Original language: English PC25 Sum. 3 (Rev. 1)

# CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Plants Committee Online, 2-4, 21 and 23 June 2021

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2021

The Committee adopted executive summary PC25 Sum. 1 with the following amendment:

- under agenda item 25, in paragraph b) of the mandate, include "and information documents PC25 Inf. 7 and PC25 Inf. 18, and" after "gaps in knowledge".

The Committee <u>adopted</u> executive summary PC25 Sum. 2 with the following amendments:

- under agenda item 31, at the end of the first line of paragraph f) of the mandate delete "the";
- under agenda item 19, eliminate the reporting redundancies between Decision 19.CC, paragraph b), and Decision 19.DD, paragraph e); and
- under agenda item 28, insert after "agreed": "that it would be premature to publish on the CITES website the Annex to document PC25 Doc. 28 Addendum pertaining to PC25 Doc. 27 on *Prunus africana*, and further agreed".

### Interpretation and implementation matters

#### General compliance and enforcement

- 16. Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods (Dalbergia spp.) and ebonies (Diospyros spp.)

and

The Committee <u>noted</u> document PC25 Doc. 16.1, the oral update provided by Madagascar and the oral report of the Secretariat.

# Regulation of trade

Based on document PC25 Com. 1 as amended by the representative for North America (Ms. Gnam), Mexico, the United States of America and the Secretariat, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) Regarding the best way to publish a consolidated version of the guidance on terms relating to 'artificially propagated', including consideration for incorporating it in a new edition of the publication 'A Guide to the application of CITES source codes', the Committee agreed to:
  - i) the continuation of the review of the draft *Guidance on the term 'artificially propagated,'* incorporating as many of the comments made at the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee and as detailed in information document PC25 Inf. 22 as possible, to enable the Chair of the Plants Committee, in consultation with the Members of the Plants Committee and the members of the insession working group, to agree on the interim version of the *Guidance for the term 'artificially propagated'* no later than December 2021; and
  - ii) invite the Secretariat, after direction from the PC Chair, to publish an interim version of the *Guidance* on the term 'artificially propagated' on the CITES website as a stand-alone document making it clear that it is an interim version that will be improved and expanded in the future.
- b) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting:

- 19.AA The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding:
  - a) commission the revision, including recommendations made at the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee, and expansion of the guidance for Parties relating to 'artificially propagated' to cover all regulatory aspects pertaining to artificially propagated plant species, and trade in their parts and derivatives; and
  - b) report to the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee on progress on paragraph a).

#### Directed to the Plants Committee

19.BB The Plants Committee shall consider the progress reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.AA and make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

# Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.CC The Standing Committee shall consider any report from the Plants Committee as per Decision 19.BB, including recommendations related to the publication of the final guidance on the CITES website.
- c) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to report on the outcomes of its work to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 19th meeting.

## **Species specific matters**

Based on document PC25 Com. 2, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee <u>acknowledged</u> that there are remaining gaps in knowledge and that the addendum outlines gaps comprehensively. A high volume of information was gathered that could lend itself to some deep analysis. That also would require some country-specific follow-up.
- b) The Committee <u>noted</u> that there are conservation concerns for several species that are currently most traded, that there is potential for trade to shift to other species, and that further work is needed to better understand and address look-alike considerations with other *Boswellia* species as well as *Commiphora* species.
- c) The Committee further <u>noted</u> that considerable work is ongoing regarding identification, systematics, distribution, legislation and trade. Good knowledge exists about particular *Boswellia* species in certain places, but the level of knowledge varies and is not consistent across all species and range States.

