

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

CITES COP HISTORY RELEVANT TO NON-CITES LISTED SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Sri Lanka, Switzerland, and United States of America in relation to agenda items 66, 79 and 94.*

Introduction

2. This information document has been compiled to support the discussions and draft decisions provided in documents [CoP18 Doc. 66](#), Trade in *Boswellia* spp. (*Burseraceae*), as submitted by Sri Lanka and the United States of America; [CoP18 Doc. 79](#), Songbird trade and conservation management (*Passeriformes*), as submitted by Sri Lanka and the United States of America; and [CoP18 Doc. 94](#), Conservation management of and trade in marine ornamental fishes, as submitted by the European Union, Switzerland, and the United States of America. It reflects a CITES history that shows Parties have taken actions for non-CITES species at past meetings of the Conference of the Parties and that no new precedents will be made in drafting Decisions and Resolutions for both animal and plants when considering non-CITES species. We recognize there are work and resource issues associated with taking actions, such as adopting Decisions for non-CITES species, but it has been done as a past practice when circumstances are deemed important and appropriate.

Background

3. Under CITES, Parties have in several cases discussed and adopted Decisions or Resolutions concerning species that were not at that time included in the Appendices. In some cases, Resolutions or Decisions were adopted in response to a proposal to amend the Appendices while in other cases Resolutions or Decisions were adopted in response to the submission of discussion documents. The Decisions or Resolutions related to non-listed taxa have generally focused on compiling available data and information on the biology, population status, use and trade of non-CITES listed species, as well as identifying gaps in such data and information; often the Animals Committee or Plants Committee has been directed to undertake such analyses. In several cases, this work provided important information to inform decision-making by the Parties as to whether the species met the criteria for inclusion in the Appendices, and whether CITES could contribute to the conservation and management of the species concerned. Such analyses and information collection can also be used as a proactive way to identify and address conservation management issues so that a species may not end up meeting the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I or Appendix II, and that CITES regulation may not be needed in the future. These discussions and actions have proven to be an effective part of the CITES process.
4. This document presents a non-exhaustive list of precedents and initiatives for non-CITES fauna and flora that have been taken by the CoP.

* *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.*

Fauna examples:

5. Sharks

In 1994, the United States submitted a document to the Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP9; Fort Lauderdale 1994) on the trade in shark parts and products ([CoP9 Doc. 9.58](#)), before any shark species were listed in the CITES Appendices. Discussions at CoP9 pursuant to this document led to the adoption by the Parties of [Resolution Conf. 9.17](#) on the *Status of International Trade in Shark Species*. The Resolution requested, among other actions, that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and international fishery management organizations establish programmes to collect and assemble important biological and trade data on shark species. At the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP10; Harare 1997), the Parties adopted several Decisions aiming at effective implementation of Resolution Conf. 9.17, again while no shark species were yet listed in the CITES Appendices ([CoP10 Doc. 10.51](#)). These included improving systems to identify, record and report landings of sharks, reducing the mortality of sharks in bycatch, and initiating management of shark fisheries at the national level and establishing international and regional bodies to coordinate management of shark fisheries. In 2000, at the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP11; Gigiri 2000), the United States submitted a proposal to include *Rhincodon typus* (whale shark) in Appendix II ([CoP11 Prop. 11.47](#)), Australia and the United States submitted a proposal to include *Carcharodon carcharias* (great white shark) in Appendix I ([CoP11 Prop. 11.48](#)), and the United Kingdom submitted a proposal to include *Cetorhinus maximus* (basking shark) in Appendix II ([CoP11 Prop. 11.49](#)) - all three proposals were rejected by the Parties. Later in 2000, at the request of the United Kingdom the basking shark was included in Appendix III, the first shark species to be included in the Appendices. Then in 2001, at the request of Australia, the great white shark was also included in Appendix III.¹

6. Edible-nest swiftlets

Italy submitted a proposal ([CoP9 Prop. 41](#)) to CoP9 to include edible-nest swiftlets in the genus *Collocalia* (Aves, Apodiformes) in Appendix II. Although the proposal was withdrawn, the discussions of this issue resulted in the adoption of [Resolution Conf. 9.15](#) on *Conservation of Edible-nest Swiftlets of the Genus Collocalia*. Among other actions, the Resolution encourages scientific research to promote the sustainability of nest harvesting through standardized management programmes; to explore ways of enhancing participation of representatives of the bird-nest industry in swiftlet conservation and sustainable-use programmes; and to review regulations controlling harvesting of wild-breeding swiftlet populations. The Resolution also requested the CITES Secretariat to convene a technical workshop to establish conservation priorities and actions to achieve sustainability of swiftlet-nest harvesting. The workshop took place in Surabaya (Indonesia) November 4-7, 1996 and was attended by 100 participants, developed several conservation management recommendations subsequently adopted by the Parties at CoP10.² These recommendations have been implemented by range countries.

7. Seahorses

In 2000, the United States and Australia submitted a document to CoP11 ([CoP11 Doc. 11.36](#)) on the trade in seahorses and other members of the family Syngnathidae; at that time, no seahorse species were included in the Appendices. This document sought to promote discussion among Parties, researchers, and interested trade entities, in an effort to advance the sustainable use of syngnathids, which are extremely vulnerable to over-exploitation. As a result of discussions at CoP11, the Parties adopted [Decisions 11.97 and 11.153](#) on seahorses and other members of the family Syngnathidae to take action for the management and

¹ [Shark History](#) (CITES website)

² [CoP10 Doc. 10.50 \(Rev.\)](#)

conservation of these fishes. The Parties requested that the CITES Secretariat convene a technical workshop to consider and review biological and trade information that would assist in establishing conservation priorities and actions to secure the conservation status of seahorses and other syngnathids. In 2002, the United States submitted a proposal at the Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12; Santiago 2002) to include *Hippocampus* spp. in Appendix II ([CoP12 Prop.37](#)). The proposal was adopted and entered into force on May 15, 2004.

8. Sea cucumbers

In 2002, the United States submitted a document to CoP12 ([CoP12 Doc. 45](#)) on the trade in sea cucumbers in the families Holothuridae and Stichopodidae. The document pointed out issues to be taken into account when considering whether a CITES listing is appropriate for and can contribute to the conservation of holothurians, including taxonomic uncertainties, ability to distinguish taxa in the form they are traded, adequacy of biological information for making non-detriment findings, and the ability to determine legal acquisition. The CITES Secretariat welcomed this document and acknowledged that “similar initiatives concerning non-CITES taxa (e.g. seahorses, freshwater turtles) have proven to be effective in establishing whether a listing can contribute to the conservation and management of the species concerned.”³ The Parties adopted [Decision 12.60](#) directing the Animals Committee to prepare, for consideration at the Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP13; Bangkok 2004), a discussion paper on the biological and trade status of sea cucumbers in the above families to provide scientific guidance on the actions needed to secure their conservation status, and [Decision 12.61, which](#) directed to the Secretariat to convene a technical workshop to consider and review biological and trade information. The CITES technical workshop took place in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) March 1-3, 2004, and was preceded by another forum on sea cucumber conservation, convened by the FAO in Dalian (China) in October 2003⁴. On October 16, 2003, Ecuador included *Isostichopus fuscus* in Appendix III and currently remains the only country that has listed a species of sea cucumber in Appendix III.⁵ The European Union, Kenya, Senegal, Seychelles and the United States have submitted a proposal for consideration at the present meeting to include three species in the subgenus *Holothuria (Microthele)*: *Holothuria (Microthele) fuscogilva*, *Holothuria (Microthele) nobilis* and *Holothuria (Microthele) whitmaei* in Appendix II ([CoP18 Prop. 45](#)).

9. Toothfish

Australia submitted a proposal to CoP12 ([CoP12 Prop. 39](#)) to include *Dissostichus eleginoides* and *D. mawsonii* (Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish) in Appendix II, although the proposal was eventually withdrawn after extensive discussion⁶. As a result of the discussion on the proposal, the Parties adopted [Resolution 12.4 on Cooperation between CITES and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources \(CCAMLR\) Regarding Trade in Toothfish](#), urging Parties to cooperate with international efforts to eradicate illicit, unregulated and unreported fishing, and [Decisions 12.57 to 12.59, aimed at](#) compiling the information on the use of and verification requirements for *Dissostichus* Catch Documents (used by CCAMLR) provided by Parties and sharing this information to CITES Parties and to CCAMLR. Pursuant to Resolution Conf. 12.4, CCAMLR has reported on this issue to every CoP since the Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14; The Hague 2007).⁷ At the Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2016 (CoP17; Johannesburg 2016), the Parties considered a document ([CoP17 Doc. 14.3](#)) submitted by the Secretariat, which led to the adoption of [Decisions 17.50 and 17.51 on Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources](#), inviting Parties that are or

