

# NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2025/022

Geneva, 26 February 2025

CONCERNING:

## SC78 documents for comments

1. At its 78th meeting (SC78; February 2025), the Standing Committee did not have time to consider agenda items 20, 22, 30, 72 and 78 and requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties inviting comments from Parties and other stakeholders for consideration by the Chair of the Standing Committee when these documents are submitted to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
2. For ease of reference, the Secretariat is including below the title and recommendations of each document with a proposed way forward.
3. Parties and other stakeholders are invited to submit their comments by email with the subject line "Notification 2025/022 on SC78 documents" to [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org) with a copy to [helene.gandois@cites.org](mailto:helene.gandois@cites.org) by **15 March 2025**.

### **Document SC78 Doc. 20 – Language strategy for the Convention (*Decision 19.39*)**

*Recommendations in paragraph 10:*

10. The Standing Committee is invited to:
  - a) note the Secretariat's update on the implementation of Decisions 19.38 and 19.39;
  - b) encourage Parties to bring to the attention of the Secretariat any issues linked to the harmonization of CITES terminology in the Resolutions; and
  - c) agree to submit to the Conference of the Parties the revision of Decisions 19.38 and 19.39 as presented in the Annex to document SC78 Doc. 20.

DRAFT DECISIONS ON LANGUAGE STRATEGY FOR THE CONVENTION  
(new text is underlined; deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~)

***Directed to the Secretariat***

***19.38 (Rev. CoP20)*** *The Secretariat shall, subject to extrabudgetary contributions,*÷

~~a) provide for the translation of all new and revised valid Resolutions and Decisions into the three additional languages (Arabic, Chinese and Russian) drawing on available informal and official translations; and~~

~~b) arrange for the translation of the CITES website into these additional languages.~~

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

**19.39 (Rev. CoP20)** ~~The Standing Committee shall, at its 77th meeting, consider the future approach to the language strategy of the Convention in order to provide interpretation in all six languages at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, with emphasis on the interpretation at the 21st 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, subject to extrabudgetary contributions.~~

*Proposed way forward:*

The Chair of the Standing Committee will submit the two Decisions to CoP20, along with any comments received in response to this Notification.

**Document SC78 Doc. 22 – Implementation of Resolution Conf. 19.2 on Capacity-building**

*Recommendations in paragraph 10:*

10. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the update provided by the Secretariat on capacity-building.

*Way forward:*

There are no recommendations to be submitted to CoP20.

**Document SC78 Doc. 30 – Review of Resolutions and Decisions**

Recommendations in paragraph 7:

7. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) review and agree to the proposed corrections of the non-substantive errors outlined above in paragraph 2 of document SC78 Doc. 30 and instruct the Secretariat to republish the Resolutions concerned with the necessary corrections;
- b) review and agree to submit the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species* as contained in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 30 to the Conference of the Parties;
- c) review and agree to submit the amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)* as contained in Annex 3 to document SC78 Doc. 30 to the Conference of the Parties;
- d) review and agree to submit the amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants* as contained in Annex 4 to document SC78 Doc. 30 to the Conference of the Parties;
- e) review and agree to submit the draft decisions on *Review of Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa principles and guidelines* as contained in Annex 5 to document SC78 Doc. 30 to the Conference of the Parties; and
- f) comment on any further consolidations or corrections that are needed.

AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 10.13 (REV. COP18) ON  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR TREE SPECIES

(new text is underlined; deleted text is shown in ~~strikethrough~~)

**Regarding parts and derivatives**

c) the following definitions be applied with respect to annotations in the CITES Appendices:

i) Logs

All wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared, for processing, notably into sawn wood, pulpwood or veneer sheets (HS code 44.03<sup>2</sup>);

ii) Sawn wood

Wood simply sawn lengthwise or produced by a profile-chipping process. Sawn wood normally exceeds 6 mm in thickness (HS code 44.06<sup>2</sup>, HS code 44.07<sup>2</sup>);

iii) Veneer sheets

Thin layers or sheets of wood of uniform thickness, usually 6 mm or less, usually peeled or sliced, for use in making plywood, for veneering furniture, veneer containers, etc. (HS code 44.08<sup>2</sup>); and

<sup>2</sup> HS refers to the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization describing and coding goods in trade. The codes referred to in this document for timber include the following:

44.03 Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared

44.06 Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood

44.07 Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or ~~finger~~end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm

44.08 ~~Veneer sheets and sheets for plywood (whether or not spliced) and other wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed, of a thickness not exceeding 6 mm~~ Sheets for veneering (including those obtained by slicing laminated wood), for plywood or for similar laminated wood and other wood, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded, spliced or end-jointed, of a thickness not exceeding 6 mm.

