



SUMMARY RECORD

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE



**Geneva, Switzerland
15-19 April 2008**

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Summary record

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr David Morgan, Chief of the Scientific Support Unit of the CITES Secretariat, welcomed participants in the name of the Secretary-General of CITES. The Plants Committee confirmed the Committee's provisionally appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Ms Margarita África Clemente Muñoz (representative of Europe) and Mr Greg Leach (representative of Oceania) respectively, in their positions by acclamation. The Chairman expressed gratitude for her election and thanked the participants for attending the meeting. She drew attention to the Strategic Vision recently adopted by the Conference of the Parties and to the vast amount of work the Committee had been entrusted with by the Conference.

2. Rules of Procedure

2.1 Current Rules of Procedure

The Chairman introduced the document PC17 Doc. 2.1.

The Committee adopted the Rules of Procedure presented in document PC17 Doc. 2.1.

No interventions were made.

2.2 Proposed amendments

This agenda item was discussed during the joint PC17/AC23 session.

The Secretariat introduced documents PC17 Doc. 2.2 and AC23 Doc. 2.2 and suggested some changes to the proposed Rules of Procedure contained in Annex 2 to those documents. First, that reference throughout the document to regional representatives be changed to refer only to representatives in view of the fact that both Committees now included in their membership nomenclature specialists who did not represent a particular region. Second, that under proposed Rule 22, the sentence 'The documents shall also be provided to all Parties that may be directly affected by any discussion of the documents and to all Parties that request them.' be changed to: The Secretariat shall alert all Parties that may be directly affected by any discussion of the documents and provide copies to all Parties that request them.

It recommended that the Committees adopt the proposed Rules of Procedure, with these changes, to be effective from the close of the present meetings.

After some discussion, a working group (PC17/AC23 WG1) was established to review the proposed Rules of Procedure, taking into account the comments and suggestions made during the discussion. The membership of the group is included in Annex 1 to the present document.

The AC Chairman noted that, in establishing working groups, in general only the choice of the designated chairman or chairmen of the group and membership by observers would be decided by the Committees. Members of the Committees were free to attend whichever groups they wished.

Later, the PC representative of North America (Mr Gabel), as chairman of PC17/AC23 WG1, orally presented changes to the draft Rules of Procedure in Annex 2 of documents PC17 Doc. 2.2 and AC23 Doc. 2.2 that had been decided within the group by consensus.

There then followed a discussion, chiefly concerning Rule 7, regarding admission of observers, and proposed new Rule 26, regarding potential conflicts of interest.

With respect to Rule 7, some participants in the discussion considered that a limit should be placed on the number of individuals from any given body, agency or organization permitted to attend Committee meetings as observers. The view was also expressed that a Party in which an organization was based should be able to veto attendance at meetings of individuals from that organization. In response, others stated that organizations and individuals were welcomed at meetings because of the scientific and technical expertise that they could bring to bear on items under discussion, and that sometimes such expertise resided in a number of different individuals within a single organization. It was also noted that these proposed increased controls on attendance were more restrictive than those currently in use for meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The current practice gave discretion to the chairman of each committee to decide whether individuals and organizations wishing to attend meetings had the necessary scientific or technical competence to make a positive contribution. A number of participants in the discussion noted that this had worked satisfactorily until now, and did not see the need for radical change.

With respect to proposed Rule 26, the view was expressed that this was essentially an ethical matter, more appropriate to a code of conduct rather than to rules of procedure. The question of how a conflict of interest could be identified, and who might make such a determination was also raised.

Following the discussion, the following changes to the draft Rules of Procedure were agreed:

In Rule 1, add at the end of the first sentence: and the nomenclature specialists elected by the Conference of the Parties.

In Rule 7, paragraph 1, replace the final sentence with The Chairman may limit the number of delegates representing a non-governmental organization to one for practical reasons.

In Rule 7, paragraph 3, delete 'and proof of the approval of the State in which the body is located'.

In Rule 18, add at the end and the Committee, and in line with any instructions provided by the Conference of the Parties.

In Rule 20, replace '75' with 60.

In Rule 22, after 'shall be placed on the Secretariat's website as soon as possible after they are received', add, but no later than 10 days after the submission deadline. Replace the sentence 'The documents shall also be provided to all Parties that may be directly affected by any discussion of the documents and to all Parties that request them.' with The Secretariat shall alert all Parties that may be directly affected by any discussion of the documents and provide copies to all Parties that request them.

In Rule 23, add at the end the sentence However, such documents may be referred to, if they relate to the existing agenda items, but not discussed.

Rule 26 is deleted.

The Committees agreed that they would leave the Secretariat to modify the text, so that references to representatives and members would be altered to refer as appropriate either to all members, including the nomenclature specialists (who did not have voting rights), or only to regional representatives (who did).

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representatives of Asia (Mr Pourkazemi), North America (Mr Medellín), and Oceania (Mr Hay), the PC representative of North America (Mr Gabel), the AC alternate representatives of Africa (Mr Zahzah) and Europe (Mr Ibero Solana), China, India, the Russian Federation, the European Community, the Humane Society of the United States (speaking on behalf of the Species Survival Network), IUCN, IWMC, Species Management Specialists, the AC Chairman and the PC Chairman.

3. Adoption of the agenda and working programme

3.1 Agenda

The Chairman introduced the document PC17 Doc. 3.1.

The following additions to the Agenda were proposed: implementation of annotations regarding seeds of Mexican cacti and of cacti that lack chlorophyll under agenda item 13.1 (*Cactaceae and Orchidaceae: review of annotations*); presentation of information on workshops on conservation of tree species under agenda item 16 (*Timber issues*); functioning of Scientific Authorities under Any Other Business; presentation of information regarding a project on timber certification under *Any other business*; a report on the seventh Masters' course on CITES held at the International University of Andalucia under *Any other business*; revision and publication of the Appendices under *Any other business* during the joint session with the Animals Committee to be held on 19 April 2008.

With these amendments, the Committee adopted the Agenda contained in document PC17 Doc. 3.1.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Germany, the Netherlands, the PC Chairman and the Secretariat.

3.2 Working programme

The Chairman introduced the document PC17 Doc. 3.2.

The Committee adopted the working programme in document PC17 Doc. 3.2.

No interventions were made.

4. Admission of observers

The Chairman introduced the document PC17 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1).

The Committee noted document PC17 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1).

No interventions were made.

5. Regional reports

5.1 Africa

The representative of Africa (Ms Khayota) presented a summary report, drawn from responses from Parties in the region to a request for information. She noted that a written report, in English only, was available on the CITES website. She reported that six out of the 52 Parties in the region had responded to requests for information. She had subsequently also received a report from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She hoped to provide a revised version of the report at a later date, which would include the information provided by that Party as well as information provided by Madagascar on *Prunus africana*.

The Committee noted the report.

5.2 Asia

The representative of Asia (Mr Thitiprasert) presented a summary report, drawn from responses from Parties in the region to a request for information. This summary contained information from document PC17 Doc. 5.2 and additional information received by the Secretariat after the deadline for submission of documents, which he requested to be included after the meeting in a revised version of the report. He noted that 13 of the 32 Parties in the region had responded.

The Committee noted the report.

5.3 Central and South America and the Caribbean

The representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Rivera) introduced document PC17 Doc. 5.3. Of the 31 Parties in the region, nine had responded to requests for information, with additional information included from two others. Information had been received for Peru too late for inclusion in the document and she requested that a revised version of the report be produced after the meeting by the Secretariat.

The Committee noted the report.

5.4 Europe

The representative of Europe (Mr Sajeve) introduced document PC17 Doc. 5.4. Of 45 Parties in the region, 23 had responded to requests for information. It was noted that Europe had submitted a regional directory to the CITES Secretariat and that this was missing in the current document, therefore the Committee agreed that the Secretariat would produce a revised version of the current document. Finally, he announced that the VIIIth European Regional Meeting on CITES plant issues would be held in Lampedusa (Italy) from 7 to 9 October 2008.

The Committee noted the report.

5.5 North America

The representative of North America (Mr Gabel) introduced document PC17 Doc. 5.5. All three Parties in the region had responded to requests for information.

The Committee noted the report.

5.6 Oceania

The representative for Oceania (Mr Leach) presented orally a summary report for Oceania which was noted by the Committee.

Regional representatives noted that, because contact details provided on the CITES website were sometimes apparently incorrect or out of date, it could be difficult to contact appropriate national CITES authorities. The Secretariat noted that the contact details on the website were those provided through official channels and the Secretariat was not at liberty to change these. Members of the Committee were encouraged to use personal contacts when soliciting information for regional reports and in other communications.

During discussion of regional reports, interventions were made by the Netherlands, Madagascar, the Chairman and the Secretariat.

6. Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees

This agenda item was discussed during the joint PC17/AC23 session.

The Secretariat introduced documents PC17 Doc. 6 and AC23 Doc. 6.

The Committees noted the document and agreed that there was no need to revise their Terms of Reference at present.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representative of North America (Mr Medellín) and the PC Chairman.

7. Cooperation with advisory bodies of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements

This agenda item was discussed during the joint PC17/AC23 session.

The Secretariat introduced documents PC17 Doc. 7 and AC23 Doc. 7.

Cooperation between CITES and other multilateral environmental agreements was supported in principle, but it was also noted that the mandate of CITES was different from that of other agreements. A brief update on progress in development of the proposed International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB) was provided, although it was noted that not all Parties supported the development of such a mechanism. Reference was made to existing cooperation between CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity through the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stated that the Scientific Authority for Animals of the United Kingdom would be happy to provide advice on the development of indicators mentioned in Paragraph 7 of the document.

The document was noted.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the PC representative of North America (Mr Gabel), France, the United Kingdom and the PC Chairman.

8. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

8.1 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade

This agenda item was discussed during the joint PC17/AC23 session.

The Secretariat introduced documents PC17 Doc. 8.1 and AC23 Doc. 8.1, noting that the terms of reference for the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade as adopted at CoP14 were very broad and did not set out a time-line for the completion of the evaluation. They stated that no specific pledges of funding for the evaluation had been received since the document had been prepared.

The desirability of including experts on compliance and process issues in any advisory group was stressed. It was also emphasized that any review should be based on sound and detailed information. Reference was made to the database on Significant Trade. The Secretariat apologized for the amount of time taken to develop the database and reported that in its current form it was not very user-friendly. It stated that it was working with UNEP-WCMC to improve the interface of the database and hoped that this work would be completed soon.

Following the discussion, a working group (PC17/AC23 WG2) was established, the membership of which is included in Annex 1 to the present document.

The group was mandated to suggest a time-line for the evaluation; propose next steps; and identify specific areas that could profitably be focused on. In particular, the group was advised to consider possible terms of reference for the working group referred to in paragraph 4 of Annex 1 of document PC17 Doc. 8.1 (AC23 Doc. 8.1) and any specific advice that could be offered to the Secretariat with respect to the content of the evaluation as set out in paragraph 7 and its subsections.

Later, the Committees adopted the report of PC17/AC23 WG2, presented orally by the PC nomenclature specialist (Mr McGough), as co-chairman of the group, as follows:

Guidelines for process

It was agreed that the fundamental question to answer was the contribution that the Review of Significant Trade makes to improve implementation of Article IV.

It was also agreed that the advisory group should identify elements that could be completed and reported on at CoP15.

The advisory group should report at the next AC and PC and any concrete recommendations would be considered by working groups constituted by those Committee meetings.

Suggested representation of the advisory group

- a) The CITES Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, TRAFFIC;
- b) representative range States for sturgeon, queen conch, grey parrot, *Pericopsis elata*;
- c) the European Community, as representing an important importing block;
- d) Madagascar, as a country having been the subject of a country-based review;
- e) representation of the Animals and Plants Committees;
- f) a regional spread;
- g) countries that have been through the Review process; and
- h) countries that are important exporters but that have not been through the review. Parties suggested for inclusion were Argentina, China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Madagascar, United Republic of Tanzania;

The group should not be too big.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representatives of North America (Mr Medellín) and Oceania (Mr Hay), the PC representative of North America (Mr Gabel), the United Kingdom, the David Shepherd Foundation, Humane Society International, the AC Chairman and the Secretariat.

8.2 Progress report on the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar

This agenda item was discussed during the joint PC17/AC23 session.

Madagascar introduced documents PC17 Doc. 8.2 and AC23 Doc. 8.2, outlining actions undertaken in the implementation of the CITES action plan for the reform of trade in wild species in Madagascar.

In view of the progress that Madagascar had made in implementing its action plan, and the burden placed on Madagascar in continuing to report on progress at meetings of the scientific committees, it was proposed that the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar be regarded as completed.