- d) The Committee also <u>noted</u> that pressure on the species due to cosmetics and personal care, medicinal, religious and other uses is evolving. There are no specific HS codes for any part or derivative of Boswellia species and species are also traded in mixtures, making analysis of trade difficult.
- e) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to take into account the concern for communities who depend on these species and <u>recognized</u> that national working groups could be a way forward to consider international traderelated issues because needs and uses are country-specific.
- f) The Committee <u>noted</u> that conservation issues of *Boswellia* spp. woodlands as an ecosystem should be considered.
- g) The Committee <u>agreed</u> that harvest of many species for international trade is often not sustainable and several species currently traded meet the listing criteria for inclusion in Appendix II.
- h) The Committee <u>encouraged</u> range States to consider including *Boswellia* species in CITES Appendix III where the cooperation of other Parties is required to support national regulation.
- i) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit the following draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting:

19.AA The Secretariat shall share the information received through the consultancy on Boswellia trees, and other information provided by Parties and stakeholders, with the Plants Committee, in particular related to identification of Boswellia species and potential look-alikes, and to species and specimens in trade and trade volumes of Boswellia specimens. The Secretariat shall also identify meetings or other venues that might provide opportunities to collaborate or share information regarding harvest and management of these species.

#### Directed to the Plants Committee

19.BB The Plants Committee shall review the available information submitted to the Secretariat and the gaps in knowledge identified in document PC25 Doc. 25 on Boswellia trees (*Boswellia* spp.) to inform possible listing proposals for Boswellia species, including consideration of appropriate annotations consistent with the guidance in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP18) on *Use of annotations in Appendices I and II*.

#### Directed to the Parties

19.CC Range States and Parties are encouraged to provide information to the Secretariat, as mentioned in Decision 19.AA, and are encouraged to consider including Boswellia species to which they are range States in Appendix III, if these species meet the provisions in Article XVI of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP18) on *Implementation of the Convention for species in Appendix III*.

#### Maintenance of the Appendices

34. Production of a CITES Checklist for *Dalbergia* spp.

[Decision 18.308] PC25 Doc. 34 and Addendum

Based on document PC25 Com. 3 as amended by the Secretariat, the Committee <u>adopted</u> the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to continue to provide feedback to the nomenclature specialist and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (RBG Kew) on the progress of the outputs of the CITES Checklist for *Dalbergia* spp., including but not limited to, the chapter structure, content of the nomenclature chapter, the spreadsheet of *Dalbergia* spp. names, distribution information and the draft species profile (including views on the fields and icons it will contain) by 9 July 2021.
- b) The Committee <u>invited</u> the Secretariat to request RBG Kew to incorporate, as appropriate, the feedback received to the checklist, so that the Secretariat can circulate an agreed version via a Notification to the

Parties, in line with the process outlined in paragraph 2) i) of Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on Standard nomenclature.

- c) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit for consideration of the Conference of the Parties in time for its 19th meeting (CoP19), a final consolidated version of the CITES Checklist for *Dalbergia* spp., for inclusion in the standard nomenclatural reference for this genus in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18).
- d) The Committee <u>noted</u> that further work towards an annotated checklist will be needed following CoP19, and therefore <u>requested</u> the Secretariat to consult with experts to obtain details of what this work will entail.
- e) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit to the Conference of the Parties the extension and revision of Decisions 18.307 and 18.308 as follows:

# 18.307 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:

- a) subject to availability of external resources, undertake the development of develop an annotated CITES Checklist of Dalbergia spp., taking into consideration:
  - i) the Checklist as included in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on Standard nomenclature; relevant elements of paragraph 7 of document CoP18 Doc. 99, as well as the pertinence of including a distinction between timber and non-timber species of Dalbergia spp.;
  - ii) the required research and other work needed for the production of such a Checklist; and
  - iii) aspects related to its publication; and
- b) report on progress or results of this process to the Plants Committee at its regular meetings and seek its advice and input.

#### 18.308 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 18.307 (Rev. CoP19); and
- b) make recommendations to the Secretariat and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

These recommendations could include timelines for completion of the Checklist, or the adoption of a standard nomenclature reference for Dalbergia spp., amongst others.

37. Products containing specimens of Appendix-II orchids

and

Based on document PC25 Com. 4, the Committee <u>adopted</u> the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee <u>agreed</u> that further research is needed and future areas of research could focus on food and medicinal plants, but the scope of the research should be appropriately narrowed.
- b) In determining the scope of future research, the Committee <u>agreed</u> to seek cooperation with Parties and relevant non-Party stakeholders.

