



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2021/074

Geneva, 8 December 2021

CONCERNING:

CHINA

Consultation on the definition of 'artificially propagated'
for CITES-listed tree species

1. This Notification to the Parties is published at the request of China.
2. As of 2019, more than 500 tree species have been listed in CITES Appendix I, II or III, and their international trade is governed by the Convention. The term 'artificially propagated' is an important basis for determining whether CITES takes control measures on international trade of listed plants and their parts and derivatives.
3. In Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*, the Conference of the Parties recommended that "timber or other parts or derivatives of trees grown in monospecific plantations be considered as being artificially propagated in accordance with the definition contained in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18)"; and in Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa*, it agreed "that trees of agarwood-producing taxa grown in cultivation such as: a) gardens (home and/or community garden); and b) state, private or community production plantation, either monospecific or mixed species; shall be considered as artificially propagated in accordance with the definition above."
4. The Chinese CITES authorities have identified some problems that may affect the implementation of the Convention for 'artificially propagated' CITES-listed tree species, namely:
 - a) a contradiction between the current CITES interpretation of 'artificially propagated' specimens of tree species listed in the Appendix in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP 18) covering a wide range of plant species and in Resolution Conf. 16.10 covering only agarwood producing taxa;
 - b) the absence of a definition for "tree" and for "plantation (planted forest)";
 - c) significant differences between some countries' legal and policy provisions and the interpretation of 'artificially propagated' in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18). For example, China defines the scope of artificial propagation of tree species from the perspective of sustainable management and ecological restoration in terms of legal policies and promotes some cases of sustainably planted forests such as the mixed plantation of *Santalum album-Dalbergia odorifera*.
 - d) the impact of mono-specific plantations that could promote natural forest conversion and drive deforestation.
4. China is considering proposing amendments to the definition of 'artificially propagated' for trees and other revisions to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*. To this end, China would like to learn more about national legal policies on the artificial propagation of endangered tree species, the status of their planting and trade, and receive comments on the provisions of the Convention.

5. Parties are kindly requested to fill out the "Questionnaire on 'artificially propagated' of CITES-listed tree species" in the Annex to the present Notification and return it to Dr. Yan ZENG, China CITES Scientific Authority, at zengy@ioz.ac.cn, and Dr. Tuo HE, Chinese Academy of Forestry, at tuohe@caf.ac.cn before **31 January 2022**.