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

Interpretation and implementation matters

Regulation of trade

AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10.13 (REV. COP15) ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR TIMBER SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee.*

Background

2. At the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee, the Secretariat put forth nine suggestions to update Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on Implementation of the Convention on timber species as follows:

   Changing the title of the Resolution to ‘Implementation of the Convention for tree species’; the addition of more HS codes for types of timber or tree specimens; the addition of a section on identification and forensics for tree species; the addition of a section on marking and traceability; the inclusion of a section on exports and imports; some language on the reasons why some timber cannot be logged and exported in same calendar year; an encouragement to Parties to set voluntary export quotas for each species; concerns about non-detriment findings at species level; the need to use conversion factors when setting export quotas for timber or tree species; and options on what to do with remains of timber that result in clear cut or changes in use of the land.

In response, the Plants Committee requested the Secretariat to submit a document on possible amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (see PC22 SR) to its 23rd meeting.

3. Possible amendments to various sections of the resolution were discussed in documents PC23 Doc. 28 and PC24 Doc. 24, and also included additional suggestions from documents PC24 Doc. 15.1, and PC24 Doc. 21, as well as considerations of the results of a possible new source code as proposed in document PC24 Doc. 16.1. After discussions in an in-session working group, the Plants Committee, at its 24th meeting (PC24, Geneva, July 2018) agreed on potential amendments and recommended to discuss these at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee. The Committee also agreed to examine further the matter brought up in document PC24 Doc. 21, paragraph 18 d) on permitting the use of Annual Allowable Cuts instead of the year of harvest, and implications for Resolutions Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on the management of nationally established export quotas; and invite the Secretariat to examine further how paragraph f) of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) can be made more intelligible.

4. These recommendations were discussed in document SC70 Doc. 63. In the course of discussion, Committee Members expressed varying views on elements of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15). Some Committee Members and Parties disagreed with the recommendation in the Resolutions that any Party that intends to present an amendment proposal for a tree species should consult with at least four different organizations listed in the table found in paragraph 1 of the Resolution. Committee Members and Parties

* 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.
noted that the organisations listed may not always have the correct expertise in particular tree species, or be the most appropriate organizations to consult. Other Parties noted that some other elements of the resolution would benefit from further clarification (such as the ambiguous language of paragraph f) of the Resolution).

5. With regard to the amendments proposed by the Plants Committee, the Standing Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15), as shown in the Annexes to this document (Annex 1 indicates the proposed amendments, and Annex 2 a clean version thereof). Changes are as follows:

a) Replacing ‘timber’ in the title of the Resolution by ‘tree’, and subordinate changes throughout the text, as appropriate;

b) Editorial clarifications and corrections in the section Regarding international organizations;

c) Adding a new section Regarding identification and forensics of tree species; and

d) Moving the section Regarding the public understanding of the role of the convention in the conservation of timber species.

The Standing Committee also noted the concerns about the formulation of the consultation requirements in paragraphs 1 a) and b) of the Resolution expressed by Honduras, Peru and Chile and further noted that other elements of the Resolution might need further clarification.

Recommendations

6. The Conference of the Parties is invited to adopt the proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on Implementation of the Convention for timber species and consider if further amendments are needed to respond to the concerns regarding paragraphs 1a) and b) of the Resolution in particular.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

A. The Secretariat supports the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) as shown in Annex 1 and recommended by the Standing Committee. Additionally, the Secretariat has considered the intention and wording of paragraph 1 f) of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15). The original purpose of that paragraph was to accommodate specific aspects of the international trade in wood and timber that justified, in certain cases, deviations from the general provisions that are laid down in Resolution 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) on Permits and certificates. Similarly, Resolution 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) contains a dedicated section XI Regarding permits and certificates for timber species included in Appendices II and III with the annotation ‘Logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets’, which specifies particular provisions for trade in timber and wood products in greater detail.

