



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

PROCEEDINGS  
TWELFTH MEETING OF THE  
PLANTS COMMITTEE

Leiden, The Netherlands  
13-17 May 2002



Photo: Victoria Zenilli

*Strongylodon macrobotrys*

Rapporteur  
Kerry Taylor

Prepared by the CITES Secretariat  
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Photo: Ger van Vliet

*Nepenthes* spp.





Photo: Victoria Zentilli

Von Siebold Japanese Garden

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





ACTION POINTS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
<b>CLOSED SESSION OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>2. Rules of Procedure</b> Amended and adopted.	
<b>3. Agenda of the Plants Committee</b> Amended and adopted.	
<b>4. Regional issues</b> Concerns expressed over budget constraints and the fact that Regional Representatives were not able to organize Regional meetings. The Plants Committee decided to investigate solutions to this problem.	Chairman, Plants Committee
<b>5. Strategic Planning</b> Working group to meet and discuss changes to Strategic Plan (document PC12 Doc. 7.3) and document PC12 Doc. 15.	Regional representative and alternates of Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America and Oceania
<b>6. Budget of the Plants Committee</b> Chairman to report to CoP12 including a more analytical review of the budget and emphasising the importance of supporting Regional Representatives.	Chairman
<b>7. Time and venue of the 13th meeting of the Plants Committee</b> No Action.	
<b>8. Any other business</b> No Action.	



<b>OPEN SESSION OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE</b>	
<p><b>2. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure</b></p> <p>The Plants Committee adopted the Rules of Procedure as revised in the closed meeting.</p> <p>The main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule 22 changed to 'At the request of the Chairman or of any member the Committee shall decide by a vote...'</li> <li>• Rule 24 altered to include the following sentence '...by the Chairman, preferably at least one month before the next meeting'.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Adoption of the Agenda and the Working programme</b></p> <p>The Agenda and Working programme were adopted as amended.</p>	
<p><b>4. Admission of observers</b></p> <p>All observers were formally admitted.</p>	
<p><b>5. Regional reports and reports on regional meetings</b></p> <p>Chairman of the Plants Committee to write a letter to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to congratulate them for creating a National Park to protect plants from the Kitulo Plateau.</p> <p>Chairman of the Plants Committee to write a letter to Marga Werkhoven in recognition of her work as a Regional representative.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Chairman</p>
<p><b>6. Regional directories [Resolution Conf. 11.1, Annex 2, paragraph e)]</b></p> <p>No action.</p>	
<p><b>7. Report of the Standing Committee</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Review of Resolution Conf. 9.24</b></p> <p>No action.</p> <p><b>7.2 Other plant issues</b></p> <p>No action.</p>	
<p><b>8. Follow up of CoP11 Decisions</b></p> <p><b>8.1 <i>Harpagophytum</i> spp.</b></p> <p>Plants Committee to support the recommendations made in document PC12 Doc. WG <i>Harpagophytum</i>.</p> <p>Regional representative from Africa to prepare a report for CoP12.</p>	<p>Regional representative of Africa</p>
<p><b>8.2 <i>Guaiaacum sanctum</i></b></p> <p>Plants Committee to report to CoP12 recommending that the activities outlined in paragraph iii) of Decision</p>	<p>Plants Committee, Germany</p>



ACTION POINTS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
<p>11.114 should continue for the next period and that in the interim, support will be given to Germany's proposal to include all species of <i>Guaiacum</i> in Appendix II on a look-a-like basis.</p> <p><b>8.3 <i>Aquilaria</i> spp.</b></p> <p>Plants Committee to support the work carried out on <i>Aquilaria</i> and recommendations made by TRAFFIC Oceania in document PC12 Doc. 8.3.</p> <p><b>8.4 Mahogany Working Group</b></p> <p>No action.</p>	
<p><b>9. Technical proposals for the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties</b></p> <p><b>9.1 Definitions of the technical terms used in the annotations</b></p> <p>Plants Committee to consider Agenda item at next Plants Committee meeting.</p> <p><b>9.2 Trade in seeds</b></p> <p><b>9.2.1 Comments of the Secretariat with respect to document PC12 Doc. 9.2</b></p> <p>Plants Committee to include the need to revise and clarify all Resolutions pertaining to plants in the working plan for the next two years. This will be included in report by the Chairman to CoP12.</p>	<p>Chairman Plants, Committee</p>
<p><b>10. Species proposals for the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties</b></p> <p><b>10.1 Artificially propagated hybrids</b></p> <p>Plants Committee supports the United States proposal to exempt certain genera of Orchid hybrids from CITES Controls and encourages the United States to complete the proposal in time for CoP12 taking into account all issues discussed at PC12.</p>	<p>United States</p>



ACTION POINTS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
<p><b>10.2 Delisting of leaf bearing cacti (Pereskioideae and Opuntioideae)</b> Plants Committee recommends that further cooperation between Switzerland and the Range States takes place and that the final proposal be amended taking into account all comments from Range States and non-Range States.</p> <p><b>10.3 Inclusion of <i>Guaiaecum</i> spp. in Appendix II</b> Mexico, as a Range State, supported the German proposal and the Plants Committee recommended that Guatemala should be contacted for support and that all other information discussed should be taken into account.</p> <p><b>10.4 <i>Araucaria araucana</i></b> Plants Committee to offer Argentina assistance with future actions pertaining to <i>Araucaria</i> for the CoP12. Chile to inform Argentina of Plants Committee offer of help.</p>	<p>Switzerland</p> <p>Germany</p> <p>Plants Committee, Argentina</p> <p>Chile</p>
<p><b>11. Significant Trade in Plants</b></p> <p><b>11.1 Problems and inconsistencies in Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) and Decision 11.117</b> Plants Committee supported document PC12 Doc. 11.1 (Rev. 1), including amendments made by working group of the Plants Committee.</p> <p><b>11.2 Implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) (cf. Decision 11.117)</b></p> <p><b>11.2.1 Trade in Plants from Madagascar</b> The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (United Kingdom's Scientific Authority for Plants), to continue working on the project and when possible, undertake a workshop in Madagascar to discuss the results.</p> <p><b>11.2.2 Cycads</b> The Secretariat reported that this project has not yet been initiated due to lack of funding. Once funds become available the project can be started.</p>	<p>Plants Committee's coordinator for Significant Trade Review, Madagascar</p>



ACTION POINTS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
<p><b>11.2.3 Selection of taxa for review</b></p> <p>Working group recommends that the following taxa be reviewed: <i>Prunus africana</i>, <i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i>, <i>Pericopsis elata</i> and <i>Aloe</i> species from East Africa used as extracts.</p> <p>Plants Committee's coordinator for Significant Trade Studies to prepare a report on the proposed cost of these reviews.</p>	<p>Plants Committee's coordinator for Significant Trade Review</p>
<p><b>12. Medicinal Plants</b></p> <p><b>12.1 Implementation of Decision 11.165 on trade in traditional medicines</b></p> <p><b>12.1.1 Inventory of operations where artificial propagation of CITES species is conducted for medicinal purposes</b></p> <p>Secretariat to prepare document for CoP12 to include comments and suggestions from PC12.</p> <p><b>12.1.2 List of species traded for medicinal purposes</b></p> <p>Secretariat to prepare document for CoP12 to include comments and suggestions from PC12.</p> <p><b>12.1.3 Proposal from Italy</b></p> <p>No Action.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>
<p><b>13. Review of the Appendices</b></p> <p>Plants Committee recognises the importance of this issue and recommends that it is set as a high priority in its Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Plants Committee recommends that the development of amendment of proposals, based on the evaluation of tree species in trade, should be included in the working plan for the period between CoP12 and CoP13.</p>	<p>Plants Committee</p> <p>The Netherlands</p>
<p><b>14. Checklists and Nomenclature</b></p> <p><b>14.1 Progress report</b></p> <p>Vice Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee to take into account comments and suggestions from Plants Committee and formulate recommendations to be included in report to CoP12.</p>	<p>Vice Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee</p>