Some concern was expressed that no notice had been given for the completion of the review, and that no formal process for ending the review was in place. It was also questioned whether Madagascar was yet in a position to make non-detriment findings for all Appendix-II species that were exported, although there was also general acknowledgement that Madagascar had made very good progress in implementation of the action plan.

The Committees agreed that the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar was now completed and that Madagascar was no longer required to submit regular reports under this agenda item. The Committees also agreed that the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar should be included as a case-study in the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade discussed under agenda item 8.1. They noted that animal and plant species from Madagascar were currently included in the species-based Review of Significant Trade and agreed that further species from Madagascar could be selected in future if they were considered to meet the selection criteria. The Committees also advised Madagascar to submit project proposals for those activities in the action plan that were not currently funded for approval through the procedure set out in Resolution Conf. 12.2.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC representatives of Europe (Mr Ibero Solana), North America (Mr Medellín) and Oceania (Mr Hay), the PC representative of North America (Mr Gabel), Madagascar, Switzerland, Humane Society International, Wildlife Management International, WWF, the AC Chairman, the PC Chairman and the Secretariat.

8.3 Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 8.3, which was noted.

No interventions were made.

8.4 Species selected following CoP13

and

8.5 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP14

The Secretariat and IUCN introduced document PC17 Doc. 8.4, containing in its Annexes summaries of information on the biology and management of and trade in seven plant species. The Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC then introduced document PC17 Doc. 8.5 containing a summary from the CITES database of annual report statistics for Appendix-II species for the past five years.

The Committee agreed to establish a working group (PC17 WG4) on the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species. The membership of this working group is shown in Annex 1 to the present document.

The mandate of PC17 WG4 was to:

- a) Review the reports and the responses received from range States and, if appropriate, revise the preliminary categorizations proposed by the authors;
- b) Identify problems that are not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), and refer them to the Secretariat;

- c) Formulate recommendations for species in categories i) and ii). Such recommendations should differentiate between short-term and long-term actions, and be directed to the range States concerned;
- d) Propose species of least concern for elimination from the review; and
- e) On the basis of the data provided, select species of priority concern for review, using the information in document PC17 Doc. 8.5.

The Chairman asked that a list of those who had contributed to the reviews contained in the Annexes to document PC17 Doc. 8.4 be made available to the Committee. The observer from UNEP-WCMC stated that additional outputs from the CITES database of annual report statistics would be made available to the working group.

Later in the meeting, the chairman of PC17 WG4 presented the report to the Committee. During discussion it was pointed out that the list of species selected for trade review was long and that reviewing all of them might place a considerable burden on range States. The chairman of PC17 WG4 responded that most of the species were single-country endemics with small populations in a limited number of genera and that information for these should therefore be available from a small number of sources. He further noted that the decision to re-enter *Pericopsis elata* in the review was based on a substantial recent increase in reported trade. In response to a query regarding the inclusion of a number of *Aloe* species, it was pointed out that previously only East African *Aloe* species had been covered. The species currently proposed were from South Africa and Madagascar.

Document PC17 WG4 contained a few errors which were corrected in a revised version [document PC17 WG4 (Rev. 1)], which was adopted by the Committee as follows:

Recommendations relating to document PC17 Doc. 8.4

The following has been decided by the Working Group on species in significant trade:

Christensonia vietnamica changed to urgent concern for Viet Nam
Myrmecophila tibicinis confirmed as possible concern for Belize
Pachypodium bispinosum confirmed as possible concern for South Africa
Pachypodium succulentum changed to possible concern for South Africa
Pterocarpus santalinus confirmed as urgent concern for India
Rauvolfia serpentina changed to urgent concern for India
Rauvolfia serpentina changed to possible concern for Thailand
Rauvolfia serpentina confirmed as possible concern for Myanmar
Taxus wallichiana changed to urgent concern for India

Recommendations for trade in *Christensonia vietnamica* from Viet Nam for species of Urgent Concern

Within 3 months

The Management Authority of Viet Nam should confirm to the Secretariat that they will not be issuing export permits for *Christensonia vietnamica* and that the Secretariat can include this on the CITES website as a voluntary export quota.

Recommendations for trade in *Myrmecophila tibicinis* from Belize for species of Possible Concern

Within 3 months

The Management Authority should confirm to the Secretariat that they will not issue export permits for *M. tibicinis* until surveys have been made to confirm the species being traded and status of the species. The Secretariat should include this information on the list of voluntary export quotas.

Within 2 years

In relation to *Myrmecophila tibicinis* and other species in this genus, probably confused with *M. tibicinis*:

- Carry out a preliminary inventory of standing stock, establish estimates of sustainable off-take and establish a scientific monitoring system of the harvested and unharvested populations.
- Establish a revised conservative export quota based on the inventory of standing stock and the estimates of sustainable off-take.
- The Management Authority should report to the Secretariat the result of the above points with an explanation of how the Scientific Authority determines that levels of export are not detrimental to the populations concerned.

Recommendations for trade in *Pachypodium bispinosum* and *P. succulentum* from South Africa for species of Possible Concern

Within 1 year

Carry out a preliminary inventory of standing stock, establish estimates of sustainable off-take and establish a scientific monitoring system of the harvested and unharvested populations.

Establish a revised conservative export quota based on the inventory of standing stock and the estimates of sustainable off-take.

The Management Authority should report to the Secretariat the result of the above points with an explanation of how the Scientific Authority determines that levels of export are not detrimental to the populations concerned.

Recommendations for trade in *Pterocarpus santalinus* from India for species of Urgent Concern

Within 3 months

The Management Authority should clarify the legislative status of exports of this species the level of artificial propagation, the permit process and discrepancies between reported Customs data and CITES data.

If exports of wild origin are to be continued, the Management Authority, in consultation with the CITES Secretariat and the Chairman of the Plants Committee, should establish a conservative quota of CITES-listed products of this species.

Within 2 years

If exports of wild origin are to continue:

- Carry out a preliminary inventory of standing stock, establish estimates of sustainable off-take and establish a scientific monitoring system of the harvested and unharvested populations.
- Establish a revised conservative export quota based on the inventory of standing stock and the estimates of sustainable off-take.
- The Management Authority should report to the Secretariat the result of its actions to implement the provisions of Article IV, and how the Scientific Authority currently determines that levels of export are not detrimental to the populations concerned.

Non-Article IV issues to be referred to the Secretariat

Pursue the non-reporting of trade in this species with the Indian Authorities.

Request importing States to be vigilant in preventing trade in this species without necessary CITES permits.

Liaise with the Authorities in Nepal over illegal and unreported trade coming from and passing through that country.

Recommendations for trade in *Rauvolfia serpentina* from India for species of Urgent Concern

Within 3 months

The Management Authority should clarify the legislative status of exports of this species, the level of artificial propagation, the permit process and perceived discrepancies between reported Customs data and CITES data.

If exports of wild origin are to be continued, the Management Authority, in consultation with the CITES Secretariat and the Chairman of the Plants Committee, should establish a conservative quota for CITES-listed products of this species.

Within 2 years

If exports of wild origin are to continue:

- Carry out a preliminary inventory of standing stock, establish estimates of sustainable off-take and establish a scientific monitoring system of the harvested and unharvested populations.
- Establish a revised conservative export quota based on the inventory of standing stock and the estimates of sustainable off-take.
- The Management Authority should report to the Secretariat the result of its actions to implement the provisions of Article IV, and how the Scientific Authority currently determines that levels of export are not detrimental to the populations concerned.

Non-Article IV issues to be referred to the Secretariat

Pursue the perceived non-reporting of trade in this species with the Indian Authorities.

Request importing States to be vigilant in preventing trade in this species without necessary CITES permits.

Liaise with the Authorities over illegal and unreported trade coming from and passing through countries with a border to India.

Recommendations for trade in *Rauvolfia serpentina* from Myanmar and Thailand for species of Possible Concern

Within 3 months

The Management Authority of Myanmar should confirm to the Secretariat that they do not issue export permits for *R. serpentina* and the Secretariat should include this information on the list of voluntary export quotas.

The Management Authority of Thailand should:

Within 2 years

Carry out a preliminary inventory of standing stock, establish estimates of sustainable off-take and establish a scientific monitoring system of the harvested and unharvested populations.

Establish a revised conservative export quota based on the inventory of standing stock and the estimates of sustainable off-take for *Rauvolfia serpentina* and the Secretariat should include this information on the list of voluntary export quotas.

The Management Authority should report to the Secretariat the result of the above points with an explanation of how the Scientific Authority determines that levels of export are not detrimental to the populations concerned.

Non-Article IV issues to be referred to the Secretariat

Request importing States to be vigilant in preventing trade in this species without necessary CITES permits.

Recommendations for trade in *Taxus wallichiana* from India for species of Urgent Concern

Within 3 months

The Secretariat should confirm with Nepal that the export for *T. wallichiana* (syn. *T. baccata* ssp. *wallichiana*) is banned and the Secretariat should include this information on the list of voluntary export quotas.

Request importing States to be vigilant in preventing trade in this species coming from India and Nepal without necessary CITES permits.

India should confirm that they do not allow export of wild harvested product.

If exports are confirmed, the Scientific and Management Authorities of India should provide to the Secretariat:

- confirmation that the existing policies in place provide an adequate scientific basis for the formulation of non-detriment findings for *Taxus wallichiana*;
- an explanation of the procedures for identifying the species, the issuing of export permits and the basis of the non-detriment finding; and
- an explanation of the procedures for monitoring the volume of exports in accordance with Article IV.

Non-Article IV issues to be referred to the Secretariat

Confirm with the Indian Authorities that any artificially propagated exports are verified to be from this source and are accompanied by the appropriate CITES documentation.

Recommendations relating to document PC17 Doc. 8.5

Selection of species for trade review following CoP14 (PC17 Doc. 8.5)

Species selected

<i>Euphorbia alfredii</i>	<i>Euphorbia rossii</i>
<i>Euphorbia ankarensis</i>	<i>Euphorbia sakarahaensis</i>
<i>Euphorbia antso</i>	<i>Euphorbia stenoclada</i>
<i>Euphorbia aureoviridiflora</i>	<i>Euphorbia suzannae-marnierae</i>
<i>Euphorbia banae</i>	<i>Euphorbia viguieri</i>
<i>Euphorbia beharensis</i>	<i>Euphorbia waringiae</i>
<i>Euphorbia berorohae</i>	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>
<i>Euphorbia biaculeata</i>	<i>Aloe acutissima</i>
<i>Euphorbia bongolavensis</i>	<i>Aloe antandroi</i>
<i>Euphorbia bulbispina</i>	<i>Aloe betsileensis</i>
<i>Euphorbia capmanambatoensis</i>	<i>Aloe bosseri</i>
<i>Euphorbia capuronii</i>	<i>Aloe bulbifera</i>
<i>Euphorbia croizatii</i>	<i>Aloe capitata</i>
<i>Euphorbia denisiana</i>	<i>Aloe capitata</i> var. <i>capitata</i>
<i>Euphorbia didiereoides</i>	<i>Aloe capitata</i> var. <i>cipolinicola</i>
<i>Euphorbia duranii</i>	<i>Aloe capitata</i> var. <i>gneissicola</i>
<i>Euphorbia elliotii</i>	<i>Aloe capitata</i> var. <i>quartziticola</i>
<i>Euphorbia famatamboay</i>	<i>Aloe conifera</i>
<i>Euphorbia fianarantsoae</i>	<i>Aloe deltoideodonta</i>
<i>Euphorbia genoudiana</i>	<i>Aloe divaricata</i>
<i>Euphorbia geroldii</i>	<i>Aloe erythrophylla</i>
<i>Euphorbia gottlebei</i>	<i>Aloe guillaumetii</i>
<i>Euphorbia guillauminiana</i>	<i>Aloe humbertii</i>
<i>Euphorbia hedyotoides</i>	<i>Aloe ibitiensis</i>
<i>Euphorbia herman-schwartzii</i>	<i>Aloe imalotensis</i>
<i>Euphorbia hofstaetteri</i>	<i>Aloe isaloensis</i>
<i>Euphorbia horombensis</i>	<i>Aloe itremensis</i>
<i>Euphorbia iharanae</i>	<i>Aloe macroclada</i>
<i>Euphorbia itremensis</i>	<i>Aloe pratensis</i>
<i>Euphorbia kondoi</i>	<i>Aloe poliphylla</i>
<i>Euphorbia labatii</i>	<i>Aloe prostrata</i>
<i>Euphorbia leucodendron</i>	<i>Aloe suarezensis</i>
<i>Euphorbia leuconeura</i>	<i>Aloe trachyticola</i>
<i>Euphorbia lophogona</i>	<i>Aloe vaombe</i>
<i>Euphorbia mahabobokensis</i>	<i>Aloe vaotsanda</i>
<i>Euphorbia mangokyensis</i>	<i>Calanthe alleizettei</i>
<i>Euphorbia neobosseri</i>	<i>Cymbidium erythrostylum</i>
<i>Euphorbia neohumbertii</i>	<i>Renanthera annamensis</i>
<i>Euphorbia pachypodioides</i>	<i>Cistanche deserticola</i>
<i>Euphorbia paulianii</i>	<i>Beccariophoenix madagascariensis</i>
<i>Euphorbia pedilanthoides</i>	<i>Lemurophoenix halleuxii</i>
<i>Euphorbia perrieri</i>	<i>Marojejya darianii</i>
<i>Euphorbia primulifolia</i>	<i>Ravenea rivularis</i>
<i>Euphorbia primulifolia</i> var. <i>begardii</i>	<i>Satranala decussilvae</i>
<i>Euphorbia razafindratsirae</i>	<i>Voanioala gerardii</i>
<i>Euphorbia robivelonae</i>	

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Mites Cadena), the nomenclature specialist (Mr McGough), Austria, Mexico, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC and the Chairman.