³ Comments from the Secretariat, [CoP12 Doc. 12.45](#)

⁴ Implementation of Decision 12.60, [CoP13 Doc. 37.2](#)

⁵ FAO 2010; [Managing sea cucumber fisheries with an ecosystem approach](#), p. 110

⁶ [CoP12 Proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II: Results](#)

⁷ CCAMLR Reports to CITES: [CoP14 Doc. 61](#), [CoP15 Doc. 10.3](#), [CoP16 Doc. 63 \(Rev. 1\)](#), [CoP17 Doc. 14.3](#), [CoP18 Doc. 15.2](#)

have been involved in the harvest of, or trade in, toothfish to submit information on their implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.4.

10. Banggai cardinalfish

In 2007, the United States submitted a proposal to CoP14 ([CoP14 Prop. 19](#)) to include the Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) in Appendix II, which was eventually withdrawn after extensive discussion. In 2016 at CoP17, the European Union submitted a proposal ([CoP17 Prop. 46](#)) to include the species in Appendix II, which was again withdrawn after extensive discussion. At CoP17, as a result of these discussions, Decisions on the conservation of this species were adopted as [Decision 17.259, which urged](#) Indonesia to implement conservation and management measures to ensure that international trade in *P. kauderni* was sustainable, and to report progress on these measures to the Animals Committee at its 30th meeting; and as [Decision 17.260, which](#) directed the Secretariat to commission a study to assess the impact of international trade on the conservation status of the species and to advise on suitable conservation and management measures.

11. Snakes

The United States of America and the People's Republic of China submitted a document to the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15; Doha 2010) ([CoP15 Doc. 48](#)), "*Snake Trade and Conservation Management*". The majority of snake species affected by international trade are Asian species and are non-CITES-listed species. The trade in non-CITES-listed snakes is generally not reported to or recorded by the national authorities. Discussions of this CoP15 document led to the adoption of Decisions 15.75 to 15.78 ([Decisions in effect after CoP15](#), p. 24), subsequent snake trade related Decisions at CoP16 (Thailand, 2013) and CoP17, and ultimately led to the adoption of [Resolution Conf. 17.12](#) on *Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes*. The inclusion by China of the Mangshan pit viper (*Protobothrops <Trimeresurus> mangshanensis*) in Appendix II at CoP16 was informed by these Decisions which included the CITES Asian Snake Trade Workshop held in 2011 in China.

12. Eels

Germany submitted a proposal to CoP14 ([CoP14 Prop. 18](#)) to include the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) in Appendix II, which was adopted by the Parties and entered into force in 2009. In 2016, the European Union submitted a document to CoP17 ([CoP17 Doc. 51](#)) on the *Conservation of and Trade in Anguilla spp.* Discussions at CoP17 of this issue led to the adoption of [Decision 17.186](#), which directed the Secretariat to contract independent consultants to undertake a study on non-CITES listed *Anguilla* species to compile available data and information on the biology, population status, use and trade in each species, as well as identifying gaps in such data and information, and to organize international technical workshops; and [Decision 17.187, which](#) directed range States and Parties involved in trade in *Anguilla* spp. to convene regional meetings to discuss how to fill the information gaps and ensure long-term sustainability in the face of increasing demand from international trade.

13. African wild dog

Burkina Faso submitted a document to CoP17 ([CoP17 Doc. 63](#)), titled "*Guidelines to determine the possible impact of trade in lycaons (Lycaon pictus) on the conservation of the species.*" Discussions of this document led to the adoption of [Decisions 17.235 to 17.238](#) on *African wild dog*. Although the species is not included in the Appendices, the Parties adopted Decision 17.235, which encourages range States to take measures to prevent illegal trade in African wild dog and to consider including the species in Appendix III.

