

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

Species specific matters

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 16.10 ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR AGARWOOD-PRODUCING TAXA  
(AQUILARIA SPP. AND GYRINOPS SPP.)

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

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties revised Decision 16.157 (Rev. CoP17), and additionally adopted a new set of Decisions on *Agarwood-producing taxa* (*Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops spp.*), as follows:

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

16.157 (Rev. CoP17)

*The Plants Committee shall monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, and shall report on these issues at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

***Directed to the Secretariat in collaboration with the Plants Committee***

17.194 *Range, transit, consumer, and producer Parties of agarwood products are invited to compile and publish identification manuals on agarwood products, taking into consideration the updated version of the Glossary provided in the Annex to document PC22 Doc.17.5.3, and any further updated version, if appropriate. They are encouraged to distribute these identification manuals as training material to management and enforcement officials.*

***Directed to range States for agarwood producing taxa***

17.195 *Subject to available funding, the range States shall generate and compile biological and ecological data as well as information on the harvest, trade and management of agarwood-producing species in the wild. Range states are requested to report this information at the regional agarwood workshop referred to in Decision 17.197, and agree on regional priorities to ensure the survival of populations of agarwood-producing species in the wild.*

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\* 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.

### **Directed to range States of agarwood producing taxa**

17.196 *The range States are invited to develop policies to encourage the sustainable use of and trade in parts and derivatives of artificially propagated agarwood-producing trees.*

### **Directed to the Secretariat**

17.197 *Subject to external funding, the Secretariat, in cooperation with agarwood range States and the Plants Committee, shall organize a regional workshop to: continue the work of the Asian Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa, hosted by the Government of India in Guwahati, Assam, India, from 19 to 23 January 2015 with an emphasis on how range States can cooperate to ensure the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species in the wild through agarwood plantation programmes that integrate forest recovery programmes; and strengthen the agarwood network for sharing information on planting stocks, management, technologies, harvest and trade.*

17.198 *The Secretariat will report to the Plants Committee meeting on the implementation of Decisions 17.194 and 17.197 prior to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES.*

### **Directed to the Plants Committee**

17.199 *The Plants Committee will consider the report of the Secretariat submitted in accordance with Decision 17.198 and report accordingly to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

### **Directed to consumer and trading Parties for agarwood producing taxa**

17.200 *Consumer and trading countries of agarwood are encouraged to contribute financially towards the in situ conservation of wild populations of agarwood-producing species in range States and foster cooperation between in situ conservation programmes and the fragrance industry for the promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of agarwood-producing species.*

### Progress in the implementation of Agarwood Decisions

3. At its 23rd meeting (PC23, Geneva, July 2017), the Plants Committee considered the oral update by its Chair on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 and Decision 16.157 (Rev. CoP17), as well as document [PC23 Doc. 20.2](#) by the Secretariat, which focused on progress in the implementation of Decisions 17.194-197. On the basis of this, the Plants Committee noted the updated *Glossary of agarwood products*, which was prepared as a joint effort by the Management Authorities of Kuwait and China, and of which hard copies had been distributed at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Following the agreements of PC23, the Secretariat made the *Glossary* available on the CITES website, and on the dedicated page on identification materials<sup>1</sup> on the CITES website. The document is available in five languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish.
4. Further to the above, the Secretariat issued Notification to Parties No. [2017/058](#) of 10 August 2017, which included under its paragraph 2 e) a request for any other identification materials on agarwood-producing taxa by 10 September 2017. The Secretariat did not receive additional identification materials from range, transit, consumer, or producer Parties of agarwood products in response to this part of the Notification.
5. At its 24th meeting, the Plants Committee considered two agenda items on agarwood-producing taxa:
  - a) item 17.1 (no document), which consisted of the report of the Plants Committee on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10. The Plants Committee requested its Chair and the representative of Oceania (Mr. Leach) to revise Decision 16.157 (Rev. CoP17) and draft a new decision in order to identify the best way for the Plants Committee to obtain data on the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10; and
  - b) document [PC24 Doc. 17.2](#) by the Secretariat, which provided updates on the implementation of Decision 17.194 and Decision 17.197, noting that for the latter, the necessary resources (which could entail between 100,000 and 120,000 USD) had not been secured. The Secretariat also provided updates on the *2nd Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa* from 28-29 June 2018 in Indonesia, which was held jointly with the *CITES Tree Species Programme Regional*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cites.org/eng/prog/identification/index.php> (this page is under construction)