8.6 Progress report of regional representatives on seven Asian species

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 8.6, noting that no new information had been received since the document had been prepared and stating that it considered the matter to be mainly one of non-compliance and therefore falling within the remit of the Standing Committee.

Attention was drawn to information document PC17 Inf. 10, a *Review of the Status, Harvest, Trade and Management of Seven Asian CITES-listed Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Species*, prepared by TRAFFIC International with funding from Germany, which contained a great deal of information on the species concerned. It was also noted that some national populations of some of the species were currently included in the Review of Significant Trade and therefore had been addressed under agenda item 8.5. A regional, multi-stakeholder approach to improving management of and controls of trade in the species was advocated.

The Committee agreed to ask the Secretariat to bring issues of non-compliance and illegal trade in the species concerned to the attention of the Standing Committee, noting that issues relating to non-detriment findings for three of the species were being dealt with under agenda item 8.4.

During discussion on this item, interventions were made by the representative of Asia (Mr Thitiprasert) and the nomenclature representative (Mr McGough), Germany, TRAFFIC and the Chairman.

9. Review of the use of source code 'R'

This agenda item was discussed during the joint PC17/AC23 session.

The Secretariat introduced documents PC17 Doc. 9 (Rev. 2) and AC23 Doc. 9 (Rev. 2) which addressed implementation of Decision 14.152. It drew attention to a correction of the tables in Annex 2 of the documents: all exports from Peru in 1994 had been misclassified in the CITES database of annual report statistics; these should have been reported under source code 'A' and not 'R' and should therefore not have been included in the table.

In order to further implementation of Decision 14.152, a working group (PC17/AC23 WG3) was established. The membership of the group is included in Annex 1 to the present document.

Later, the Committees adopted the report of PC17/AC23 WG3 presented orally by the Netherlands as co-chairman of the group, as follows:

- a) Based on the trade data provided in document AC23 Doc. 9 (Rev. 2) a small drafting group will select relevant Parties and species during AC23 from which the working group will seek information on use of code 'R' through a questionnaire. The small group will also draft questions, and will look into how to proceed with the literature review, assisted by NGOs and IUCN.
- b) The co-chairmen of the working group, in consultation with the working group and the relevant regional representatives of the Committees will send a questionnaire to the selected Parties and request a response within 2 months, that is before 1 July 2008.
- c) The co-chairmen of the working group, in consultation with the working group, will review and analyse the information received and decide how to proceed in order to prepare a document for the next AC and PC.
- d) If feasible, a draft document will be sent to the Parties for consultation in September 2008.
- e) A redrafted document will be submitted by the working group to the Animals Committee and Plants Committee in December 2008.

f) It may be necessary to revise the proposed time-schedule during the process.

g) Animals and plants will not be merged, but will follow the same process.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the AC Chairman and the Secretariat.

10. International expert workshop on non-detriment findings

This agenda item was discussed during the joint PC17/AC23 session.

Mexico introduced documents PC17 Doc. 10 and AC23 Doc. 10, outlining progress that had been made in the organization of the workshop. They reported that the planned dates of the workshop had been changed from those in the document to 17-22 November 2008. They stated that pledges had been received for one third of the workshop's budget, that the deadline for finalizing the budget was the end of July 2008, and that the Secretariat had been asked to look for funding.

The Committees noted the document.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the PC Chairman.

11. Periodic review of plant species included in the CITES Appendices

Switzerland, as Chairman of the Working Group on Periodic review of plant species included in the CITES Appendices, introduced document PC17 Doc. 11. They noted that reviews had been completed for 22 % of the taxa and 29 % of the species agreed for review between CoP13 and CoP15. Although much work had been done, progress had now slowed with many reviews still to be completed. Switzerland considered that an alternative approach was needed and proposed returning the mandate of the intersessional working group to the Committee.

The representative of North America (Mr Gabel) reported that the United States intended to continue with the review of *Sclerocactus* spp., subject to available funding, and that it also offered to work with Namibia on the review of *Welwitschia mirabilis*. France pointed out that a French specialist in Malagasy euphorbias might be able to assist in the review of the 10 species in this genus that were listed in Appendix I. Mexico stated that they would like to continue to be involved with the reviews for *Agave victoriae-reginae* and *Euphorbia antisiphilitica*. The Netherlands offered to assist in the review of *Cycas beddomei*. South Africa stated that they would have completed reviews of *Orothamnus zeyheri* and *Protea odorata* by the end of 2008. Thailand stated that, if they were a range State of *Dioscorea deltoidea*, they would be prepared to offer assistance in reviewing that species.

The Committee agreed to establish a working group (PC17 WG5) on the periodic review of the Appendices, which would also deal with agenda item 14, Review of succulent *Euphorbia* spp. in Appendix II. The membership of this working group is shown in Annex 1 to the present document.

The mandate of PC17 WG5 was agreed as follows:

- a) Make a proposal on the appropriate listing of *Agave parviflora* and *Podocarpus parlatorei* and, if required, on further action;
- b) Make a proposal on how to proceed with taxa that are not yet under review (Annex 1, paragraph E) and taxa for which no reports on the state of review are available (Annex 5);
- c) Propose an alternative approach for the remaining taxa and for future reviews;
- d) Identify ways to conduct the review in the short, medium and long term; and
- e) Identify sources of funding to conduct the reviews.

The Chairman urged the group to consider liaising with the Animals Committee in seeking new approaches to continuing with the review and to address the question of funding.

Later in the meeting, Switzerland, as chairman of WG5, reported that the group had dealt with agenda items 11 and 14 separately, and presented those parts of the group's report in document PC17 WG5 that related to agenda item 11 (paragraphs 2 to 6). Modifications to paragraphs 4 a) and 6 were agreed by the Committee as follows: in paragraph 4 a), replace the second sentence with: The Notification should call upon Parties to undertake to find the resources to carry out the reviews on behalf of the Plants Committee.; in paragraph 6, in the second sentence replace 'PC' with working group and add at the end to present to PC18. Switzerland also noted that, according to the regional report PC17 Doc. 5.3, researcher Celso do Lago Paiva (Brazil) was reviewing the status of conservation of and trade in the Brazilian species of the Bromeliaceae family (*Tillandsia kautskyi*, *T. sucrei* and *T. sprengeliana*). The information would be sent to the chairman of WG5.

Thailand clarified that it was not a range State of *Dioscorea deltoidea* as it appeared in Annex 5.

With these changes, paragraphs 2 to 6 of document PC17 WG5 were adopted as follows:

- a) The WG recommends to retain *Agave parviflora* in Appendix I.
- b) The WG informs the PC that:
 - i) Argentina is considering submitting a proposal to CoP15 to downlist *Podocarpus parlatorei* from Appendix I to Appendix II with an appropriate annotation for parts and derivatives.
 - ii) South Africa is preparing proposals for delisting *Orothamnus zeyheri* and *Protea odorata* from Appendix II for consideration of CoP15.
 - iii) Namibia is preparing a report on the review of *Welwitschia mirabilis* for consideration of PC18.
 - iv) The review of *Euphorbia antisiphilitica* by Mexico is under way and the review of *Agave victoriae-reginae* will probably be initiated in the near future.
 - v) The Netherlands is offering to review *Cycas beddomei*.
 - vi) A possible voluntary expert for the review of the 10 Malagasy *Euphorbia* spp. in Appendix I was identified and France will ask for his cooperation.
- c) In order to achieve more progress up to PC18, the WG recommends that:
 - i) The Secretariat publish a Notification to Parties as soon as possible and raise awareness of taxa that are still not under review. The Notification should contain a list of these taxa and a schedule. The Notification should call upon Parties to undertake to find the resources to carry out the reviews on behalf of the Plants Committee. Parties should inform the Secretariat if they identify or contract experts for the review of species.
 - ii) If funds should become available, the Secretariat shall consult with the chairmen of the PC and the intersessional WG and select taxa for review and experts to be contracted, and make according contracts.
- d) The WG will coordinate and monitor the Periodic Review and submit a report at PC18.
- e)
 - i) The WG recommends that the PC should apply for the allocation of funds to the periodic review of plant taxa at CoP15 through the report of the Chairman.
 - ii) The WG should draft guidelines up to PC18, indicating under which circumstances experts may be contracted for reviews of plant taxa.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Mr Sajeva), North America (Mr Gabel) and Oceania (Mr Leach), Austria, France, Madagascar, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand and the Chairman.

12. Strategic planning

12.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Plants Committee

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 12.1, which was noted by the Committee. No interventions were made.

12.2 Establishment of the Plants Committee priorities

At the Committee's first session, the Chairman indicated that she had prepared a template for discussion by the representatives that would be circulated as soon as possible to establish the work plan. Later in the meeting, the representative of Oceania (Mr Leach) reported that those members of the Committee present had met informally to discuss future Plants Committee activities based on relevant CoP Decisions and Resolutions. They had given each activity a ranking of high, medium or low priority. Most activities were assigned a high priority (see Annex 2).

They had also tentatively assigned responsibilities within the Committee and had decided that, for some activities assigned a medium or low priority, an individual not necessarily a Committee member could be designated to produce a report for transmission to CoP15.

No other interventions were made.

13. Annotations

13.1 Cactaceae and Orchidaceae: review of annotations

Switzerland introduced document PC17 Doc. 13.1, noting that the document addressed Decision 14.130 and covered taxa in addition to the Cactaceae and Orchidaceae.

In order to further implementation of Decision 14.130, the Committee agreed to establish a working group (PC17 WG1) that could continue its work intersessionally if necessary. The membership of this working group is shown in Annex 1 to the present document.

The mandate of PC17 WG1 was agreed as follows:

- a) Analyse whether some of the described elements could be partly or entirely exempted from CITES;
- b) Evaluate the effectiveness and feasibility of merging and amending annotations #1 and #4;
- c) Analyse the consequences of merging and amending the annotations to the taxa concerned;
- d) Clarify the annotation to seeds of Mexican Cactaceae; and
- e) Clarify the translation of "cactus without chlorophyll".

Later in the meeting the revised report of WG1 was presented by the chairman of the WG (Mr Benítez) to the Committee in document PC17 WG1 (Rev. 1).