- c) The Committee <u>agreed</u> that the focus might be on source countries that have wild harvest of medicinal/edible orchids and that field work is likely to be necessary to obtain accurate and sufficient field data to inform the discussions in CITES.
- d) The Committee <u>agreed</u> that some issues may be addressed under future work on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) and that no duplication of efforts should be ensured.
- e) The Committee <u>encouraged</u> Switzerland to consider submitting its proposal to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- f) The Committee <u>recommended</u> that future work on orchid annotations be undertaken in close collaboration with any Standing Committee discussions related to annotations.
- g) The Committee <u>requested</u> the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on annotations to consider the proposal by Switzerland in the context of its currently ongoing discussions and provide its observations/recommendations to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.
- h) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the following draft decisions:

- 19.AA Subject to availability of external resources, the Secretariat shall:
  - a) consult with Parties and stakeholders and undertake a study to compile an overview of Appendix-II orchid taxa that are particularly affected by wild harvest for international trade to inform the following assessments:
    - i) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting artificially propagated Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations, including as articulated in footnote annotation 10 of the CITES Appendices, including identification challenges and look-alike issues; and
    - ii) an assessment of the conservation impacts of exempting derivatives and/or finished products of certain Appendix-II listed orchid taxa from CITES regulations through amendments to annotation #4; and
  - b) report to the Plants Committee.

#### Directed to the Plants Committee

19.BB The Plants Committee shall consider the study as per Decision 19.AA, and make recommendations on how to improve CITES implementation for Appendix-II listed orchids to the Standing Committee or the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

#### Directed to the Standing Committee

19.CC The Standing Committee shall review any recommendations of the Plants Committee, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

31. Report of the nomenclature specialist

and

#### 32. Orchids checklists

32.2 Appendix-II orchids checklist PC25 Doc. 32.2

Based on document PC25 Com. 5, the Committee <u>adopted</u> the following recommendations:

- a) Concerning the genus *Aloe*, the Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the inclusion of the supplement in the <u>Annex</u> to document PC25 Com. 5 containing the synonyms in new genera and additional revisions identified, in the standard nomenclature references in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) on *Standard nomenclature*.
- b) The Committee <u>reminded</u> the Parties that all *Lomatophyllum* names are scientific synonyms of CITES-listed *Aloe* species and are thus regulated under the Convention.
- c) The Committee agreed to submit to the Conference of the Parties the following draft decisions:

- 19.A1 The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:
  - a) subject to the availability of external resources, commission the drafting of an updated standard nomenclature reference for *Aloe* spp., taking into consideration relevant elements of paragraph 5 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31 and the Annex to PC25 Com. 5; and
  - b) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee.

## Directed to the Plants Committee

- 19.A2 The Plants Committee shall:
  - a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.A1;
  - b) provide input to assist with the preparation of the updated *Aloe* spp. checklist, as noted in paragraph 5 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31; and
  - c) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- d) Concerning the genus *Pachypodium*, the Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, at its 19th meeting, the following draft decisions:

## Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.B1 The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:
  - a) subject to the availability of external resources, commission the drafting of an updated standard nomenclature reference for *Pachypodium* spp., taking into consideration relevant elements of paragraph 6 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31; and
  - b) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee.

## Directed to the Plants Committee

- 19.B2 The Plants Committee shall:
  - a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.B1;
  - b) provide input to assist with the preparation of the updated *Pachypodium* checklist, as noted in paragraph 6 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31; and
  - c) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- e) Concerning Cactaceae and the preparation of a fourth edition of the CITES Cactaceae Checklist (CCC), the Committee <u>agreed</u> that the preparation of a fourth edition of the CITES Cactaceae Checklist (CCC) should be a low priority.

f) The Committee further <u>agreed</u> to propose to the Conference of the Parties, at its 19th meeting, the extension of Decisions 18.304 to 18.306 with the reference to CoP19 in Decision 18.306 changed to CoP20 as follows:

# Nomenclature (Cactaceae Checklist and its Supplement)

#### 18.304 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to Parties

Parties shall inform the Secretariat on their experience in using the *CITES Cactaceae Checklist* (3rd edition) and its *Supplement* (2018) and any issues that may arise as they apply these lists, including feedback to improve it in the light of relevant updates of cacti taxonomy.

# 18.305 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) liaise with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to obtain feedback on the utility of the CITES Cactaceae Checklist (3rd edition) and its Supplement (2018) and any queries that arise as they update relevant databases, taking into account feedback provided by Parties as per Decision 18.304 (Rev. CoP19); and
- b) report to the Plants Committee of this feedback and any comments it receives from the Parties in order for the Committee to review this at its regular meetings.

# 18.306 (Rev. CoP19) Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall review any report from the Secretariat related to the implementation of Decision 18.305 (Rev. CoP19) and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th 20th meeting.

- g) The Committee noted that, concerning the Appendix-I synonymy of Aztekium ritteri and A. valdezii under the current standard nomenclatural reference, Mexico is assessing the pertinence of preparing an amendment proposal in line with the recommendations contained in paragraph 7 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31. However, it may not be possible for Mexico to complete their assessment and to prepare and submit an uplisting proposal in time for the document submission deadline for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- h) The Committee <u>requested</u> the nomenclature specialist to include as part of the proposed nomenclatural changes to be put before the Parties at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a proposal to reinstate *Aztekium valdezii* as a separate species and restore it to Appendix II.
- i) Concerning *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar), the Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting a new time-stamped download of the genus from *Vascular Plants of Madagascar* (formerly known as *A Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Madagascar*) as noted in paragraph 8 of document PC25 Doc. 31 Addendum, as a standard nomenclatural reference in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) in place of the existing reference of these species.
- j) The Committee further <u>agreed</u> to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting the following draft decisions:

## Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.C1 The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:
  - a) subject to the availability of external resources, commission the drafting of an updated standard nomenclature reference of *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar), taking into consideration relevant elements of paragraph 8 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31; and

b) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee.

## Directed to the Plants Committee

- 19.C2 The Plants Committee shall:
  - a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.D1; and
  - b) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- k) Concerning Orchidaceae, in collaboration with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Korea, the Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit for consideration of the Conference of the Parties, at its 19th meeting, a new standard nomenclature reference for Appendix-II listed orchids, taking into consideration recommendations contained in document PC25 Doc. 32.1 and Doc. 32.2, as well as additional feedback from range States and relevant experts, in line with the deadlines established by Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18).
- The Committee further <u>agreed</u> to submit to the Conference of the Parties, at its 19th meeting, the following draft decisions:

#### Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.D1 The Secretariat shall:
  - a) seek feedback from Parties and relevant experts on their experience in using the standard nomenclatural reference for Appendix-II listed orchids, in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP19) on Standard nomenclature, including suggestions to improve the standard nomenclature in light of relevant updates in orchid taxonomy;
  - b) subject to the availability of external resources, and in close collaboration with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee, commission the drafting of an update of the standard nomenclature references for Appendix II-listed orchids, taking into account feedback received under paragraph a) of this Decision; and
  - c) report to the Plants Committee the feedback received for review.

# Directed to the Plants Committee

- 19.D2 The Plants Committee shall review any report from the Secretariat related to the implementation of Decision 19.E1 and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
- m) Concerning *Taxus* spp., the Committee <u>agreed</u> to propose the retention of the standard nomenclature references as currently reflected in Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP18) and further <u>agreed</u> to propose that the Conference of the Parties at CoP19 adopt the following draft decisions for updating the standard nomenclatural reference:

## Directed to the Secretariat

- 19.E1 The Secretariat shall, in close cooperation with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee:
  - a) subject to the availability of external resources, commission the drafting of an update of the standard nomenclature reference for *Taxus* spp., taking into consideration relevant elements of paragraph 10 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31; and
  - b) report on progress or results of this work to the Plants Committee.

# Directed to the Plants Committee

19.E2 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) consider progress and results reported by the Secretariat as per Decision 19.F1; and
- b) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- n) Concerning *Guibourtia* spp., the Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting an amendment to the standard nomenclature reference, regarding the synonyms of *Guibourtia pellegriniana* as outlined in paragraph 11 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31 and to reflect the following precisions relating to the distribution of *Guibourtia pellegriniana*:
  - i) delete reference to *Copaifera coleosperma* Benth. (1865), as this is <u>not</u> a synonym of *Guibourtia pellegriniana*, but refers to the non-CITES listed *Guibourtia coleosperma* (Benth.) J.Léonard instead;
  - ii) revise the taxon entry of *Guibourtia pellegriniana* J.Léonard to include the two misapplied synonyms indicated in paragraph 11 of document PC25 Doc. 31 Addendum;
  - iii) add Angola as a range State for *Guibourtia pellegriniana* J.Léonard, in addition to Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Gabon and Nigeria; and
  - iv) add a comment to the 'Nomenclatural notes' field to the CITES website, including Species+ that careful attention should be paid to the authors of these synonym names.
- o) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to include the nomenclature priorities outlined in paragraphs 12 to 15 of the Addendum to document PC25 Doc. 31 and consideration of the enforcement-related implications of the updates of standard nomenclature references for flora species listed in the Appendices in the CoP19-CoP20 workplan of the Plants Committee in matters related to nomenclature.

# Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Based on document PC25 Com. 6 as amended by China and Mexico, the Committee <u>adopted</u> the following recommendations:

The Committee <u>recommended</u> that the Secretariat submit a draft resolution (revised option 1 without the draft decisions included in Annex 1 to document PC25 Com. 6), as well as draft decisions (revised option 2, taking into account the proposals of China and Mexico) for consideration by the Standing Committee, as follows:

- Option 1: inviting the Secretariat to produce a draft strategic resolution on *CITES and forests* for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting (SC74).
- Option 2: inviting the Secretariat to submit the following draft decisions for consideration at SC74 to allow for drafting a strategic resolution on *CITES and forests* during the CoP19-CoP20 intersessional period, and to allow consideration of the benefit of pursuing a strategic resolution on *CITES* and forests.

# Directed to the Plants Committee

19.AA The Plants Committee shall consider the value of developing a possible new strategic resolution on *CITES and forests*, as outlined in Document PC25 Doc. 12 and Document PC25 Doc. 12 Addendum; prepare an overview of the issue from a technical and scientific perspective; and provide its recommendations for consideration of the Standing Committee.

## Directed to the Standing Committee

19.BB The Standing Committee shall consider the report and recommendations of the Plants Committee under Decision 19.AA and develop recommendations, including identifying existing Resolutions that would need to be revised or repealed, and

provide its report for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

#### Species specific matters

24. Agarwood-producing taxa (Aquilaria spp. and Gyrinops spp.)

Based on document PC25 Com. 7, the Committee adopted the following recommendations:

- a) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to postpone the consideration on the potential revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on *Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa* for the next intersessional period.
- b) The Committee further <u>agreed</u> to postpone the consideration on the potential revisions to Agarwood glossary and the Agarwood Non-Detriment Finding guidance for the next intersessional period.
- c) The Committee <u>noted</u> that, in cooperation with the CITES Secretariat, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is in the process of implementing an agarwood study that could address some of the working group's concerns regarding agarwood producing methodologies and the use of different source codes under different management scenarios.
- d) The Committee <u>invited</u> range States to consider contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2020–2030), as part of global landscape restoration and species recovery of respective range States.
- e) The Committee <u>noted</u> the needs for identification materials and the need for capacity-building and guidance on legal acquisition findings, including on the chain of custody, with regard to specimens of agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp).
- f) The Committee <u>agreed</u> to submit the following draft decision for consideration at CoP19:

#### Directed to the Plants Committee

- 19.AA The Plants Committee shall, with the assistance of the Secretariat
  - a) consider potential revisions to Resolution Conf. 16.10 on Implementation of the Convention for agarwood-producing taxa, taking into account other relevant Resolutions, including Resolution Conf. 10.13 on Implementation of the Convention for tree species, as appropriate;
  - b) formulate any appropriate recommendations regarding the Agarwood glossary and the Agarwood NDF guidance; and
  - make recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

The Committee <u>noted</u> that the intervention made by the North American region on source code Y and its application to agarwood will be included in the summary record.