ACTION POINTS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
<p><b>14.2 Updated taxonomical list of <i>Opuntia</i> and segregates</b> Plants Committee recommends that Mexico communicates with the Vice Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee to discuss how to proceed with the taxonomical list of <i>Opuntia</i> and segregates.</p> <p><b>14.3 List of American <i>Dicksonia</i> species</b> Parties to send comments and suggestions on the <i>Dicksonia</i> list to the German representative. German Representative to prepare list for CoP12 and include comments and suggestions from PC12.</p>	<p>Vice Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee, Mexico</p> <p>Parties, Germany</p> <p>Germany, Vice Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee</p>
<p><b>15. Strategic Plan (Plants Committee)</b> Plants Committee to support the amended version document PC12 Doc.15 (Rev.1) and the recommendations prepared by the working group. Plants Committee recommends that a working group be established and that all Parties should inform their Regional Representatives of any activities that have not been identified in the report.</p>	<p>Chairman, Regional representatives of Africa, Asia, Central South America and the Caribbean, Oceania, Parties</p>
<p><b>16. ID Manual</b></p> <p><b>16.1 Progress report</b> No action.</p> <p><b>16.2 Presentation of a book on identification of Appendix I cacti</b> Secretariat will distribute copies of the CD Rom and book to all Parties and will investigate the possibility of having the resource translated into Spanish and French.</p>	
<p><b>17. Guidelines for the transport of live plants</b> Representative of North America to include comments from ITTA Brochure into document PC12 Doc. 17 and to use the brochure to produce a more general guide.</p>	<p>Representative of North America</p>
<p><b>18. Tree species evaluation: progress report by the Netherlands</b> See Agenda Point 13.</p>	



ACTION POINTS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
<p><b>19. Evaluation of certification schemes</b></p> <p>Plants Committee to recommend that the evaluation of certification scheme be postponed until a later date and that the allocated funds are used to support projects on the Significant Trade Process.</p>	
<p><b>20. Issues resulting from PC11, not included elsewhere in the agenda</b></p> <p><b>20.1 Review of the genus <i>Taxus</i></b></p> <p>Plants Committee to recommend that the United States, in collaboration with India and China, continue working on the issue.</p> <p><b>20.2 Illegal trade in <i>Paphiopedilum</i> spp.</b></p> <p>Malaysia, Thailand and United States to provide an article to the secretariat on the current situation with regards to the illegal trade in <i>Paphiopedilum</i> spp. within their countries to be published in CITES World.</p> <p>Parties to provide United States with any additional comments or information pertaining to the illegal trade in <i>Paphiopedilum</i> spp.</p> <p><b>20.3 Relationships between <i>ex situ</i> production and <i>in situ</i> conservation</b></p> <p>Plants Committee recognises the importance of this issue and recommends that it is included in the Plants Committee working plan as a priority.</p> <p>Plants Committee supports the Secretariat's decision to also include plant examples and to inform CoP12.</p>	<p>China, India, United States</p> <p>Malaysia, Thailand, United States</p> <p>Parties, United States</p> <p>Plants Committee, Chairman</p> <p>Secretariat</p>
<p><b>21. Training initiatives</b></p> <p><b>21.1 Standard slide pack: Progress report</b></p> <p>The updated Slide pack to be produced within the next month as an internet based Power Point Presentation.</p> <p>New version will be updated again after CoP12 and made available via the internet and in limited hard copy versions.</p> <p>Comments and ideas to be sent to the United Kingdom's Scientific Authority.</p>	<p>United Kingdom</p> <p>Parties</p>
<p><b>22. Sales of cacti on the Internet</b></p> <p>Mexico to continue to gather information on species of Cacti traded via the Internet.</p>	<p>Mexico</p>



ACTION POINTS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
<p><b>23. Production systems involving CITES listed species and their impact on wild populations - source code designations</b></p> <p><b>23.1 Plant productions system</b></p> <p>Secretariat to consider all comments made by the Plants Committee and to recommend that this issue be discussed in more detail at PC13.</p>	Secretariat
<p><b>24. Time and venue of the 13th Plants Committee meeting</b></p> <p>Chairman to write to CITES Authorities in Southern Africa on the issue of hosting the next Plants Committee meeting.</p>	Chairman
<p><b>25. Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>25.1 Progress report of the CITES Management Authority of China in plant protection and management in 2001</b></p> <p>No action.</p> <p><b>25.2 CBD - The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation</b></p> <p>Chairman to include relevant information from 'The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation' document adopted at the CBD CoP6 (see <a href="http://www.biodiv.org">www.biodiv.org</a>) in report to CoP12.</p>	Chairman



Photo: Victoria Zentilli

Plants Committee members

## CLOSED SESSION OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE



Participants: Mr J. Donaldson and Mr Q. Luke (Africa), Mr Z. Shaari and Mr N.P. Singh (Asia), Mr E. Forero and Mrs F. Mereles (Central and South America and the Caribbean), Mrs M. Clemente (Chairman) and Mr J. de Koning (Europe), Mr B. von Arx (North America), Mr G. Leach (Oceania), Mr M. Lindeque and Mr G. van Vliet (CITES Secretariat)



## 1. Opening of the meeting

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked the hosts for organizing the meeting in The Netherlands. She also welcomed the Secretariat, the rapporteur and translators.