After some discussion, the Committee agreed to establish an intersessional working group (PC17 WG13) as proposed in paragraph 3 of the report, and to include a reference within that paragraph to the effect that agarwood-producing species should be excluded from the consideration of the working group proposed in this paragraph as it was already included in the mandate of PC17 WG7. It also agreed to establish another intersessional working group (PC17 WG14) to deal with herbarium specimens as discussed in paragraph 4 of document PC17 WG1 (Rev. 1). On this basis, the report of WG1 was adopted as follows:

- a) Items 1-4 of the mandate were reviewed during the general discussion of the Working Group (WG).
- b) The WG reviewed elements a) to g) of the proposed annotation in PC17 Doc. 13.1 (Annex 1). The WG agreed to the proposed merge of Annotations #1 and #4 for elements a) to e), with some modifications. The WG agreed not to include in the new merged annotation, elements f) and g). The new proposed annotation which was agreed upon by the WG is as follows:
 - i) seeds, spores, and pollen (including pollinia) except those from Cactaceae spp. exported from Mexico;
 - ii) seedling or tissue cultures obtained *in vitro*, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers;
 - iii) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants;
 - iv) fruits and parts and derivatives thereof of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genera *Vanilla* (Orchidaceae), *Opuntia*, subgenus *Opuntia* (Cactaceae), *Hylocereus* and *Selenicereus* (Cactaceae);
 - v) stems, flowers, and parts and derivatives thereof of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genera *Opuntia*, subgenus *Opuntia*, and *Selenicereus* (Cactaceae).
- c) Regarding element f) of the proposed annotation in document PC17 Doc. 13.1 (Annex 1), the WG considered that this element is outside the mandate of the WG and proposes that an intersessional WG be formed to investigate the issue of finished products and related annotations (WG13). Also, this new WG would prioritize the species suggested in document PC17 Doc. 13.1 (Annex 1) and begin work on specific cases to be considered under the finished product exemption. It should be noted that the WG did not agree to consider exemption of finished products at the family level at this time.
- d) Regarding element g) of the proposed annotation in document PC17 Doc. 13.1 (Annex 1), the WG agreed not to include it in the new merged annotation, because CITES already has Resolution Conf. 11.15 (Rev. CoP12): *Non-commercial loan, donation or exchange of museum and herbarium specimens* in place to deal with non-living herbarium specimens. The WG acknowledged that there are problems with the movement of non-living herbarium specimens because not all Parties are implementing this Resolution.
- e) Regarding cacti lacking chlorophyll, the WG agreed to delete "lacking chlorophyll" from footnote #6 of the Appendices related to artificially propagated specimens of hybrids and/or cultivars. The WG recognized the expression "lacking chlorophyll" is technically incorrect, in that the mutants in question contain chlorophyll. This results in enforcement problems when implementing this exemption. The amended part of footnote #6 of the Appendices would read as follows: Cactaceae spp. colour mutants grafted on the following grafting stocks: *Harrisia* 'Jusbertii', *Hylocereus trigonus* or *Hylocereus undatus*.

The mandate of PC17 WG13 was agreed as follows:

- a) Prepare a list of annotations included for taxa in paragraph f) of document PC17 Doc. 13.1, Annex 1.
- b) Establish criteria for prioritizing taxa included in this paragraph and rank the taxa based on those criteria.

- c) Beginning with the highest priority taxa, request information from UNEP-WCMC on international trade volumes for a specific time-frame, for only certain specimens as identified in the criteria developed in paragraph b) above.
- d) Review the information at the species level and, with the assistance of the Secretariat, request information from the Parties concerned regarding their experience in the international trade in those species, specifically regarding the first commodity in trade.
- e) Review the appropriateness of including 'finished pharmaceutical products' in any proposed exemption language.
- f) Determine whether any species could be exempted from the provisions of the Convention under such an exemption and report the results of the working group at PC18.

The membership of PC17 WG13 is included in Annex 1 to the present document.

The mandate of PC17 WG14 was agreed as follows:

- a) Explore the possibilities within CITES for facilitating the exchange of herbarium specimens.
- b) Produce a report on these possibilities and the difficulties that may be encountered in their implementation and propose further actions for discussion at PC18.

The membership of PC17 WG14 is included in Annex 1 to the present document.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Europe (Mr Sajeve), North America (Mr Gabel) and Oceania (Mr Leach), the nomenclature specialist (Mr McGough), Austria, China, France, Germany, Kuwait, Madagascar, Mexico, Switzerland, the American Herbal Products Association and the Chairman.

13.2 Orchids: annotation for species included in Appendix II

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 13.2 which addressed Decisions 14.133 and 14.134. It noted that, after CoP12, Thailand had produced material to aid in the identification of artificially propagated orchids, which had been sent to the Secretariat and distributed to all Parties.

The regional representative of Asia (Mr Thitiprasert) reported that, in January 2008, he had sent out a request asking countries whether they had experienced conservation problems implementing the current annotations exempting certain artificially propagated orchid hybrids from the Appendices. Nine Parties had replied, generally confirming that they had not experienced conservation problems as a result of the exemptions.

During the discussion on this agenda item, it was noted that the existing exemptions were not well implemented as traders did not wish to rely on them and preferred to have CITES certificates issued for their shipments. It was also noted that there was a reluctance on the part of a number of range States to expand the current exemptions and that the low response rate from Parties to the request for information indicated that there was unlikely to be an increase in the use of the existing exemptions in the near future.

In order to further implementation of Decisions 14.133 and 14.134, the Committee agreed to establish a working group (PC17 WG2) that could continue its work intersessionally if necessary. The membership of this working group is shown in Annex 1 to the present document.

The mandate of PC17 WG2 was agreed as follows:

Regarding Decision 14.133

- a) Prepare a method to promote collaboration between exporting and importing countries for the making of recommendations and preparing identification material on possible further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively; and
- b) Establish who will compile the results to be submitted at the next meeting of the Plants Committee and how.

Regarding Decision 14.134

Taking account of the work previously undertaken to implement Decision 13.99 on Annotation for Orchidaceae included in Appendix II found in document PC15 Doc. 19, Notification to the Parties No. 2005/047 and document PC16 Doc. 17.2:

- a) Prepare a questionnaire to be sent to Parties;
- b) Prepare a Notification to the Parties to be issued by the Secretariat; and
- c) Determine who will analyse and compile the results to be submitted at the next meeting of the Plants Committee.

Later in the meeting, the chairman of the working group PC17 WG2 presented a report of their work (document PC17 WG2). Some further discussion ensued, in which it was stressed that, in order to be helpful, identification materials should enable users to distinguish between orchids that were excluded from the Appendices and those that were not. The need to address collaboration between exporting and importing countries and possible future exemptions in implementation of Decision 14.133 was emphasized. Possible problems with verification of identification material were also raised as was the view that the proposed way of collecting information on use of the exemption would not fully reflect the concerns of all Parties.

On the basis of these discussions, the chairman of PC17 WG2 was asked to submit a revised version of the working group's report. Later in the meeting, the recommendations contained in PC17 WG2 (Rev. 1) were adopted with the addition of the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph: Identification material should be submitted for taxa already exempt but also for taxa that could be exempted in the future.

The full text read as follows:

Recommendations

- a) Exporting and importing countries are requested to send to the Secretariat identification material (ID material) and technical information including a pictorial guide on artificially propagated orchid specimens exempted from the CITES Appendices as well as on specimens from the wild. Identification material should be submitted for taxa already exempt but also for taxa that could be exempted in the future.
- b) This, and other available information, to be put on the CITES website by the CITES Secretariat for the use by any Party interested. This will provide assistance for differentiation of wild with artificially propagated orchids. Exporting and importing countries should consult with the nomenclature specialist on the Plants Committee* for validation and accuracy of the information, before sending the ID material to the Secretariat to be publicized on the CITES website.

* *Note from the Secretariat: The Secretariat has changed the original text which referred to "Chairman of Nomenclature Committee (Plants)", as this Committee was abolished at CoP14.*

- c) Any new exemption proposals which are submitted to the Conference of the Parties should include sufficient ID materials.

To monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, the working group proposes to request the Secretariat to send a Notification to the Parties, with the deadline for the submission to the Secretariat within a fixed date before the following PC meeting, which raises the following questions:

- i) Have you encountered any problems concerning the exemption annotation of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II as exporting or importing country or for both?
- ii) Please do describe the problems that have been arising.
- iii) What is your recommendation to resolve the problems?
- iv) Do you observe positive effects or do you have any other comments?

Any new or additional information arising on problems concerning the exemption of orchid species should be lead towards the Chairman of the Plants Committee. The compilation and preparation of the document will be conducted by the chairman and the co-chairman of the working group (Thailand and the Netherlands) in time before the 18th meeting of the PC.

Analysis and compilation of the Parties responses and any new or additional information arising on the problems will be conducted by a working group established at the 18th meeting of the PC.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Mr Thitprasert), North America (Mr Gabel) and Oceania (Mr Leach), Austria, Germany, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Switzerland, Thailand, TRAFFIC, the Chairman and the Secretariat.

13.3 Tree species: annotations for species included in Appendices II and III

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 13.3, which addressed Decision 14.148.

To further implementation of Decision 14.148, the Committee agreed to establish a working group (PC17 WG3) that could continue its work intersessionally if necessary. The membership of this working group is shown in Annex 1 to the present document.

The mandate of PC17 WG3 was agreed as follows:

- a) Prepare a list of tree species included in Appendices II and III with the corresponding annotations in effect;
- b) Prepare definitions for the terms used in the annotations to facilitate their use and understanding, particularly of what is meant by "second processing";
- c) Prepare a list of the articles that initially appear in international trade as exports from the range States, and of those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource for every species concerned;
- d) Take Customs codes into account;
- e) Analyse current annotations and, if relevant, propose amendments to the annotations in effect to the Plants Committee; and
- f) Prepare, if necessary, proposals to amend Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP14) and/or to amend the Appendices accordingly.

PC17 WG3 was to confine itself to consideration of those tree species that were traded as timber.

Later in the meeting, and following some discussion concerning Customs codes, in which it was pointed out that all articles in trade had appropriate Customs tariff numbers, the recommendations of PC17 WG3, as contained in document PC17 WG3 were agreed with the following amendments: in paragraphs 2 and 3 replace 'CITES Timber Officer' with Secretariat; in paragraphs 2 and 3, replace 'FAO and ITTO' with FAO, ITTO and WCO. The agreed text read:

Recommendations

- a) The PC should request that the Secretariat issue a Notification to range States for timber species listed in Appendices II and III and request information on whether existing annotations for those timber species appropriately focus on specimens that initially appear in trade from the range States, and on those specimens that dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource.
- b) The PC should request that the Secretariat correspond with relevant experts at FAO, ITTO and WCO to compile a list of definitions and corresponding harmonized tariff codes for both primary and secondary processed timber products.
- c) The PC should request that the Secretariat compile a document containing a summary of the information provided by range States in response to the Notification as well as a compilation of the timber product definitions obtained through consultation with FAO, ITTO and WCO, these documents should be transmitted to the working group to continue its work by electronic means during the intersessional period until PC18.
- d) The WG should present recommendations to PC18 on potential revisions to annotations for tree species listed in the Appendices as well as further definitions and harmonized tariff codes that would assist the Parties in implementing the revised annotations.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Mr Partomihardjo) and Oceania (Mr Leach), France, Germany, Malaysia, Switzerland and the Chairman.

The Committee agreed that the representative of North America (Mr Gabel) should act as overall coordinator for the Committee's work on annotations.

14. Review of succulent *Euphorbia* spp. in Appendix II

The observer from Switzerland introduced Document PC17 Doc. 14, noting that the Conference of the Parties had directed Decision 14.131 to the Plants Committee to review the listing of succulent *Euphorbia* spp. in Appendix II.

The Committee agreed that the working group PC17 WG5 should be mandated with carrying out the work set out in Decision 14.131. The Chairman noted that the working group would have to continue its work intersessionally.

The mandate for PC17 WG5 was agreed as follows:

- a) Analyse trade data and conservation status of succulent *Euphorbia* species (except those species currently included in Appendix I);
- b) Prepare a revised list of succulent *Euphorbia* species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) for inclusion in Appendix II;

- c) Prepare proposals, if relevant, for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee that provide for the deletion of *Euphorbia* species from Appendix II that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists; and
- d) Determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II.

Later in the meeting, the Committee reviewed the part of the report of PC17 WG5 that related to this agenda item (paragraphs 7 to 9 of document PC17 WG5). With respect to the genera referred to in paragraph 7 of the document, it was noted that these were not part of the original intention of the listing. The Committee agreed that the working group in its intersessional work should prepare a proposal for submission to CoP15 to annotate the current listing of the genus *Euphorbia* in the Appendices to the effect that these genera were excluded from the listing.