Flora examples

14. Devil's claw

At CoP11, two species of *Harpagophytum* were proposed for inclusion in CITES Appendix II ([CoP11 Prop. 11.60](#)). These proposals were withdrawn with the adoption of two Decisions, [Dec. 11.63](#) & [Dec. 11.111](#), requesting “all available” biological, management and trade information on the genus and directing the Plants Committee to review and report on the information. To implement these decisions, the Scientific Authority of Germany supported research into the trade, management, and biological status of these species, submitting a document for consideration at the tenth meeting of the Plants Committee in 2000 (PC10; Shepherdstown) ([PC10 Doc. 10.7.2](#)). At its Twelfth meeting in 2002 (PC12; Leiden 2002), the Plants Committee considered a report from Germany summarizing the information provided in terms of Decision 11.63 and reviewing available data on the biological and trade status of *Harpagophytum* species subject to international trade, as directed by Decision 11.111 ([PC12 Doc. 18.1](#)). This further led to the Parties adopting [Decisions 12.63-65](#) at CoP12 and [Decision 13.60](#) at CoP13. At its Fifteenth meeting in 2005 (PC15; Geneva 2005), the Plants Committee discussed progress implementing the Decisions, including information document [PC15 Inf. 11](#), and recommended that certain range countries should provide reports to the Secretariat ([PC15 Summary Record](#), p. 18). This information was subsequently discussed at its Sixteenth meeting in 2006 (PC16; Lima 2006) ([PC16 Doc. 16](#)), where the Plants Committee decided that the tasks assigned to it under Decision 13.60 had been completed ([PC16 Summary Record](#), p. 29). The Plants Committee further lauded the *Harpagophytum* review and proposed to include it as a case study demonstrating the contributions of the Plants Committee to plant conservation in response to Target 11 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (that no species of wild flora endangered by international trade; [GSPC 2011-2020](#)), noting: “Even on non-listed taxa such as *Harpagophytum*, the Plants Committee has facilitated collaboration between range States to ensure that harvest of this taxa is sustainable in such a way that the inclusion into CITES Appendices is not needed” ([PC16 Summary Record](#), pp. 26-27).

15. Neotropical Timber Species

In 2007 at CoP14, proposals submitted by Germany on behalf of the European Member States acting in the Interest of the EU to include *Cedrela odorata* ([CoP14 Prop. 33](#)), *Dalbergia retusa* *D. granadillo* ([CoP14 Prop. 31](#)), and *D. stevensonii* ([CoP14 Prop. 32](#)) in Appendix II were rejected. However, the Parties adopted an Action Plan in [Decision 14.146](#) directing the Plants Committee “to complete knowledge on the status of conservation of, trade in and sustainable use of” these species. At the time, only *Cedrela odorata* was included in Appendix III.⁸ *Dalbergia retusa* and *D. stevensonii* were included in Appendix III in 2008 and *D. granadillo* was included in Appendix II in 2013.⁹ Meanwhile, at its Seventeenth and Eighteenth meetings (PC17; Geneva 2008 and PC18; Buenos Aires 2009), the Plants Committee established in-session working groups to outline the methodology and format for obtaining information requested in the Action Plan; analyze and discuss the information obtained; and to make recommendations that might include submitting proposals to include the species in the CITES Appendices at CoP15 (see documents [PC17 Doc. 16.3](#) and [PC18 Doc. 13.3](#)). At CoP15, the Parties reviewed progress on implementing the decisions in [CoP15 Doc. 57](#) ([CoP15 Com. I. Rec. 3 \(Rev. 2\)](#)) and to revise the draft decision ([CoP15 Com. I.2](#)). The Parties adopted a revised Decision to continue work on the Action Plan and two new decisions that would align efforts on these species with the Bigleaf Mahogany Work Group (which was renamed the Neotropical Trees Working Group), and to seek the support of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to address the knowledge gaps for these species (ref. Decision 14.146 (Rev. CoP15) and Decisions 15.92-15.93 ([Decisions in effect after CoP15](#), p. 28). Focused discussions on these species continued at subsequent meetings of the Plants Committee and the Conference of the Parties. At CoP17 in 2016, the Neotropical Trees Working Group reported progress on Decision 15.92 ([CoP17 Doc. 76](#)) and amendment proposals on *Dalbergia* species were submitted by several range countries for consideration by the Parties,¹⁰ culminating in the inclusion of the

⁸ *Cedrela odorata* has been included in Appendix III, 2001-present. The entire genus is proposed for inclusion in Appendix II on the present agenda ([CoP18 Prop. 57](#)).