44.12 Plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood.

~~44.12.13 Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, each ply not exceeding 6 mm in thickness, and with at least one outer ply of tropical wood specified in Subheading Note 1 below<sup>†</sup>~~

~~44.12.14 Plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, each ply not exceeding 6 mm in thickness, and with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood~~

~~44.12.22 Other (meaning one ply, or more, that is greater than 6 mm in thickness), with at least one outer ply of non-coniferous wood, and with at least one ply of tropical wood specified in Subheading Note 1 below<sup>†</sup>~~

<sup>†</sup> ~~Subheading Note 1: For the purposes of subheadings 44.03.41 to 44.03.49, 44.07.24 to 44.07.29, 44.08.31 to 44.08.39, and 44.12.13 to 44.12.99, the expression 'tropical wood' means one of the following types of wood:~~

~~Abura, Acajou d'Afrique, Afrormosia, Ako, Alan, Andiroba, Aningró, Avodiré, Azobé, Balau, Balsa, Bossé clair, Bossé foncé, Cativo, Cedro, Dabema, Dark Red Meranti, Dibétou, Doussié, Framiré, Freijo, Fromager, Fuma, Geronggang, Ilomba, Imbuia, Ipé, Iroko, Jaboty, Jelutong, Jequitiba, Jongkong, Kapur, Kempas, Keruing, Kosipo, Kotibé, Koto, Light Red Meranti, Limba, Louro, Maçaranduba, Mahogany, Makoré, Mandioqueira, Mansonia, Mengkulang, Meranti Bakau, Merawan, Merbau, Merpauh, Mersawa, Moabi, Niangon, Nyatoh, Obeche, Okoumé, Onzabill, Orey, Ovengkol, Ozigo, Padauk, Paldao, Palissandre de Guatemala, Palissandre de Para, Palissandre de Rio, Palissandre de Rose, Pau Amarelo, Pau Marfim, Pulai, Punah, Quaruba, Ramin, Sapelli, Saqui-Saqui, Sepetir, Sipo, Sucupira, Suren, Teak, Tauari, Tiama, Tola, Virola, White Lauan, White Meranti, White Seraya, Yellow Meranti.~~

iv) Plywood

Consisting of three or more sheets of wood glued and pressed one on the other and generally disposed so that the grains of successive layers are at an angle (HS code 44.12.13<sup>2</sup>, ~~HS code 44.12.14<sup>2</sup>~~, and ~~HS code 44.12.22<sup>2</sup>~~); and

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 13.3 ON  
COOPERATION AND SYNERGY WITH THE CONVENTION ON THE  
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)

(new text is underlined)

1. DIRECTS the Standing Committee to keep under regular review the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the Secretariats of CITES and CMS on 18 September 2002, in particular with a view to:

[...]

- b) ensuring that CITES initiatives in respect of the following species or taxonomic groups complement, reinforce and, as far as possible, benefit from the regional collaboration already being undertaken or envisaged in the framework of CMS:

[...]

v) cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), lions (*Panthera leo*) and leopards (*Panthera pardus*); and  
[text proposed by the Animals Committee]

vi) CITES-listed species of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea in collaboration with the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS);

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION CONF. 11.11 (REV. COP18) ON  
REGULATION OF TRADE IN PLANTS

(deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~)

**Regarding flaked seedlings of Appendix-I orchids**

8. RECOMMENDS that flaked seedlings of orchid species included in Appendix I obtained *in vitro*; ~~in solid or liquid media~~; and transported in sterile containers, be interpreted as being exempt from CITES control only if they have been artificially propagated in accordance with the definition provided above, taking into account the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 4, and Article I, paragraph (b) (iii), and agreeing to a derogation from Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev. CoP19)<sup>2</sup> for this exemption;

DRAFT DECISION ON REVIEW OF RESOLUTION CONF. 10.4 (REV. COP14) ON  
COOPERATION AND SYNERGY WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
AND RESOLUTION CONF. 13.2 (REV. COP14) ON  
SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY: ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

<sup>2</sup> Corrected by the Secretariat following the 16th and 19th meetings of the Conference of the Parties: originally referred to Resolution Conf. 9.6 (Rev.).