With this amendment paragraphs 7 to 9 of document PC WG5 were adopted as follows:

7. The WG points out that the genus *Euphorbia* was substantially amplified: According to recent studies of DNA sequence data, most of the smaller "satellite genera" around the huge genus *Euphorbia* nest deep within the latter. Consequently these taxa, namely the never generally accepted genus *Chamaesyce* as well as the smaller genera *Cubanthus*, *Elaeophorbia*, *Endadenium*, *Monadenium*, *Synadenium* and *Pedilanthus* were transferred to *Euphorbia*. The genus *Euphorbia* in this new, amplified sense is equal to the entire subtribe *Euphorbiinae* of the family Euphorbiaceae. A considerable number of additional succulent species may thus fall unintentionally under CITES regulations. The WG therefore recommends to investigate, whether one or several subgeneric units of the genus *Euphorbia* in the new, amplified sense correspond to the former listing and, if possible, narrow the listing of succulent *Euphorbia* spp. in Appendix II down to this subgeneric taxon or those subgeneric taxa.
8. The WG will undertake some work intersessionally:
 - a) Analyse the trade data provided in document PC17 Doc. 14 (Annex).
 - b) Identify species for possible exclusion from Appendix II, based on this and all other available, relevant information.
 - c) Prepare a list of candidate species for possible delisting for consideration at PC18 and submit a report containing this list and all other available, relevant information.
9. The WG recommends that, following PC17, the Secretariat publish a Notification to Parties as soon as possible, asking range States of succulent *Euphorbia* spp. to indicate, as far as possible, species that are actually or potentially negatively impacted through harvest from the wild for international trade. Parties should report their findings to the Secretariat until 6 month before PC18 and the Secretariat shall gather this information and forward it to the chairman of the WG.
10. The WG will prepare a proposal for submission to CoP15 to annotate the current listing of the genus *Euphorbia* in the Appendices to the effect that these genera were excluded from the listing and present this for discussion at PC18.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Mr Thitiprasert), Europe (Mr Sajeva) and North America (Mr Gabel), Switzerland, the Chairman and the Secretariat.

15. Transport of live plants

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 15.

The Committee agreed to refer this item to the joint session of the Animals and Plants Committees to be held on 19 April. The Committee also agreed that, were Austria to be appointed chairman of a working group to address this item at the joint session or at AC23, Austria (Mr Kiehn) would also represent the Plants Committee in the working group.

At the joint session, a working group (PC17/AC23 WG4) was established in order to coordinate work in the Committees on transport of live animals and plants. The membership of the group is included in Annex 1 to this document.

Later, the report of working group PC17/AC23 WG4 was presented orally by the Chairman of the Animals Committee and Austria. Its recommendations were adopted as follows:

- a) The working group participants unanimously elected Andreas Kaufmann from Austria as the new Chairman of the Working Group to direct the work through to CoP15.
- b) The working group participants agreed that the Annex to document AC23 Doc. 6 section 4 on "action required" regarding Resolution Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14): *Transport of Live Specimens*, should be in **bold** indicating joint AC/PC activities.
- c) The working group participants agreed that, should any members participate in IATA, OIE, or other relevant meetings, they could note that they are on the CITES Transport Working Group, but not claim to speak on behalf of the group, and that they should report back to the Working Group as to the deliberations of the meeting or relevant decisions taken.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Austria and the PC Chairman.

16. Timber issues

Malaysia and UNEP-WCMC introduced an item on workshops on the conservation of tree species. They presented a summary of a regional workshop that had been held in Kuala Lumpur in September 2007 at which a number of tree species had been identified as priorities for further action, including international monitoring. They drew attention to document PC17 Inf. 7, which contained a report of the workshop. It was noted that further regional workshops were planned and, specifically, that it was hoped to hold a workshop in Africa in 2008. At present, only some 30 % of the funding for the latter had been secured.

The Committee supported the holding of regional workshops on the conservation of tree species, commended the work of the regional workshops that had been held to date and called upon donors to contribute so that similar workshops could be held in other regions.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Asia (Mr Partomihardjo and Mr Thitiprasert) and Oceania (Mr Leach), the Netherlands, the Chairman and the Secretariat.

16.1 Bigleaf mahogany

16.1.1 Progress report on the implementation of the action plan for bigleaf mahogany

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 16.1.1 concerning the action plan for bigleaf mahogany agreed in Decision 14.145. It noted that the action plan did not elaborate terms of reference for work by the mahogany working group in the period up to CoP15.

16.1.2 International Workshop of Experts on Non-Detriment Findings on Bigleaf Mahogany (Cancun, April 2007): endorsement and adoption of guidelines for making NDFs for mahogany

Mexico introduced document PC17 Doc. 16.1.2.

16.1.3 Volumetric conversion of standing trees to exportable mahogany sawn wood

The Chairman introduced document PC17 Doc. 16.1.3.

The Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (Mexico) reported that of 14 range States of bigleaf mahogany, nine had submitted to the working group progress reports on the implementation of the action plan for bigleaf mahogany. Analysis of these reports against a series of criteria, indicated that only three range States had sufficient information to make non-detriment findings.

There then followed a discussion which chiefly concerned the merits of including bigleaf mahogany in the Review of Significant Trade according to paragraph 6. b) of Decision 14.145. There was general agreement that the species merited inclusion, but also that not all range States should necessarily be included in any review. Concern was expressed that inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade could be seen by range States as a punitive measure in itself, although it was also noted that the review could stimulate capacity-building and could be a way to focus action in areas where it was most needed.

Following the discussion, the Committee decided unanimously to include in the Review of Significant Trade populations of the bigleaf mahogany of countries that had not demonstrated having sufficient information to make non-detriment findings, in compliance with Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention. It established a working group (PC17 WG10), the membership of which is included in Annex 1 to the present document.

The mandate of WG10 was agreed as follows:

- a) In relation to *Swietenia macrophylla* (bigleaf mahogany), select the countries for the Review of the Significant Trade;
- b) Define the terms of reference for the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group work until CoP15;
- c) Discuss the possibility of endorsing document PC17 Doc. 16.1.2;
- d) Analyse document PC17 Doc. 16.3 and formulate recommendations;
- e) Review document PC17 Doc. 16.1.3 and formulate recommendations.

Later in the meeting, Canada, as chairman of working group WG10, introduced document PC17 WG10.

With respect to paragraphs 1 and 2 under Recommendations in document PC17 WG10, the observer from Mexico reported that, as chairman of the mahogany working group, he had analysed the report from Nicaragua using the same criteria he had applied to analysis of the other country reports, the results of which had been used to help determine whether, according to PC17 WG10, a country population of bigleaf mahogany should be included in the Review of Significant Trade or not [paragraphs 1. i) and ii) under Recommendations in document PC17 WG10]. On the basis of this analysis, Nicaragua would remain in the list in paragraph 1 i), that is, its population would be included in the Review of Significant Trade. The Committee agreed with this determination.

There then followed lengthy discussion of the working group report which chiefly concerned the relationship between the reports on bigleaf mahogany and the Review of Significant Trade, and in particular whether the analysis of national reports, as reported by the Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, could be used to determine whether the population of the species in a particular country merited inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade. The Secretariat wished it to be recorded that, in its opinion, in the matter of the Review of Significant Trade in bigleaf mahogany, the Committee was not following the procedures agreed in Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13). The representative of North America and the observer from IWMC clarified that the Committee was referring to paragraph b) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), and this was agreed by the Committee.

The following changes to the recommendations in document PC17 WG10 were then agreed by the Committee:

Under Recommendations, an explanation should be added explaining the reasons why it was decided not to include the bigleaf mahogany populations of Brazil, Guatemala and Mexico in the Review of Significant Trade.

In paragraph 1 i), add Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and insert have not demonstrated ability to implement non-detriment findings and after 'Saint Lucia'.

In point 3 under paragraph 4, regarding the Terms of Reference for the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group work until CoP15, replace 'CoP15' with PC18.

In the second italic paragraph under paragraph 5 i), replace 'ideal' with indicative and delete the word 'idealized'.

In paragraph 6 ii), add the words and importing States after 'ranges States', and replace 'prior to' with well in advance of.*

In paragraph 7 i), add the words that illustrates a useful methodology after 'important step', delete the word 'direct' and add the word should after 'relationship these quotas.'

Delete existing sub-paragraphs 7 iv) and 7 v) and add a new sub-paragraph 7 iv) as follows:

range States reporting on studies being performed in line with paragraph 1. b) of the Bigleaf Mahogany Action Plan are to include in their report for PC18 specific information on how they implement these volume conversion methodologies in their quotas and/or a timetable for doing so.

Old sub-paragraphs 7 vi) and 7 vii) are now renumbered as 7 v) and 7 vi).

The full text as agreed by the Committee read as follows:

Recommendations

Regarding Selection of countries for the Review of the Significant Trade:

- a) Having considered the analysis by the Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group of information provided by bigleaf mahogany range States in response to the questionnaire sent by the Secretariat on 5 November 2007 (which addressed all tasks directed to range States in paragraph 1 of

* *Note from the Secretariat: the full recommendation resulting from this paragraph is recorded under agenda item 16.3 below.*

the Action Plan for bigleaf mahogany and progress in implementation of the plan), the Working Group recommends, on the basis of demonstrated ability to implement non-detriment findings as required by Article IV, paragraph 2 (a):

- i) that Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Saint Lucia have not demonstrated ability to implement non-detriment findings and should be selected for the Review of Significant Trade of bigleaf mahogany; and
 - ii) that Brazil, Guatemala and Mexico should not be selected for the Review of Significant Trade of bigleaf mahogany given that they had demonstrated their capacity to make non-detriment findings.
- b) Having determined that Nicaragua's response to the questionnaire sent by the Secretariat on 5 November 2007 was received as requested before 5 December 2007 and noted in the Secretariat's report, but was not forwarded to the Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group for analysis until after Working Group 10 began deliberations, the Working Group asks the Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group to analyse Nicaragua's report and, if the result of the analysis is positive, recommends that the Plants Committee not select Nicaragua for the Review of the Significant Trade of bigleaf mahogany.
- c) The Working Group recommends that the Plants Committee note that information in response to the questionnaire sent by the Secretariat on 5 November 2007 was received from Peru on 16 April 2008.

Regarding the Terms of Reference For the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group work until CoP15:

- d) The Working Group recommends the Terms of Reference be defined as follows:
1. Terms of Reference of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group:
 - a) promote the preparation and official adoption, as a priority, of mahogany management plans at national and subregional level;
 - b) promote the conduct of forest inventories, as well as progress, and promote programmes to determine and monitor the distribution, population size and conservation status of mahogany;
 - c) facilitate and promote the development of capacity-building programmes in monitoring and management relating to CITES procedures and documents. To this end, if considered appropriate, it may request assistance from the Plants Committee and the Secretariat;
 - d) utilize the existing action Plan for Bigleaf Mahogany for further guidance; and
 - e) facilitate the organization and establishment, if considered necessary, of working groups.

2. The Working Group should continue its work composed of at least the following members:
 - a) main bigleaf mahogany exporting Parties (Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru);
 - b) main bigleaf mahogany importing Parties (the Dominican Republic, the Member States of the European Union and the United States of America);
 - c) members of the Plants Committee (both representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean, and both representatives of Europe);
 - d) a member of the CITES Secretariat; and
 - e) by invitation, members of relevant NGO organizations and relevant timber industry associations.
3. The Working Group shall conduct its work intersessionally (between PC17 and PC18), mainly through remote communication (email, fax or phone) and shall present PC18 substantive results in accordance with the Terms of Reference mentioned above.

With regard to the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, the Chairman reminded participants that, as decided by the Committee by email in September 2006, the chairmen were Mexico (Mr García) and Peru (Ms Rosales), and that these people had been selected by the Committee on the basis of their *curricula vitae*.

Regarding document PC17 Doc. 16.1.2 on *International Workshop of Experts on Non-Detriment Findings on Bigleaf Mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla)*:

- e) The working group recommends:
 - i) that the Plants Committee endorse the document resulting from the International Workshop of Experts, recognizing it contains a set of indicative guidelines that can contribute to improvement of non-detriment findings, particularly in regards to mahogany in natural forests within its native range. To recognize concerns expressed in the Working Group regarding exact interpretation of technical terms, ongoing efforts to produce alternate methodologies for timber non-detriment findings, and limited capacity and resources available to range States to fully implement the methodologies contained in the report, the following introductory text should accompany the Plants Committee's endorsement:

The Plants Committee welcomes the report of the International Experts Meeting and expresses appreciation for the comprehensive description of elements requiring consideration in the process of making non-detriment findings for bigleaf mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla).

The Plants Committee endorses document PC17 Doc. 16.1.2 recognizing that the elements it contains represent indicative guidelines for non-detriment finding determination for bigleaf mahogany, and that specific implementation of this approach will necessarily require modification to respond to specific national circumstances.

- ii) that the document's elements be interpreted to include adaptive management as an approach to respond to future uncertainties including the effects of climate change.