*Meeting for Asia*, within the framework of the EU-funded CITES-ITTO project on “*Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant*”. In the framework of that workshop, one day and a half was dedicated to accommodate the discussions called for in Decision 17.197. Details of this workshop can be found in the Annex 1 to the present document

6. It is also worth mentioning that Malaysia has been selected for a project under the CITES Tree Species Programme that is entitled *Establishment of Arboreta and Strengthening Institutional Network for the Conservation of Aquilaria malaccensis in Peninsular Malaysia*. Further information on this will be provided by the Secretariat under document CoP18 Doc. 16.
7. The above information was reported to the Plants Committee at its 24th meeting (Geneva, July 2018), which considered that Decisions 16.157 (Rev. CoP17), and 17.194 to 17.200 were completed, and proposed two new draft decisions for consideration at CoP18, as presented in Annex 2 to the present document.

#### Recommendations

8. The Conference of Parties is invited to:
  - a) consider the adoption of the draft decisions on *Agarwood-producing taxa (Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.)*, presented in Annex 2; and
  - b) agree that Decisions 16.157 (Rev. CoP17), and 17.194 to 17.200 can be deleted.

#### COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The draft decisions proposed in Annex 2 on *Agarwood-producing taxa* reflect the outcomes of the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.
- B. The Secretariat notes that the mandate to carry out the study mentioned under draft decisions 18.AA and 18.BB could further clarified. It is unusual to ask the Plants Committee to decide about the need for a technical study during an intersessional period without the possibility of including it, if approved, in the Secretariat's budget planning process. Therefore, the Secretariat brings forward for consideration of the Parties the following revisions (underlined and ~~strikethrough~~):

#### ***Directed to the Plants Committee***

18.AA The Plants Committee shall:

- a) monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, by:
  - i) developing a questionnaire on gaps in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* to be circulated to the Parties through a Notification, and analysing the responses received;
  - ii) examining available trade data; and
  - iii) analysing available data on the conservation status of agarwood-producing species; and
- ~~b) based on the responses to the questionnaire, analysis of available trade data, and analysis of available data on conservation status, advise on the need for a study to further assess any potential conservation impacts, and if so, request the Secretariat to commission a study; and~~
- be) report findings and recommendations to, as appropriate, at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and advise on the need for a study to further assess impacts of harvest, management and trade in agarwood products on the conservation of agarwood-producing species in the wild.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

18.BB The Secretariat shall assist the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decision 18.AA, ~~including, subject to external funding, commissioning a study to assess any potential conservation impacts based on advice from the Plants Committee.~~

- C. With regard to the outcomes of the workshop on the management of wild and planted agarwood taxa (Annex 1), the Secretariat notes that some recommendations lack specificity and it would be difficult to act upon them or measure their success. The workshop also did not identify resources for their implementation. Some are calling upon the CITES Trees Species Programme [recommendations 2 a) to c)], but the workshop participants are not part of the governance framework of this programme.
- D. The Secretariat recommends the adoption of the draft decisions presented in Annex 2, with the amendments presented in paragraph B supra by the Secretariat in underline and strikethrough, and the deletion of Decisions 16.157 (Rev. CoP17), and 17.194 to 17.200.