**Directed to the Standing Committee, with the support of the Secretariat**

**20.AA** The Standing Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, shall:

- a) review Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on [Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on [Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines](#) to reflect the most recent developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant intergovernmental bodies; and
- b) submit new or revised Resolutions to the Conference for the Parties.

*Proposed way forward:*

The Chair of the Standing Committee will submit the amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for tree species*, the amendments to Resolution Conf. 13.3 on *Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*, the amendments to Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Regulation of trade in plants*, and the draft decisions on *Review of Resolution Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14) on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa principles and guidelines to CoP20*, along with any comments received in response to this Notification.

As per Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP19) on *Submission of draft resolutions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties has mandated the Standing Committee to approve corrections of the non-substantive errors found by the Secretariat in Resolutions. The Standing Committee may do so at its 79th meeting (Samarkand, November 2025) or at its 81st meeting (Geneva, 2026), depending on the number of agenda items to be considered by the Standing Committee at SC79.

**Document SC78 Doc. 72 (Rev. 1) – Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids (Orchidaceae spp.) (Decision 19.248)**

*Recommendations in paragraph 25:*

25. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the study entitled *A Review of the Edible Orchid Trade* in Annex 1, the responses from Parties to [Notification to the Parties 2024/013](#) contained in Annex 2 and the synthesis of responses compiled by the Secretariat and contained in paragraphs 14 to 21 of document SC78 Doc. 72 (Rev. 1); and
- b) review and submit the draft decisions in Annex 3 for consideration at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and consequently recommend the deletion of Decisions 19.246 to 19.248.

**DRAFT DECISIONS ON TRADE IN EDIBLE TUBEROUS ORCHIDS**

Draft decisions recommended by the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC27 SR):

**Directed to Parties**

**20.AA** Parties are encouraged to enhance their efforts to regulate the trade in edible tuberous orchids as required under the Convention and to combat illegal trade in edible tuberous orchids, in particular by raising awareness with relevant stakeholders, making non-detriment findings and legal acquisition findings for edible tuberous orchids, building enforcement capacity and enhancing cooperation across borders with a focus on combatting illegal trade in edible tuberous orchids, including *modus operandi* of trade networks, species identification and the development or update of risk profiles.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**20.BB** The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to availability of external resources, consult with Parties and stakeholders and undertake a study to compile an overview of Appendix-II orchid taxa that are particularly affected by wild harvest of Appendix-II listed orchid taxa for international trade to inform the following:
  - i) the conservation impacts of exempting artificially propagated Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations, including as articulated in footnote annotation P3 of the CITES Appendices, including identification challenges and look-alike issues;
  - ii) the conservation impacts of exempting derivatives and/or finished products of certain Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations through amendments to annotation #4; and
- b) present the study and formulate recommendations for consideration at the 28th meeting of the Plants Committee; and
- c) subject to external funding,
  - i) compile identification tools and methods for specimens of edible tuberous orchids that are in international trade, as well as to distinguish look-alike specimens, and, in consultation with the Plants Committee, develop an identification guide to assist Parties in applying these;
  - ii) identify implementation challenges and capacity needs of Parties to regulate international trade in Appendix-II listed edible tuberous orchids;
  - iii) upon request, provide support to key exporting range States, and other key exporting States of edible tuberous orchids, to carry out non-detriment findings for edible tuberous orchids, in consultation with relevant Members of the Plants Committee;
  - iv) upon request, support Parties with the implementation of Decision 20.AA, by including illegal trade in edible tuberous orchids in ongoing activities in the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, or through other appropriate means; and
- d) report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee.