Regarding PC17 Doc.16.3 *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*:

- f) The Working Group recommends:
 - i) that the Plants Committee urge any Parties that have not responded to the questionnaire referenced in document PC17 Doc.16.3, to provide immediately the requested data and information;
 - ii) that the Plants Committee ask the Secretariat to send notification asking range States to provide, prior to PC18, additional information regarding the status of conservation and trade in *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii* in their countries, and its relation to the sustainable management of these species;
 - iii) that the Plants Committee discuss at its 18th meeting, the species indicated in PC17 Doc.16.3, with the intent of developing recommendations for CoP15. This discussion should address the data contained in CITES CoP14 proposals 31, 32, and 33, data contained in PC17 Doc.16.3, any additional data collected through the Secretariat's notification requesting data;
 - iv) that the PC18 discussions include identification of these species, and in particular, potential look-alike difficulties that exist within the genera *Cedrela* and *Dalbergia*;
 - v) that parties submit for analysis at PC18, new listing proposals for these genera that are intended for presentation at CoP15;
 - vi) that the Secretariat ask range States to provide additional information on any observed increases in *Cedrela odorata* exports, particularly with respect to the sustainable management of the species;
 - vii) that Parties, in particular range States considering an Appendix III listing of any of these species, should provide updated status and trend information.

Regarding document PC17 Doc.16.1.3 on *Volumetric Conversion of Standing Trees to Exportable Mahogany Sawn Wood*:

- g) The Working Group recommends that:
 - i) the Plants Committee endorse the document, recognizing it as an important step that illustrates a useful methodology for improving management of timber export quotas, and the relationship these quotas should have to timber non-detriment findings;
 - ii) range States note the critical need for transparency in the identification of methods, such as conversion factors, to link harvest volumes approved by Scientific Authorities to export shipments;
 - iii) the Plants Committee note that wide variation exists in potential results and methodologies for determining conversion factors given differences in species, harvest and production systems, mill efficiencies, sampling sizes, and products produced;

- iv) range States reporting on studies being performed in line with paragraph 1. b) of the Bigleaf mahogany Action Plan are to include in their report for PC18 specific information on how they implement these volume conversion methodologies in their quotas and/or a timetable for doing so;
- v) the Plants Committee urge Parties to explicitly and transparently address, in future non-detriment findings, the identified need for application of conversion factors and/or other methodologies that link harvested wood volumes to export shipment volumes;
- vi) volumetric conversion factors be considered in deliberations on guidance for timber non-detriment findings of the Intersessional Non-detriment Finding Working group and at the International Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings in Cancun, Mexico, November 2008.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of Africa (Ms Khayota), Asia (Mr Thitiprasert), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Rivera), Europe (Mr Sajeve), North America (Mr Gabel) and Oceania (Mr Leach), the alternate representative of Africa (Mr Akpagana), the nomenclature specialist (Mr McGough), Austria, Canada, Mexico, Peru, the United States, Environmental Investigation Agency, IWMC World Conservation Trust, Greenpeace International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, WWF, the Chairman and the Secretariat.

16.2 Progress report on the joint CITES-ITTO timber project: first regional meeting

ITTO introduced document PC17 Doc. 16.2. The Secretariat provided a summary of a regional workshop held in Cameroon from 2 to 4 April 2008 as part of the joint CITES-ITTO timber project, which had resulted in an action plan for *Pericopsis elata*.

There followed a short discussion, during which the project was lauded as a model of cooperation between CITES and ITTO, which should be built on to improve the implementation of CITES for timber species. Following this, the Committee noted document PC17 Doc. 16.2.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mexico, the United States and the Chairman.

16.3 *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *D. granadillo* and *D. stevensonii*

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 16.3 concerning the action plan for the four timber species adopted at CoP14. They noted that Peru, a major exporter of *Cedrela odorata* had submitted a report the previous week. The Secretariat had not had time to analyse the report, but it would be available to any working group considering the issue.

It was mentioned that the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group should supervise the action plan for these four species, provided it could meet intersessionally.

Further consideration of the document and the action plan was deferred to working group PC17 WG10.

Later in the meeting the Committee adopted the recommendations of working group PC17 WG10 in document PC17 WG10, paragraph 6, with the change recorded under agenda item 16.1.3 above. The full text of paragraph 6 was as follows:

Regarding document PC17 Doc.16.3 *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*.

The Working Group recommends:

- i) that the Plants Committee urge any Parties that have not responded to the questionnaire referenced in document PC17 Doc. 16.3, to provide immediately the requested data and information;
- ii) that the Plants Committee ask the Secretariat to send A Notification asking range States and importing States to provide, well in advance of PC18, additional information regarding the status of conservation of and trade in *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii* in their countries, and its relation to the sustainable management of these species;
- iii) that the Plants Committee discuss at its 18th meeting, the species indicated in document PC17 Doc. 16.3, with the intent of developing recommendations for CoP15. This discussion should address the data contained in CITES CoP14 proposals 31, 32, and 33, data contained in document PC17 Doc. 16.3, any additional data collected through the Secretariat's Notification requesting data;
- iv) that the PC18 discussions include identification of these species, and in particular, potential look-alike difficulties that exist within the genera *Cedrela* and *Dalbergia*;
- v) that Parties submit for analysis at PC18 new listing proposals for these genera that are intended for presentation at CoP15;
- vi) that the Secretariat ask range States to provide additional information on any observed increases in *Cedrela odorata* exports, particularly with respect to the sustainable management of the species;
- vii) that Parties, in particular range States considering an Appendix-III listing of any of these species, should provide updated status and trend information.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the United States, the Chairman and the Secretariat.

16.4 Problems regarding population-specific Appendix-III timber listings

The representative of North America (Mr Gabel), speaking on behalf of the United States, introduced document PC17 Doc. 16.4, outlining inconsistencies and resultant problems observed by the United States in the implementation by the Parties of population-specific listing of timber species in Appendix III.

The Committee agreed to ask the Secretariat to prepare a Notification to the Parties asking whether any had encountered inconsistencies and problems similar to those observed by the United States. It suggested that the Notification could ask Parties to respond directly to the of the United States Management Authority, which could present the results to the Standing Committee in whose remit implementation and interpretation issues lay.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the Chairman and the Secretariat.

16.5 Physical inspection of timber shipments

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 16.5, welcoming Italy's offer to chair the electronic working group referred to in the document.

Peru stated that they had a handbook outlining administrative procedures for the export of mahogany that they would be happy to make available as a reference. The Democratic Republic of the Congo asked for help from importing countries in enforcement of controls of trade in *Pericopsis elata* and the Committee recommended that this request be made through the Standing Committee, in whose remit enforcement issues lay.

The Committee noted document PC17 Doc. 16.5 and encouraged Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities to participate in the working group.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Italy, Peru and the Chairman.

17. Non-detriment findings

17.1 Timber species and medicinal plants

17.1.1 Overview on non-detriment findings for timber species and medicinal plants

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 17.1.1, which addressed Decision 14.135 directed to the Plants Committee.

It was agreed that the development of general principles, criteria and indicators for the making of non-detriment findings for timber and medicinal plants would be useful, but also stressed the fact that the species concerned occurred in widely different ecological conditions and were exploited under different management systems with differing levels of governance. This might limit the extent to which general principles, criteria and indicators could be applied in specific cases.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to establish three working groups (PC17 WG6, PC17 WG7 and PC17 WG8) to address the issue of non-detriment findings for timber species and medicinal plants, including agarwood (see agenda item 17.2). The membership of these working groups is shown in Annex 1 to the present document.

The Chairman noted that working groups PC17 WG6 and PC17 WG8 would have to decide between them which would deal with *Prunus africana*. The Democratic Republic of the Congo would join the working group that dealt with this species.

The mandates for the working groups were contained in Decision 14.135 and, for agarwood (PC17 WG7), Decision 14.143, and were to develop principles, criteria and indicators for the making of non-detriment findings for wild specimens of their relevant taxa. The working groups, which were expected to continue their work intersessionally, were urged to liaise closely with each other. Their work was also expected to be closely linked to that undertaken in connection with the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings to be held in Mexico in November 2008. PC17 WG8 was urged to use the results of the International Workshop of Experts in Non-detriment Findings on Bigleaf Mahogany (Cancun, April 2007) as a basis for its work.

Later in the meeting, Germany, as chairman of PC17 WG6, presented document PC17 WG6.

After some discussion, the report in this document was agreed with the addition of the list of documents referred to in paragraph 4 and the insertion in paragraph 4 of 'of the working group' after 'The Chair'. The agreed text read as follows:

Reports

- a) As decided between the chairmen of the two working groups under 17.1.1, *Prunus africana* will be dealt with in the timber species working group. Apart from that, the group discussed which species qualify as medicinal plants under CITES. Life-form of the species and the plant part harvested for trade were seen as important features in NDF making especially for medicinal plant species.
- b) The group discussed the linkages between the PC working group and the NDF workshop to be held in Mexico in November 2008. It was clear that

the PC working group will work with the documents and guidance that will come out of the Mexican workshop. It is obvious that the mandate of the PC working group has linkages into all four plant related working groups in Mexico.

- c) The group will work intersessionally and has agreed on a number of tasks. It was agreed to take the ISSC MAP document (PC16 Inf. 9; <http://www.cites.org/common/com/PC/16/X-PC16-09-Inf.pdf>) and extract all elements relevant to CITES from it. This list will be provided by the working group chairman intersessionally.
- d) All available NDF-related documents were enumerated (PC16 Doc. 10.1.2; PC17 Doc. 16.1.2, 17.1.2, 17.1.3, 17.2, Inf. 4, Inf. 5; ISSC-MAP; IUCN Checklist) and it was agreed that they can be used as a starting point for identifying elements for NDF making for medicinal plants. The working group chairman will provide a draft in this respect. Working group participants were asked to provide elements of their work relevant to this process during the intersessional period.
- e) The group discussed the terms "principle", "criterion" and "indicator" and agreed that this needs further clarification. A starting point is the definitions given in the ISSC-MAP document. The view was expressed that the "principle" level has to be rooted in the text of the Convention. It is necessary to be consistent among the three PC working groups dealing with NDF in a common understanding of these three terms. The chairmen of the three working groups are to liaise on this topic and reach agreement on common usage.
- f) There was agreement that the guidance provided to the Scientific Authority on NDF making must be as simple as possible and has to focus on the appropriate level of precision.
- g) The United States and South Africa stated that they will participate in the intersessional working group.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of North America (Mr Gabel) and Oceania (Mr Leach), Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Malaysia, Mexico, Greenpeace International, TRAFFIC and the Chairman.

17.1.2 Summary report on the non-detriment findings for ramin (*Gonostylus* spp.) for Malaysia in 2008

Malaysia introduced document PC17 Doc. 17.1.2.

A brief discussion followed, in which it was noted that although importing countries had generally agreed that the imposition of export quotas was sufficient evidence of non-detriment findings, some concerns remained regarding ramin, such as whether current management and silvicultural practices ensured adequate regeneration, how different methodologies for establishing quotas in different areas could be reconciled, and whether it was appropriate to apply the methods for calculating quotas at the level of genus rather than species.

Document PC17 Doc. 17.1.2 was noted by the Committee.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of North America (Mr Gabel), TRAFFIC and the Chairman.

17.1.3 Final report on the study on abundance, distribution and conservation status of *Guaiacum sanctum* L. in Mexico

The observer from Mexico introduced document PC17 Doc. 17.1.3, which was noted by the Committee.

No interventions were made.

17.2 Agarwood-producing species

The representative of Oceania (Mr Leach) introduced document PC17 Doc. 17.2 which addressed Decision 14.143 on non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species. He drew attention to document PC17 Inf. 4, which contained details of the draft methodology developed by TRAFFIC for formulating non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species. Further implementation of Decision 14.143 would be undertaken through working group PC17 WG7, set up under agenda item 17.1.1.

Later in the meeting, the representative of Oceania (Mr Leach), as chairman of working group PC17 WG7 presented document PC17 WG7. He noted that the working group had not specifically addressed the use of terms in the group's mandate but stressed that it was important that the outcomes of working groups PC17 WG6, PC17 WG7 and PC17 WG8 reflect a common understanding on use of terms.

The comments and recommendations in document PC17 WG7 were then agreed as follows:

Comments

The working group took as its starting point document PC17 Inf. 4 'Developing a non-detriment finding methodology for agarwood-producing taxa'.

Range States raised the issue of discriminating wild from cultivated agarwood, the difficulty in trade reporting and consequent implications for making NDFs when these products are mixed.

The working group draws attention to the consideration of merging annotations #1 and #4 with respect to defining what agarwood products are controlled in trade and any consequent implications for harvest/trade reporting. It was suggested the final NDF methodology might account for this by concentrating on the earlier stages of harvest and crude processing (wood chipping).

Range States voiced concerns relating to the potential complexity involved in applying the methodology and the fact that not all range States have yet been given the opportunity to provide opinion on the current draft of document PC17 Inf. 4.