⁹ As of CoP17 (2016, South Africa), the entire genus *Dalbergia* is included in the Appendices (all are Appendix II with the exception of *D. nigra* (in Appendix I)).

¹⁰ *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* ([CoP17 Prop. 53](#), submitted by Thailand); *Dalbergia calderonii*, *D. calycina*, *D. congestiflora*, *D. cubilquitzensis*, *D. glomerata*, *D. longipedunculata*, *D. luteola*, *D. melanocardium*, *D. modesta*, *D. palo-escrito*, *D. rhachiflexa*, *D. ruddae*,

entire genus in CITES Appendix II (except for Brazilian rosewood (*Dalbergia nigra*), which is listed in Appendix I; see [amendments to Appendices I and II following CoP17](#), p. 6).

16. East African sandalwood

In 2013, Kenya submitted a proposal to CoP16 ([CoP16 Prop. 69](#)), to include *Osyris lanceolata* (East African Sandalwood) in Appendix II. The proposal was amended to include only the populations of certain East African range States (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania) and was adopted along with [Decisions 16.153-154](#) on *East African sandalwood* to gather and review additional biological and trade information to assist in making non-detriment findings as well as to look at trade in other parts of the species' range that were not covered by the Appendix-II listing and trade in non-CITES listed species that may impact the conservation of the East African sandalwood species. At its Twenty-third meeting in 2017 (PC23; Geneva 2017), the Chair of the Plants Committee submitted Document [PC23 Doc. 27](#), concerning East African sandalwood, which called for establishment of an intersessional working group with a mandate to carry out the objectives of Decision 16.153, and to provide advice to the Secretariat on the consultative meeting described in part b) of Decision 16.154 (Rev. CoP17). During discussion, Committee members highlighted problems with look-alike species, including other species in the genus *Osyris* as well as other genera that produce wood commonly known in trade as sandalwood (e.g., *Santalum* spp.); suggested harvest pressure could shift to other non-listed species resulting in issues for those species; and considered that information on shifting harvest pressure to alternate sandalwood species would be useful for future workshops on sandalwood ([PC23 Summary Record](#)). A draft workplan of six recommendations developed at PC23 ([PC23 Com. 4 \(Rev. by Sec.\)](#)) was adopted by the Plants Committee ([PC23 Sum. 4 \(Rev. 1\)](#)) that, among other things, directed the Secretariat to issue a Notification to Parties ([Notification No. 2018/039](#)) requesting, in part, conservation and trade information on additional look-alike species. A progress report on this decision is anticipated at CoP18.

17. Succulents of Madagascar

At CoP15 in 2010, Madagascar proposed the inclusion of 12 succulent species in Appendix II.¹¹ The Parties convened an in-session working group at the meeting ([CoP15 Com. I. 15](#)), after which, Madagascar withdrew the proposals for *Operculicarya decaryi*, *Senna meridionalis*, *Adenia firingalavensis*, *A. subsessifolia*, and *Cyphostemma laza*. Simultaneously, the in-session working group recommended draft decisions ([Decisions 15.97 and 15.98](#)) directing the Plants Committee to review and gather further information on the succulent taxa that had been proposed for listing but not adopted, review and assess the information, and report back to the Parties, which were adopted by the Parties. These decisions, in part, directed Madagascar and the Plants Committee to review and gather further information on the succulent taxa that had been proposed for inclusion in the CITES Appendices at CoP15, but were not adopted. At its Nineteenth meeting in 2011 (PC19; Geneva 2011), the Plants Committee considered document [PC19 Doc. 14.3](#) on *Madagascar (Decision 15.97)*, and established a working group with a mandate to, among other things, review the list of succulent and tree species to identify and confirm potential candidates for CITES listing, and to outline and support a process that will bring forward comprehensive proposals to list the selected taxa in the Appendices, in time for consideration by the Parties at CoP16 ([PC19 Summary Record](#), pp. 24-25). At its Twentieth meeting in 2012 (PC20; Dublin 2012), the Plants Committee further considered trade information ([PC20 Doc. 17.1.1](#)), the research for which was funded through the Secretariat from the European Union and Norway ([PC20 Summary Record](#), p. 22), as well as draft Appendix-II amendment proposals for succulent species (including the 5 species that had been withdrawn at CoP15, as well as several species of the genus *Uncarina* ([PC20 Inf. 3](#); [PC20 Inf. 5](#); [PC20 Inf. 6](#)). An in-session working group was established to, among other things, prepare a work plan to facilitate submission of the amendment proposals ([PC20 WG4](#)), which plan was outlined in Annex 10 of the PC20 Summary Record (pp. 81-82). At CoP16, all 5 of the aforementioned succulent species [[CoP16 Prop. 51](#); [CoP16 Prop. 64](#); [CoP16 Prop. 65](#); [CoP16 Prop. 66](#); and [CoP16 Prop. 71](#)] as well as two

