

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2015/060

Geneva, 20 November 2015

CONCERNING:

Establishment of the Plants Committee's working group on African tree species

1. At its 22nd meeting (Tbilisi, October 2015), the Plants Committee established a working group on African tree species, with the following terms of reference:
 - a) The working group will function under the authority of the Plants Committee;
 - b) The working group will work primarily via electronic means;
 - c) The working group will seek to facilitate the circulation and exchange of experiences among the range States, importing countries and other stakeholders on the sustainable use and management of CITES-listed African tree species;
 - d) The working group will seek to identify gaps and weaknesses in the capacity of range States of African tree species to effectively implement CITES for these species;
 - e) The working group will examine how the processes currently used by countries to develop annual export quotas compare with the processes recommended under CITES and develop recommendations for reconciling them;
 - f) The working group will explore the conversion factors used for different commodities (e.g., logs, sawn wood, bark) and develop recommendations for improving such processes;
 - g) The working group will seek to identify other African tree species that may benefit from inclusion in the CITES Appendices;
 - h) The group will conclude its deliberations on these issues by 31 March 2016 in order to have sufficient time to prepare a report on its progress for consideration at CoP17; and
 - i) In its report to CoP17, the working group will invite the Parties to review the outcomes of the work undertaken by the working group and evaluate the need for continuing such a working group. Any decision adopted concerning the continuation of this working group will call on it to report its findings to the 23rd and 24th meetings of the Plants Committee (PC23 and PC24) as appropriate.
2. At the meeting, the preliminary membership was decided as follows:

Chair: Representative of Africa (Ms. Khayota);

PC members: Alternate Representative of Africa (Mr. Luke), Alternate Representative for Europe (Mr. Carmo);

Parties: Belgium, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Madagascar, Netherlands, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America;

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, WWF and FTS Botanics.

3. Additional Parties, particularly range States of CITES-listed African tree species, are invited to express their interest in participating in this intersessional working group. Also, Parties are invited to seek expressions of interest to participate in this working group from relevant industry and non-governmental representatives. Management Authorities are asked to communicate the names and email addresses of these additional members directly to the working group Chair, Ms. Khayota at email: bkhayota@hotmail.com and bkhayota@museums.or.ke.
4. In order for the working group to be able to complete its work in a timely fashion, the names and contact information for additional members are requested no later than **7 December 2015**.