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.]</i>).
Decision 16.157 (Rev. CoP17), 17.194, 17.197, and 17.199	Agarwood-producing taxa (<i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp.)	
Decisions 17.206 and 17.208	Malagasy ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.)	PC23 noted the reports from Madagascar and the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to continue to support Madagascar, notably by liaising with Parties that have asked Madagascar to share samples from its reference collections. At PC24, the Committee acknowledged Madagascar's progress, encouraged continued scientific work as described in the decisions, and invited Madagascar to continue to update the Plants

Resolution or Decision	Title	Plants Committee activities
		<p>Committee on additional progress in this respect. The Committee also invited Parties and other stakeholders to support Madagascar in its efforts, in line with the country's list of capacity-building priorities. The Committee also agreed to submit amended Decisions 17.204 to 17.206 for consideration at CoP18, in addition to informing the Standing Committee, at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) on the need to review aspects of the Decisions falling under its mandate as presented in document CoP18 Doc. 30.2 on Compliance in relation to Malagasy ebonies (<i>Diospyros</i> spp.) and palisanders (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.).</p> <p>Furthermore, the activities undertaken regarding the nomenclature elements of Decision 17.206 are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 99 (Standard Nomenclature).</p>
Decision 17.234	Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]	Activities undertaken are reported in CoP18 Doc. 74 (Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]).
Decision 16.153 (Rev. CoP17)	East African sandalwood (<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>)	An oral update provided by the representative of Africa was noted at PC24. The Committee agreed to consider Decisions 16.153 (Rev. CoP17) and 16.154 (Rev. CoP17) as completed due to progress achieved, and to propose their deletion to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (see document CoP18 Doc. 25 on Review of Decisions).
Decisions 17.250 to 17.252	African cherry (<i>Prunus africana</i>)	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 80.
Decision 17.302	African tree species	PC24 agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting the retention of Decision 17.302 (see document CoP18 Doc. 25 on Review of Decisions).
Decisions 16.159 (Rev. CoP17)	Neotropical tree species	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 93.
Decisions 17.22 and 17.24	Appendix-I listed species	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 92.
Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17)	Standard nomenclature	Activities undertaken are reported in the Nomenclature Specialist report document CoP18 Doc. 99 on Standard nomenclature (which also reports on the Cactaceae Supplement).
Decision 17.317	Nomenclature: Cactaceae checklist	

Resolution or Decision	Title	Plants Committee activities
Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP17)	Use of annotations in Appendices I and II	No action to report.
Decisions 16.162 (Rev. CoP17), and 16.163	Annotations	The Chair of the Plants Committee chaired a working group on implementation of annotation #15 at PC23 and reported outcomes to SC69. SC69 established a working group chaired by the Chair of the Plants Committee, and agreed to the working group recommendations regarding interpretation of #15. Document CoP18 Doc. 101 on Annotations presents the full report on all activities under the mandate of these decisions.
Decisions 17.318, and 17.319	Annotations for Appendix II orchids	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 102.
Amendment and maintenance of the Appendices		
Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)	Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II	No action to report beyond progress achieved under the periodic review process.
Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP17)	Inclusion of species in Appendix III	Activities undertaken are reported in document CoP18 Doc. 100 (Inclusion of species in Appendix III).
Decisions 17.303 to 17.305	Appendix-III listings	
Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)	Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II	<p>PC23 selected the following seven species as candidates for potential review under Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) during the two intersessional periods from CoP17 to CoP19 (2022), range States volunteered are in bold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Abies guatemalensis</i>; Appendix I; Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, El Salvador 2) <i>Ariocarpus retusus</i>; Appendix I; Mexico 3) <i>Caryocar costaricense</i>; Appendix II; Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela 4) <i>Ceratozamia hildae</i>; Appendix I; Mexico 5) <i>Encephalartos concinnus</i>; Appendix I; Zimbabwe 6) <i>Encephalartos manikensis</i>; Appendix I; Mozambique and Zimbabwe 7) <i>Melocactus paucispinus</i>; Appendix I; Brazil <p>PC23 encouraged the Philippines to continue the compilation of information regarding <i>Hedychium philippinense</i>, and submit a revised</p>

Resolution or Decision	Title	Plants Committee activities
		<p>document to PC24. The Committee noted that Zimbabwe expressed an interest in undertaking a review for <i>Encephalartos concinnus</i> and <i>Encephalartos manikensis</i>.</p> <p>PC24 agreed that, in accordance with paragraph 2 d) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17) on <i>Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II</i>, <i>Dioscorea deltoidea</i> should be deleted from the list of species to be reviewed since no volunteer offered to undertake a review within two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>The Committee requested the Secretariat to publish the updated overview of species under Periodic Review on the CITES website.</p> <p>PC24 determined that, in accordance with subparagraphs 2 g) and h) of Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17), <i>Lewisia serrata</i> reviewed by the United States of America meets the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) for retention in Appendix II. The Committee agreed to report its conclusions to the Conference the Parties, and invited the Secretariat to inform the range State of the conclusions of the Committee.</p>