and *D. tucurensis* ([CoP17 Doc. 54](#), submitted by Mexico); and *Dalbergia* species ([CoP17 Prop. 55](#), submitted by Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, and Kenya).

¹¹ *Operculicarya decaryi* ([CoP15 Prop. 22](#)), *O. hyphaenoides* ([CoP15 Prop. 23](#)), *O. pachypus* ([CoP15 Prop. 24](#)), *Zygosicyos pubescens* ([CoP15 Prop. 26](#)), *Z. tripartitus* ([CoP15 Prop. 27](#)), *Senna meridionalis* ([CoP15 Prop. 30](#)), *Adenia firingalavensis* ([CoP15 Prop. 34](#)), *A. olaboensis* ([CoP15 Prop. 35](#)), *A. subsessifolia* ([CoP15 Prop. 36](#)), *Cyphostemma elephantopus* ([CoP15 Prop. 39](#)), *C. laza* ([CoP15 Prop. 40](#)), and *C. montagnacii* ([CoP15 Prop. 41](#)).

species of *Uncarina*—*U. grandidieri*, and *U. stellifera* [[CoP16 Prop. 67](#) and [CoP16 Prop. 68](#)—were adopted for inclusion in Appendix II.

18. Ebony and Rosewood of Madagascar

The Decisions 15.97 and 15.98 adopted by the Parties in 2010 at CoP15 also in part directed Madagascar and the Plants Committee to gather information on additional species (including trees) which might benefit from inclusion in the Appendices. Madagascar had included a number of species of native ebony (*Dalbergia* spp.) and rosewood (*Diospyros* spp.) in Appendix III in 2011; however, the nomenclature and range of some of these species had been confused or inaccurate. Subsequently, at its Nineteenth meeting in 2011 (PC19; Geneva 2011), the Plants Committee considered a preliminary list of *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* species endemic to Madagascar, prepared by the Nomenclature Specialist of the Plants Committee in consultation with Madagascar ([PC19 Doc. 14.3](#)). In-session working groups were established at both the Nineteenth and Twentieth meetings of the Plants Committee (PC20; Dublin, 2012) to further review and consider the information and address the Decisions for these species. The Plants Committee recommended species of ebony and rosewood as priority taxa for inclusion in Appendix II at CoP16, and advised Madagascar and the Plants Committee to prepare species proposals for consideration at CoP16 ([PC19 Summary Record](#), pp. 24-25). As called for in Decision 15.97 and in consultation with the Secretariat and Madagascar, ITTO supported a 15-month project launched in 2012 to research existing biological and trade data to strengthen potential inclusion in CITES Appendix II (CITES-ITTO project on *Provision of taxonomic information on Madagascar's precious timbers and validation, standardization and monitoring of their sustainable management, Final Report* [French]). At PC20, the Committee considered progress on Decision 15.97 ([PC20 Doc. 17.1.1](#)), including a draft amendment proposal to include all Madagascar-native species of ebony and rosewood in CITES Appendix II ([PC20 Inf. 3](#)), and established an in-session working group to, among other things, review the list of ebony and rosewood species presented in PC19 Doc. 14.3, outline a plan to facilitate the submission of the amendment proposals, and identify issues related to their identification ([PC20 WG4](#)). At CoP16 in 2013, the entire genera of Malagasy rosewoods ([CoP16 Prop. 63](#)) and ebonies ([CoP16 Prop. 58](#)) were proposed and adopted for inclusion in Appendix II, along with Decision 16.152 to adopt a revised Action Plan to further facilitate implementation of the listings ([Decisions in effect following CoP16](#), pp. 35 as well as Annex 3 on pp. 45-46).