Issues relating to CITES-controlled products in trade are the subject of Decisions 14.137-14.144 and their subsequent implementation.

Recommendations

- a) Document PC17 Inf. 4 represents a considerable body of work on agarwood NDF methodology and the working group agreed that it is a good basis for moving towards the implementation of Decision 14.143.
- b) The regional representatives of Asia (Mr Partomihardjo) should contact range States to solicit comment on the document, particularly in relation to the practical implementation of the proposed NDF method. In addition, the representatives should highlight the significance of this draft document as the basis for a case study which will be presented to the international NDF workshop in Mexico in November 2008.

- c) The regional representatives of Asia should collate range State responses and present them to the working group chairman for incorporation into discussions in Mexico.
- d) Given that agarwood is primarily utilized as a medicinal and aromatic plant, the Mexican workshop should assess the possible relevance and contribution of the document, 'International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP)', for the development of an agarwood NDF methodology.
- e) At PC18, the Plants Committee shall assess the agarwood-specific output from the Mexican workshop in terms of meeting the requirements of Decision 14.143.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the Secretariat.

18. Definition of non-timber forests products

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 18 regarding implementation of Decision 14.142.

After some discussion, centred on the distinction between non-wood products derived from tree species and non-timber forest products in the wider sense, it was decided to create a working group (PC17 WG11) that would meet intersessionally to further implementation of Decision 14.142. The membership of the group is included in Annex 1 to the present document.

The mandate of the group was to draft a definition of non-timber forest products for discussion at PC18.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representatives of North America (Mr Gabel) and Oceania (Mr Leach), Thailand, FAO, the Chairman and the Secretariat.

19. Hybrids and cultivars under the Convention

19.1 Overview of hybrids and cultivars under the Convention

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 19.1, explaining that the report contained in its Annex regarding hybrids and cultivars and their treatment under the Convention had been prepared by an independent consultant for the Secretariat and was intended as background to help in the implementation of Decision 14.147.

19.2 Summary of CoP14 Decisions on hybrids and cultivars

The representative for North America (Mr Gabel) introduced document PC17 Doc. 19.2 explaining that it had been prepared at the request of the Plants Committee also as an aid in the implementation of Decision 14.147.

The Committee agreed to establish a working group (PC17 WG9), whose mandate was contained in Decision 14.147. The membership of this working group is shown in Annex 1 to the present document.

The mandate for working group PC17 WG9 was as agreed as follows:

Discuss hybrids and cultivars, and other entities recognized in horticulture (e.g. forms and varieties), and draft recommendations regarding their treatment under the Convention, particularly with regard to Article I, paragraph (b).

Later in the meeting, the representative of North America (Mr Gabel), as chairman of working group PC17 WG9, introduced document PC17 WG9.

After some discussion, the recommendations in document PC17 WG9 were agreed with the addition of the words 7th edition of the before 'International Code' in paragraph 2. The agreed text read as follows:

Recommendations

- a) Regarding hybrids: The Parties should continue to follow the guidance of Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP14).
- b) Regarding cultivars: The WG recommends adoption of the definition of the 7th edition of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants for Cultivars: "*an assemblage of plants that has been selected for a particular attribute or combination of attributes and that is clearly distinct, uniform, and stable in these characteristics and that when propagated by appropriate means retains those characteristics*".
- c) The WG further recommends that cultivars shall be subject to the provisions of the Convention even though not specifically included in the Appendices, but may be excluded from CITES controls by a specific annotation in Appendix I, II or III, if meeting the definition of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants.
- d) The WG recommends that the PC, if the above recommendations are agreed, requests that the Secretariat, on behalf of the PC, submits a proposal for CoP15 to amend Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP14) accordingly.
- e) Finally, the WG sees no need for further actions regarding other entities recognized in horticulture (e.g. forms and varieties), because they all can be subsumed under other valid definitions.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the regional representative of the North America (Mr Gabel), the nomenclature specialist (Mr McGough), Mexico, the American Herbal Products Association, IWMC World Conservation Trust, the Chairman and the Secretariat.

20. Nomenclatural matters

The nomenclatural specialist (Mr McGough) introduced document PC17 Doc. 20.

After some discussion, in which the need for CITES to have a stable and reliable nomenclatural basis for decision-making was emphasized, the Committee agreed to the following recommendations regarding specific sections of document PC17 Doc. 20:

Regarding paragraph 3 a), on *Cyathea*, members of the Committee were asked to provide to the nomenclature specialist names of experts from their regions who could help review *World Ferns* to determine whether it might serve as a standard reference for nomenclature for *Cyathea*, so that a recommendation could be submitted at PC18.

Regarding paragraphs 4 a) on *Gonystylus* and 4 b) on *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops*, range States were asked to provide to the nomenclature specialist references for these taxa that might serve as standard references.

Regarding paragraph 6 a) on an update of Volume 1 of the *Orchid Checklist*, members of the Committee were asked to provide to the nomenclature specialist names of relevant experts, particularly from range States, who could review the draft updated checklist.

Regarding paragraph 8, the meeting of the chairmen of the scientific committees of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements planned to be held at the end of May in Bonn, Germany, referred to under agenda item 7 of the present meeting, would provide an opportunity to raise this issue.

Regarding paragraph 8, the Committee agreed to establish a small working group (PC17 WG12) to work intersessionally on implementation of Decision 14.18, particularly as it related to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to

follow up progress made in harmonizing nomenclature with other conventions. The membership of the group is included in Annex 1 to the present document.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by the representative of Oceania (Mr Leach), Malaysia, Mexico, the Chairman and the Secretariat.

21. Identification matters

21.1 Progress report on the Identification Manual

The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 21.1. It further noted that Spanish versions of over 160 identification sheets had been received from Spain and were in the process of being converted into PDF files for posting on the CITES website.

Document PC17 Doc. 21.1 was noted by the Committee.

During discussion of this item, an intervention was made by the Chairman.

21.2 The development of genetic techniques for the forensic identification of *Gonostylus (ramin)* timber and wood products

The United Kingdom and TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network introduced document PC17 Doc. 21.2 (Rev. 1), noting that the samples used in the study had been provided by Malaysia. They were seeking ideas as to how to apply and extend the technique within the context of CITES.

The Committee noted the document and encouraged Parties to send relevant information to the observer from TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network.

No other interventions were made.

22. Time and venue of the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee

In view of the planned timing of CoP15, it was agreed that PC18 should be held in February 2009.

Argentina, Peru and the United States all offered to host PC18. The offer of Argentina was the first to be made and was accepted by acclamation. The United States stated that they would be happy to act as a back-up if needed. Peru also offered to organize the meeting if needed.

23. Any other business

Germany informed the Committee that they intended to prepare a draft document concerning timber certification, particularly with a view to developing universal applicable standards that would allow the recognition of existing timber certification and labelling schemes under the Convention. Stakeholders had been contacted and it was hoped that a draft could be circulated for discussion in the autumn of 2008 and that results based on this could be presented at PC18.

The Chairman of the Plants Committee presented a brief update on the seventh Master's course and third Doctorate programme on CITES held at the International University of Andalusia, which had been attended by 25 people from 16 countries.

The following items were discussed during the joint PC17/AC23 session.

Japan reported that they intended to submit a document on revision and publication of the CITES Appendices at the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee. They intended this document to discuss the information that should be included in proposals presented at the CoP to amend standard references for nomenclature, in particular changes to taxa included in the Appendices, and review obstacles to acceleration of the publication of the revised Appendices. They sought input from members of the Committees and others before submitting the document.

The Committee noted Japan's request for input, and suggested that the nomenclature specialist on the Animals Committee (Ms Grimm) contact Japan directly.

Mexico noted that there had been no formal decision by the CoP regarding back-to-back meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees and that Parties had to incur greater costs when meetings were held at different times and in different locations. They outlined the advantages they believed Parties drew from such meetings.

It was noted that, this time, back-to-back meetings were not currently planned because they were more expensive to organize than separate meetings, and because there had been no offer to host them jointly.

The Committees noted Mexico's comments and agreed to review the situation regarding back-to-back meetings in the future.

During discussion of this item, interventions were made by Germany, Japan, Mexico, the AC and PC Chairmen, and the Secretariat.

24. Closing remarks

The Chairman thanked the members of the Committee, the observers, the CITES Secretariat, the rapporteur, the interpreters, the ENB team, and all those who had participated or helped in the preparation and running of the meeting. She then declared the 17th meeting of the Plants Committee closed.

Annex 1

Membership of working groups

DESIGNATED MEMBERSHIP OF PC17 WORKING GROUPS

PC17 WG1

CACTACEAE AND ORCHIDACEAE: REVIEW OF ANNOTATIONS

Chairman: Mexico (Mr Benítez).

Members: The representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Sra. Rivera) and Europe (Mr Sajeva), Canada, China, France, Germany, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, American Herbal Products Association, TRAFFIC.

PC17 WG2

ORCHIDS: ANNOTATION FOR SPECIES INCLUDED IN APPENDIX II

Chairmen: The representative of Asia (Mr Thitiprasert) and the Netherlands (Mr de Koning).

Members: Brazil, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Mexico, United States of America, Iraq, TRAFFIC.

PC17 WG3

TREE SPECIES: ANNOTATIONS FOR SPECIES INCLUDED IN APPENDICES II AND III

Chairman: The representative of North America (Mr Gabel).

Members: The representatives of Africa (M. Akpagona) and Asia (Mr Partomihardjo), Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Malaysia, Mexico, Switzerland, United Kingdom, ITTO, UNEP-WCMC, Environmental Investigation Agency, TRAFFIC.

PC17 WG4

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE

Chairman: The nomenclature specialist (Mr McGough).

Members: Austria, Canada, China, Germany, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, United States of America, European Community, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, American Herbal Products Association, Greenpeace International, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, WWF.

PC17 WG5

PERIODIC REVIEW OF PLANT SPECIES INCLUDED IN THE CITES APPENDICES

Chairman: Switzerland (Mr Luthy).

Members: The representative of Europe (Mr Sajeva), Argentina, France, Germany, South Africa, Madagascar, Mexico, United States of America, European Community, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, TRAFFIC.

PC17 WG6

OVERVIEW ON NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS FOR TIMBER SPECIES AND MEDICINAL PLANTS: MEDICINAL PLANTS

Chairman: Germany (Mr Schippmann).

Members: The representative of Africa (M. Akpagana), Canada, China, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN, American Herbal Products Association, TRAFFIC.

PC17 WG7

OVERVIEW ON NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS FOR TIMBER SPECIES AND MEDICINAL PLANTS: AGARWOOD

Chairman: The representative of Oceania (Mr Leach).

Members: Kuwait, Malaysia, Thailand, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, TRAFFIC.

PC17 WG8

OVERVIEW ON NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS FOR TIMBER SPECIES AND MEDICINAL PLANTS: TIMBER

Chairmen: Malaysia and Mexico (Mr Nik Mustafa and Mr García).

Members: The representatives of Asia (Mr Partomihardjo) and Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mrs Rivera), Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Spain, United States of America, European Community, ITTO, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, Greenpeace International, TRAFFIC, WWF.

PC17 WG9

HYBRIDS AND CULTIVARS UNDER THE CONVENTION

Chairman: The representative of North America (Mr Gabel).

Members: The representative of Africa (Mr Akpagana) and the nomenclature specialist (Mr McGough), Austria, Canada, China, Switzerland, IUCN, TRAFFIC.

PC17 WG10

TIMBER ISSUES

Chairman: Canada (Mr Farr).

Members: The representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Sra. Rivera), Brazil, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, United Kingdom, United States of America, European Community, FAO, ITTO, Environmental Investigation Agency, Natural Resources Defense Council, TRAFFIC, WWF.

PC17 WG11

DEFINITION OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS

Chairman: The representative for Oceania (Mr Leach).

Members: Canada, Chile, China, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, United States of America, FAO, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, American Herbal Products Association, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, WWF.

PC17 WG12

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND HARMONIZATION OF NOMENCLATURE AND TAXONOMY WITH OTHER MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Chairman: Mexico (Mr Benítez)

Members: The representative of Oceania (Mr Leach), Austria, United Kingdom, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC.

PC17 WG13

CACTACEAE AND ORCHIDACEAE: REVIEW OF ANNOTATIONS: FINISHED PRODUCTS

Chairman: United States of America (Mr Gabel)

Members: Canada, China, France, Germany, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, American Herbal Products Association.

PC17 WG14

CACTACEAE AND ORCHIDACEAE: REVIEW OF ANNOTATIONS: HERBARIUM SPECIMENS

Chairmen: Mexico and the Netherlands (Ms Dávila and Mr de Koning).

