

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

AFRICAN CHERRY (*PRUNUS AFRICANA*)

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

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on *Prunus africana*:

Decision directed to the Secretariat

17.250 *The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *organize, 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 at its 24th meeting about the recommendations made by the International Workshop for consideration and advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*.*

Directed to exporting and importing Parties of African cherry (*Prunus africana*)

- 17.251 *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 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.*

* *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.*

Decision directed to: Plants Committee

17.252 *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 advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*; 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.*

Progress in the implementation of Decisions 17.250 to 17.252

3. At its 23rd meeting (PC23, Geneva, July 2017), the Plants Committee considered document [PC23 Doc. 23](#) by the Secretariat. In this document, the Secretariat noted that it was trying to identify donors interested in contributing to the organization of *the International Workshop on the sustainable use and control of international trade in Prunus Africana*, requested in Decision 17.250.
4. At its 24th meeting (PC24, Geneva, July 2018), the Plants Committee considered document [PC24 Doc. 20](#) by the Secretariat. The Secretariat reported that it had been unable to secure specific funding for the workshop. However, the Secretariat and the European Union (EU), the main donor of the of the EU-CITES project “*Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant*”, had agreed that the *CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Africa* could include some discussions on the implementation of Decision 17.250. The United Republic of Tanzania kindly offered to host that regional meeting, which is being organized in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and foreseen to take place in spring 2019 (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 11 to 15 March 2019). The participation of *Prunus africana* range States and relevant Parties is under review, but will largely depend upon available resources. Efforts will also be made to make arrangements for at least one Plants Committee Member for Africa to participate in discussions about *Prunus africana*.
5. Document [PC24 Doc. 20](#) further highlighted that four projects on *Prunus africana* will be undertaken in the framework of the CITES Trees Species Programme in Burundi, Cameroun, Madagascar, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see document CoP18 Doc. 16).
6. The Secretariat remarked in document [PC24 Doc. 20](#) that the trade in specimens of *Prunus africana* is a good example of large-scale use of, and trade in CITES-listed medicinal plant products. The Secretariat prepared information documents [PC24 Inf. 7](#) and [SC70 Inf. 36](#) on specific features of the international trade in medicinal plants such as *Prunus africana*, highlighting the role of CITES. In this regard, the Secretariat submitted document CoP18 Doc. 55 noting it could contribute to ongoing discussions concerning conservation of and trade in *Prunus africana*, and more broadly generate interest among Parties about medicinal and aromatic plants in trade.
7. After considering document [PC24 Doc. 20](#), the Plants Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the draft decisions on *Prunus africana* contained in Annex 1 to this document.

Recommendations

8. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
 - a) adopt the draft decisions on *Prunus africana* presented in Annex 1; and
 - b) agree to delete Decisions 17.250 to 17.252.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

A. The Secretariat recommends the adoption of the Plants Committee's proposals in paragraph 8 of the present document with the following amendments:

a) In order to clarify reporting between the Plants and Standing Committees:

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.CC The Standing Committee shall review any report received from the Plants Committee on the implementation of Decisions 18.AA, and provide recommendations as appropriate to the Parties and the Plants Committee.

b) To align the decisions with paragraph 4 above, the Secretariat suggests to replace the term 'international workshop' in 18.AA a) and 18.BB with '*Prunus africana*-related discussions within the CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Africa'.

c) To better specify the report to be submitted by the Plants Committee to the Standing Committee, the Secretariat proposes to amend 18.AA b):

submit a report on the outcomes of Decision 18.AA a), and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

B. Thus, the complete decisions would read:

Directed to the Plants Committee

18.AA The Plants Committee shall:

a) review the recommendations from the *Prunus africana*-related discussions within the '*CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Africa*' for consideration and advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*; and

b) submit a report on the outcomes of Decision 18.AA a), and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

18.BB The Secretariat shall report to the Plants Committee at its 25th meeting about the recommendations from the *Prunus africana*-related discussions within the '*CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Africa*' for consideration and advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*.

Directed to the Standing Committee

18.CC The Standing Committee shall review any report received from the Plants Committee on the implementation of Decisions 18.AA, and provide recommendations as appropriate to the Parties and the Plants Committee.

C. As shown in Annex 2, the Secretariat believes that the implementation of the proposed draft decisions would have no additional budget implications.

Draft decisions on *Prunus africana*

18.AA Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) review the recommendations from the International Workshop for consideration and advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*; and
- b) submit a report and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee, as appropriate, and report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

18.BB Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall report to the Plants Committee at its 25th meeting about the recommendations made by the International Workshop for consideration and advice to the range States of *Prunus africana*.

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.

The proposed draft decisions have no direct extra-budgetary implications but will increase the workload of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat.