



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/023

Geneva, 2 March 2018

CONCERNING:

Questionnaire on African tree species

1. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.302 on *African tree species*, which directs the Plants Committee to form a working group on African tree species with the following terms of reference, as well as any other terms it deems appropriate:
 - a) The working group will work primarily via electronic means;
 - b) 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;
 - c) 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;
 - d) 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;
 - e) 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;
 - f) The working group will seek to identify other African tree species that may benefit from inclusion in the CITES Appendices;
 - g) The working group will bring any issues related to implementation and enforcement of CITES listings for African tree species to the attention of the Plants Committee; and
 - h) The working group will report its findings and recommendations to the Plants Committee.
2. The Plants Committee established the working group on African trees at its 23rd meeting (Geneva, July 2017). It agreed that the working group had to identify a limited number of key topics related to the implementation and enforcement of CITES listings for African tree species, which it should bring to the attention of the Plants Committee at its next meeting. This should involve consultation with the Parties through a questionnaire seeking information addressing the topics identified in paragraphs b) to f) of Decision 17.302. This questionnaire is contained in the Annex to the present Notification.
3. Parties are invited to complete the attached questionnaire and submit their responses by **30 March 2018** to the Secretariat at info@cites.org. This will allow for compilation of the responses in a timely manner for consideration by the Plants committee at its 24th meeting (Geneva, 23-26 July 2018).
4. Management Authorities are encouraged to consult all relevant national authorities to obtain the required information. Parties are further encouraged to engage where possible with research institutes and independent researchers, national and international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that as much relevant information as possible is provided.