Members: Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

DESIGNATED MEMBERSHIP OF PC17/AC23 WORKING GROUPS

PC17/AC23 WG1

RULES OF PROCEDURE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Chairman: The representative of North America on the Plants Committee (Mr Gabel).

Members: The Plants Committee Chairman (Mrs Clemente Muñoz), the alternate representative of Asia on the Animals Committee (Mr Giam), China, European Community, IUCN.

PC17/AC23 WG2

EVALUATION OF THE REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE

Chairmen: The representative of North America on the Animals Committee (Mr Medellín) and the nomenclature specialist on the Plants Committee (Mr McGough).

Members: Canada, China, Madagascar, the Netherlands, United States of America, European Community, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Humane Society International, Species Management Specialists, TRAFFIC, WWF.

PC17/AC23 WG3

REVIEW OF THE USE OF SOURCE CODE 'R'

Chairmen: The representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean on the Animals Committee (Mr Alvarez Lemus and Mr Calvar Agrelo), and the Netherlands.

Members: Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Zambia, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, Conservation Force, Defenders of Wildlife, IWMC World Conservation Trust, Species Survival Network, Wildlife Management International.

PC17/AC23 WG4

TRANSPORT OF LIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Chairman (at outset): Chairman of the Animals Committee (Mr Althaus).

Members: Austria, Germany, Mexico, United States of America, European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians, Humane Society of the United States, International Air Transport Association, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

Annex 2

Establishment of the Plants Committee priorities

This document has been prepared by the working group on the establishment of Plants Committee priorities for the period until CoP15.

The working group comprised all members of the Plants Committee, the alternate representative (Europe) and the plant nomenclature specialist and was chaired by the regional representative of Oceania.

The various Resolutions and Decisions that require Plants Committee attention have been assigned to either a High, Medium or Low priority. Activities have been allocated to PC members to act as a contact point for that activity.

PLANTS COMMITTEE PLANNING

Resolution Conf.	Title	Priorities			In charge
		High	Medium	Low	
9.24 (Rev. CoP14)	Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II	X			Chairman (M. Clemente)
11.1 (Rev. CoP14)	Establishment of Committees	X			Chairman (M. Clemente)
12.8 (Rev. CoP13)	Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	X			Nomenclature (N. McGough)
14.1 Para a & b	Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2009-2011			X	Chairman (M. Clemente)
14.1 Para c	Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2009-2011	X			Chairman (M. Clemente)
14.2 Annex	CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013	X			Chairman (M. Clemente)
14.3 Annex	CITES compliance procedures		X		Chairman (M. Clemente)
14.4	Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber	X			North America (R. Gabel)
14.8	Periodic Review of the Appendices	X			Europe alternate (J. Lüthy)
INSTRUCTIONS IN RESOLUTIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE CONSULTING OR INFORMING THE PLANTS COMMITTEE					
9.19 (Rev. CoP13) Annex 3	Guidelines for the registration of nurseries exporting artificially propagated specimens of Appendix-I species			X	Europe (M. Sajeve)
9.25 (Rev. CoP14)	Inclusion of species in Appendix III	X			CSA&C (D. Rivera)
10.21 (Rev. CoP14)	Transport of live specimens			X	Europe (M. Sajeve)

Resolution Conf.	Title	Priorities			In charge
		High	Medium	Low	
11.11 (Rev. CoP14)	Regulation of trade in plants			X	Chairman (M. Clemente)
11.19	Identification Manual	X			Nomenclature (N. McGough)
12.2 Annex 1	Procedure for approval of externally funded projects	X			Vice Chairman (G. Leach)
12.8 (Rev. CoP13)	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species	X			Nomenclature (N. McGough)

DECISIONS DIRECTED ONLY TO THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

Directed to the PC	Priorities			In charge
	High	Medium	Low	
14.15 The Plants Committee shall collaborate with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially regarding target xi "No species of wild flora endangered by international trade" and other issues related to flora species included in the CITES Appendices, and the Secretariat shall communicate the results of its work in the context of its Memorandum of Understanding with the CBD Secretariat.	X			Chairman (delegating to Mexico)
<i>Directed to the range States of Cistanche deserticola, Dioscorea deltoidea, Nardostachys grandiflora, Picrorhiza kurrooa, Pterocarpus santalinus, Rauvolfia serpentina and Taxus wallichiana, to the regional representatives for Asia on the Plants Committee and to the Secretariat</i>		X		Asia (T. Partomihardjo and W. Thitprasert)
14.20 The bodies to which this Decision is directed should ensure: a) implementation of regionally coordinated actions to improve the management of and prevent illegal trade in the seven species, including, <i>inter alia</i> , measures to combat illegal trade, regional capacity-building workshops and harmonization of regulations and legislation; and b) submission of progress reports at the 17th and 18th meetings of the Plants Committee.				
14.40 The Plants Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat and assess the usefulness to its programme of work of reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants of taxa included in Appendix II. It shall report its findings to the Standing Committee at its 58th meeting.	X			Europe alternate (J. Lüthy)

Directed to the PC	Priorities			In charge
	High	Medium	Low	
<p>14.130 The Plants Committee shall:</p> <p>a) analyse the amendments of annotations #1, #4 and #8 of proposal CoP14 Prop. 26 in order to decide whether there is merit in further developing and refining them; and</p> <p>b) if appropriate, prepare a proposal on annotations for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	X			North America (R. Gabel)
<p>14.131 The Plants Committee shall:</p> <p>a) analyse trade data and conservation status of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species (except those species currently included in Appendix I);</p> <p>b) prepare a revised list of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) for inclusion in Appendix II;</p> <p>c) prepare proposals for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that provide for the deletion of <i>Euphorbia</i> species from Appendix II that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists; and</p> <p>d) determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II.</p>	X			Europe alternate (J. Lüthy)
<p>14.133 Countries of export and import should make recommendations and prepare identification material on further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively. The results shall be sent to the Plants Committee, which shall evaluate them and adopt the appropriate measures.</p>	X			Asia (W. Thitiprasert)
<p>14.134 The Plants Committee shall monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and shall report on the issue at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	X			Asia (W. Thitiprasert) & North America (R. Gabel)
<p>14.135 The Plants Committee shall:</p> <p>a) develop principles, criteria and indicators for the making of non-detriment findings for wild specimens of high-priority taxa such as timber species, <i>Prunus africana</i> and other medicinal plants; and</p> <p>b) before the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, support the organization of a workshop on non-detriment findings for tree species.</p>	X			Chairman (M. Clemente), Vice Chairman (G. Leach), Africa (B. Khayota). Noting that paragraph b) depends on completion of paragraph a)

Directed to the PC	Priorities			In charge
	High	Medium	Low	
14.142 In consultation with relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Plants Committee in consultation with the Secretariat should draft a definition of non-timber forest products to be considered at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.		X		Vice Chairman (G. Leach)
14.143 On the basis of the work on non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species, that has been developed by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and the Secretariat, the Plants Committee, in consultation with range States and the Secretariat, shall develop principles, criteria and indicators for the formulation of non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species.	X			Vice Chairman (G. Leach)
14.145 The Conference of the Parties adopted the 'Action plan for the control of international trade in bigleaf mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>)', attached as Annex 3 to these Decisions.	X			CSA&C (D. Rivera)
14.146 The Conference of the Parties adopted the Action Plan attached as Annex 4 to these Decisions, to complete knowledge on the status of conservation of, trade in and sustainable use of <i>Cedrela odorata</i> , <i>Dalbergia retusa</i> , <i>Dalbergia granadillo</i> and <i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i> .	X			CSA&C (D. Rivera)
14.147 The Plants Committee shall discuss hybrids and cultivars, and other entities recognized in horticulture (e.g. forms and varieties), and provide recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting regarding their treatment under the Convention, particularly with regard to Article I, paragraph (b).	X			North America (R. Gabel)
14.148 a) The Plants Committee shall review and, if appropriate, draft amendments to the annotations to the tree species listed in Appendices II and III and/or shall prepare clear definitions for the terms used in those annotations in order to facilitate their use and understanding by CITES authorities, enforcement officers, exporters and importers. b) The amended annotations shall focus on the articles that initially appear in international trade as exports from the range States and on those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource. c) The Plants Committee shall draft, if necessary, proposals to amend Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP14) and/or to	X			North America (R. Gabel)

Directed to the PC	Priorities			In charge
	High	Medium	Low	
amend the Appendices accordingly so that the Depositary Government may submit them on its behalf for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.				
14.150 The Plants Committee shall, during the period between the 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, consider the opportunity to develop proposals to amend the Appendices on the basis of the <i>Contribution to an Evaluation of Tree Species</i> using the new CITES-listing criteria, and the results of regional workshops on sustainable management of timber species in 2007 and 2008.	X			Europe (M. Sajeva)

DECISIONS DIRECTED TO THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS COMMITTEE

Directed to the AC and PC	Priorities			In charge
	High	Medium	Low	
13.67 The Conference of the Parties has adopted the (Rev. <i>Terms of reference for an evaluation of the CoP14 Review of Significant Trade</i> contained in Annex 1 to these Decisions.	X			Nomenclature (N. McGough)
14.7 The Animals and Plants Committees should evaluate the need to further review and revise the terms of reference in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) and as necessary revise the terms of reference for presentation at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.			X	Vice Chairman (G. Leach)
14.8 The Animals and Plants Committees shall carry out internal monitoring through the regional reports and the reports of the chairmen of the scientific committees to the Conference of the Parties, and Table 3 of document SC54 Inf. 5 can be appended to the format for the preparation of regional members regional reports.		X		Vice Chairman (G. Leach)
14.50 The Animals and Plants Committees shall: a) review the proceedings resulting from the expert workshop on non-detriment findings under the terms set out in Decision 14.49; and b) prepare, for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a discussion paper and, if considered appropriate, a draft resolution on the making of non-detriment findings.	X			Chairman (M. Clemente), Vice Chairman (G. Leach)

Directed to the AC and PC	Priorities			In charge
	High	Medium	Low	
<p>14.52 The Animals and Plants Committees shall:</p> <p>a) review the CITES trade data maintained by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre to determine the species for which source code R has been used for trade, and the countries where this has occurred;</p> <p>b) survey countries applying source code R to species other than crocodylians transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II subject to ranching, and obtain information on the management programme for the species to which this source code is applied;</p> <p>c) review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching (i.e. primarily focused on the harvest of specimens representing early life stages for rearing in captivity) and identify common elements in these programmes;</p> <p>d) based on this review, propose a definition of ranching and the use of source code R for CITES purposes; and</p> <p>e) report at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this decision.</p>			X	North America (R. Gabel)

DECISIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE THE PC ASSISTANCE

Directed to the Secretariat	Priorities			In charge
	High	Medium	Low	
<p>13.15 The Secretariat shall publish on the CITES website forthcoming deadlines relevant to the work of the Animals and Plants Committees.</p>	X			Chairman (M. Clemente)
<p>13.16 The Secretariat shall explore funding options to ensure that the regional representatives and the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees from developing countries and countries with economies in transition can attend the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and fully participate in the committee work.</p>	X			Chairman (M. Clemente)

Directed to the Secretariat		Priorities			In charge
		High	Medium	Low	
12.91	<p>The Secretariat is encouraged to continue to develop and refine its capacity-building programme dealing with the scientific basis for development, establishment, and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species, and shall, as appropriate, consult with the Animals Committee and Plants Committee on this programme. This consultation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) solicitation of input from the Committees regarding materials used in the capacity-building programme for voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species; and b) a request for new information from the Committees on methods used for establishing quotas and for relevant case studies on the establishment of quotas. 	X			Chairman (M. Clemente)
14.18	<p>In close cooperation with the nomenclature specialists of the Animals and Plants Committees, the Secretariat shall, in the implementation of its memoranda of understanding or cooperation, or programmes of work with other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, continue to consider ways of harmonizing the taxonomy and nomenclature of species included in their respective provisions. The Secretariat shall report and make recommendations on this matter at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</p>	X			Nomenclature (N. McGough)
14.60	<p>The Secretariat shall establish an electronic working group, which, in consultation with the Plants Committee and relevant intergovernmental organizations, shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) solicit and compile existing procedures adopted by the Parties for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) identification of CITES-listed and look-alike timber species; and ii) physical inspection of shipments of CITES-listed timber species; and b) indicate how those procedures can be accessed by CITES authorities. On that basis, the working group should identify possible elements for further work and report at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee. 	X			Europe (M. Sajeve)

Annex 3

List of participants

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