**2nd Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa  
28-29 June, 2018  
Indonesia**

**Summary of outcomes**

The workshop had around 60 participants from 11 range States, relevant institutions, and the Secretariat. In conclusion, the participants considered Decision 17.197 as completed. In the workshop, discussions took place in two working groups (one on agarwood from natural forests and one on plantations) resulting in the following recommendations:

(1) Working group on Natural Forest Management:

- a. Enhance law enforcement, management and supervision for producing and importing countries to prevent the smuggling of agarwood.
- b. Encourage the establishment of an exchange platform/mechanism for sharing information on technology and knowledge among range States.
- c. Encourage range States to rationalize national laws to promote tree cultivation, felling and processing by traders and local communities.
- d. Encourage range States, as appropriate, to adopt and implement measures to create a national agarwood species fund that would collect fees paid by users of agarwood-producing populations. Such funds could assist in strengthening the implementation of national strategies to ensure the conservation, sustainable management and international trade of agarwood products.
- e. Establish a forum, potentially hosted on the CTSP website, to enable stakeholders to share information and knowledge on agarwood, including inoculation methodologies, as appropriate.
- f. Encourage the engagement of the private sector and agarwood industries in the effective implementation of sustainable agarwood resource management.
- g. Invite the private sector to contribute financially to the organization of a follow-up meeting to discuss management strategies that balance the use of planted and natural forests for agarwood production.
- h. Protect, restore and sustainably use wild populations of agarwood in range States, as needed and appropriate.

(2) Working group on plantations:

- a. The CTSP, in collaboration with ITTO, should produce a report to cover:
  - I. An up-to-date global overview on the status of conservation of agarwood-producing species.
  - II. An up-to-date global compilation of:
    - i. technologies for producing agarwood products
    - ii. current inoculation methods
    - iii. case studies on best practices
    - iv. terminology for agarwood products.
  - III. Recommendations on how best to balance management of natural and planted agarwood-producing forests.
- b. The proposed contents of the above-mentioned report will be circulated to participating Parties before they are finalized and the substantive work on the report begins.
- c. The CTSP, in collaboration with ITTO, will organize a validation workshop before publishing the report to receive and take into account the views of stakeholders and range States concerned.

- d. Countries should consider safeguards to avoid the conversion of natural forests to agarwood plantations.
- e. Where appropriate, growers and managers should consider mixing agarwood-producing species with other species in agroforestry and other mixed plantations to reduce production risks.
- f. The planting programme of agarwood species should consider genetic diversity within species and should not move seeds or planting material outside the distribution range into the area of natural distribution. This would not apply when planting outside the natural range of the species.
- g. Tree improvement programmes can be taken up in the agarwood species to improve the growth, productivity, agarwood production and quality of agarwood/ oil, in which variability exists.
- h. Range States should adopt agarwood export policies in which quotas may be imposed on the collection and processing of agarwood from natural forests to ensure the sustainability of the genetic resource.
- i. Range States should maintain proper records of the origin of seeds and planting materials, and plantation management, to help ensure environmental safety.
- j. Range States should consider adopting registration and verification systems for agarwood plantations.
- k. Range States should consider providing an enabling policy and legal framework for agarwood production, including monetary and fiscal incentives, to promote the cultivation and trade of agarwood.

**Draft decisions on *Agarwood-producing taxa (Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.)***

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

18.AA The Plants Committee shall:

- a) monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* to assess any potential conservation impacts to the long-term survival of agarwood-producing species and possible problems arising from the implementation, by:
  - i) developing a questionnaire to be circulated to the Parties through a Notification, and analysing the responses received;
  - ii) examining available trade data; and
  - iii) analysing available data on the conservation status of agarwood-producing species.
- b) based on the responses to the questionnaire, analysis of available trade data, and analysis of available data on conservation status, advise on the need for a study to further assess any potential conservation impacts, and if so, request the Secretariat to commission a study; and
- c) report findings and recommendations, as appropriate, at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

18.BB The Secretariat shall assist the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decision 18.AA, including, subject to external funding, commissioning a study to assess any potential conservation impacts based on advice from the Plants Committee.

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

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 following tentative budget and source of funding.

Plants Committee:

Draft decision 18.AA will increase the workload of the Plants Committee, which will need to develop a questionnaire, and gather and analyse information. Draft decision 18.BB leaves open how much of this effort is expected to be taken over by the Secretariat.

Secretariat:

Circulating a questionnaire to Parties is an activity that can be accommodated within the daily routine of the Secretariat. Commissioning a technical study on conservation impacts would require external funds in the range of 50,000 to 100,000 USD, depending on its exact specifications.