B. In both resolutions, the mentioned section applies to cases in which either the validity of the export permit or re-export certificate may be extended beyond the normal maximum of six months after the date of issue, or special procedures should apply for changing the destination on the export permit or re-export certificate. However, in contrast to paragraph 1 f) in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15), section XI of Resolution 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) is strictly limited to logs, sawn wood or veneer sheets. Since it is concerned with permits and certificates, it also does not contain any provisions for specifying deviating provisions in listing proposals of tree species.

C. The Secretariat notes the following:

i) At PC24, the Plants Committee was unable to understand the intention of this paragraph, which seems to indicate that it is not required in the work of the CITES Plants Committee;

ii) The Secretariat is unable to recall instances when the provisions in paragraph 1 f) of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) where actually referred to in listing proposals; and
iii) The Secretariat confirms that special provisions for extending the period of validity of, and/or changing the destination on the export permit or re-export certificate are justified for logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets, as provided for in Resolution 12.3 (Rev. CoP17). However, the Secretariat is inclined to believe that such special provisions are not justified for other, more highly processed, tree products, which would in consequence obviate the need for paragraph 1 f) of Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15).

D. Therefore, the Secretariat recommends the Conference of the Parties adopt the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) as reflected in Annex 1 of the present document, with the deletion of paragraph 1) f) of the Resolution in the light of the considerations under paragraph C above.
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10.13 (REV. COP15) ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR TIMBER SPECIES

(deleted text is shown in strikeout; new text is underlined; moved text is underlined twice)

Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP158)
Implementation of the Convention for timber tree species

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

ARE you 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;

ARE you 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 timber 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 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 timber 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;

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

NOTING that some timber 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 timber 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

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* 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 timber tree species, including for the implementation of paragraph 3 h) of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17), the Secretariat should seek the views of FAO, ITTO, ITTO, and IUCN and present these to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate:

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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).
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 44.032²);

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;

Regarding amendment proposals for timber tree species

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

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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 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:

f) where these parts and derivatives are not logs, sawn wood or veneer sheets, the proponent also
propose the relevant amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) if the procedures for extending
the period of validity of, and/or changing the destination on, the export permit or re-export certificate
should apply;

Regarding the definition of 'artificially propagated'

g) 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 improvement of public understanding of the role of the Convention in the conservation
of tree species

h) 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

i) 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;

Regarding timber tree species of concern

j) the range States pay particular attention to internationally traded timber tree species within their
territories for which the knowledge of the biological status and sylvicultural requirements gives cause
for concern; and

Regarding the establishment of export quotas for timber tree species

k) 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;

Regarding identification and forensics for tree species

l) 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

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
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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10.13 (REV. COP15) ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR TIMBER SPECIES

(clean version)

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 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;

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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;

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   * 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. CoP15)\(^3\), the Secretariat should seek the views of FAO, ITTO and IUCN and present these to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate;

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\(^3\) 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).
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, pulpwod or veneer sheets (HS code 44.032^2);

ii) Sawn wood

Wood simply sawn lengthwise or produced by a profile-chipping process. Sawn wood normally exceeds 6 mm in thickness (HS code 44.06^2, HS code 44.07^2);

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 44.08^2); 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 44.12.13^2, HS code 44.12.14^2, and HS code 44.12.22^2); 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;

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; and

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^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:

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† 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:

f) where these parts and derivatives are not logs, sawn wood or veneer sheets, the proponent also propose the relevant amendment to Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP17) if the procedures for extending the period of validity of, and/or changing the destination on, the export permit or re-export certificate should apply;

**Regarding the definition of ‘artificially propagated’**

g) 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**

h) the range States pay particular attention to internationally traded tree species within their territories for which the knowledge of the biological status and sylvicultural requirements gives cause for concern;

**Regarding the establishment of export quotas for tree species**

i) 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;

**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.
According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding.

The authors of this document propose the resources implications associated with the proposed modifications to the Resolution are minor and can be absorbed within the regular budget and functions of the Secretariat.