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

**20.CC** The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider the report and the Secretariat's recommendations in response to Decision 20.BB, paragraph a);
- b) provide inputs to the Secretariat when developing an identification guide and when providing support to carry out non-detriment findings for edible tuberous orchids resulting from the implementation of Decision 20.BB, paragraph c) i) and iii); and
- c) report its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

**20.DD** The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report and the Secretariat's recommendations in response to Decision 20.BB, paragraph b); and
- b) report its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

*Proposed way forward:*

The Chair of the Standing Committee will propose the deletion of Decisions 19.246 to 19.248 and submit the four Decisions above to CoP20, along with any comments received in response to this Notification.

**Document SC78 Doc. 78 – Orchid specimens exempted through annotation #4 g) (Decision 19.271)**

*Recommendations in paragraph 15:*

15. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note that the main implementation challenge for the exemption in annotation #4 g) is verifying whether the specimens used in the finished cosmetics products had been artificially propagated or not;
- b) encourage Parties that use the exemption to consider using clearly visible printed labels or printed packages to allow for verification that final cosmetic products are derived from artificially propagated specimens; and
- c) agree to propose the revised draft decisions on *Orchid specimens exempted through annotation #4 g)* in Annex 1 to document SC78 Doc. 78 for consideration by the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT REVISED DECISIONS ON  
Orchid specimens exempted through annotation #4 g)

New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

**19.268 (Rev. CoP20)** *No less than one (1) year after ~~entry into force of the Decisions adopted at the 1920th~~ meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat shall issue a Notification to the Parties requesting the following information:*

- a) *whether there have been any implementation issues concerning the annotation #4 g) exemption for finished products derived from artificial propagation, packaged and ready for retail trade of cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of specimens of Bletilla striata, Cycnoches cooperi, Gastrodia elata, Phalaenopsis amabilis and Phalaenopsis lobbii, and if so describe the issues;*
- b) *whether Parties have identified any conservation impacts of the annotation #4 g) exemption on the status of Bletilla striata, Cycnoches cooperi, Gastrodia elata, Phalaenopsis amabilis and Phalaenopsis lobbii in the wild; and*
- c) *based on the responses received, prepare a report to the Standing Committee on implementation challenges and to the Plants Committee on conservation impacts of the exemption.*

**Directed to Parties**

**19.269 (Rev. CoP20)** *Parties are encouraged to submit pertinent information concerning the annotation #4\_g) exemption for finished products packaged derived from artificial propagation, and ready for retail trade of cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of specimens of Bletilla striata, Cycnoches cooperi, Gastrodia elata, Phalaenopsis amabilis and Phalaenopsis lobbii as requested in Decision 19.268 (Rev. CoP20).*

**Directed to the Plants Committee**

**19.270 (Rev. CoP20)** *The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *review the information received as requested under Decision 19.268 (Rev. CoP20) with a view to assessing whether the exemption provided under annotation #4 g) has had any impacts on the wild populations of these species; and*
- b) *based on the outcome of this review, formulate recommendations to the Standing Committee concerning the exemption provided under annotation #4 g) for Bletilla striata, Cycnoches cooperi, Gastrodia elata, Phalaenopsis amabilis and Phalaenopsis lobbii.*

**Directed to the Standing Committee**

**19.271 (Rev. CoP20)** *The Standing Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the report of the Secretariat in accordance with Decision 19.268 (Rev. CoP20) and any recommendations of the Plants Committee under Decision 19.270 (Rev. CoP20); and*
- b) *formulate recommendations to the 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the application and conservation impacts of the exemption provided under annotation #4\_g) to Bletilla striata, Cycnoches cooperi, Gastrodia elata, Phalaenopsis amabilis and Phalaenopsis lobbii, as appropriate.*

**Proposed way forward:**

The Chair of the Standing Committee will propose the renewal of Decisions 19.268 to 19.271 to CoP20, along with any comments received in response to this Notification. The Chair of the Standing Committee will note in the document to be submitted for consideration by CoP20 that the main implementation challenge for the exemption in annotation #4 g) is verifying whether the specimens used in the finished cosmetics products had been artificially propagated or not; and encourage Parties that use the exemption to consider using clearly visible printed labels or printed packages to allow for verification that final cosmetic products are derived from artificially propagated specimens.