## 2. Rules of Procedure

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) reminded participants that the rules of procedure were reviewed at PC11 and asked participants to indicate whether any changes needed to be made.

Mr Von Arx (representative of North America) drew attention to problems with Rule 22 and Rule 24. The main points were:

*Rule 22:*

Change from 'At the request of the Chairman or of any member the Committee shall decide by a vote...' to:

'At the request of the Chairman, or of any member, the Committee shall decide by a vote...'

*Rule 24:*

Change to read as follows (new text underlined):

'A summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretary and sent to the Parties represented at the meeting as soon as possible. The Secretary shall take into account the comments received within 20 days of the circulation and shall communicate the final summary record to all Parties after it is approved by the Chairman and preferably at least one month before the next meeting.'

The proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure were adopted.

The Chairman agreed that the draft minutes be distributed via email and the internet to all participants for comments.

## 3. Agenda of the Plants Committee

The Agenda was adopted as amended.

## 4. Regional issues

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) reported that she had attended a working group on the revision of the Strategic Plan, chaired by the United States of America. She informed participants that concerns had been expressed over the fact that regional representatives were sometimes not able to organize regional meetings owing to budget constraints. In response to this problem, she suggested several solutions.

Firstly, that one-day regional meetings be incorporated into other meetings and secondly that alternative funding be sought from external sources such as traders or industry.

The Secretariat agreed that giving the opportunity to regions to meet at general CITES meetings was an excellent idea and added that this suggestion should be put forward in the Plants Committee's report for CoP12.



## 5. Strategic planning

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) reported that the Strategic Plan had been approved by the Standing Committee and the Plants Committee and suggested that a working group be set up to discuss minor changes to documents PC12 Doc. 7.3 and PC12 Doc. 15. The working group would present the results of their discussions at the main meeting.

## 6. Budget of the Plants Committee

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) expressed concerns to the Secretariat over the Plants Committee budget. She reported that the Plants Committee had saved money at previous meetings and always operated within the limits of the budget. She suggested that a more analytical review of the budget be made, and that the importance of supporting regional representatives be included in the Plants Committee's report for CoP12.

## 7. Time and venue of the 13th meeting of the Plants Committee

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) informed participants that the time and venue for the next Plants Committee meeting has not been decided.

## 8. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

## 9. Closure

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) thanked all participants for attending the closed meeting.





Photo: Victoria Zentilli

*Sarracenia leucophylla*

**OPEN SESSION OF THE  
PLANTS COMMITTEE**



Representatives:	Mr J. Donaldson and Mr Q. Luke (Africa), Mr Z. Shaari and Mr N.P. Singh (Asia), Mr E. Forero and Mrs F. Mereles (Central and South America and the Caribbean), Mrs M. Clemente (Chairman) and Mr J. de Koning (Europe), Mr B. von Arx (North America), Mr G. Leach (Oceania)
CITES Secretariat:	Mr M. Lindeque, Mr G. van Vliet and Ms V. Zentilli
Parties:	Austria, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zimbabwe
UNEP:	UNEP-WCMC
IGO:	European Commission, IUCN-The World Conservation Union
International NGOs:	<i>Association technique internationale des bois tropicaux</i> , Fauna & Flora International, IWMC-CH, TRAFFIC Network, WWF Germany
National NGOs:	American Orchid Society, Comurnat, <i>Deutsche Kakteen-Gesellschaft E.V.</i> (DKG), Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Resources Agencies, Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Total participants:	64



## 1. Opening of the meeting

The official opening of the meeting took place at Leiden Botanical Gardens. Welcoming addresses were given by Mrs Geke Faber, State Secretary for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, and Rector Magnificus Professor Breimer, University of Leiden, followed by the Chairman of the Plants Committee, Professor Margarita Clemente Muñoz who thanked the host country and all the organizers for their excellent arrangements for the meeting and the warm welcome to the Netherlands. Opening speeches from Mrs Geke Faber and the Chairman are included in Annex 1.

## 2. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) explained to participants that the Rules of Procedure had been slightly modified in the closed session. The Plants Committee adopted the Rules of Procedure as amended in the closed session.

The main points were:

*Rule 22:*

Changed from 'At the request of the Chairman or of any member the Committee shall decide by a vote...' to:

'At the request of the Chairman, or of any member, the Committee shall decide by a vote...'

*Rule 24:*

Change to read as follows (new text underlined):

'A summary record of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretary and sent to the Parties represented at the meeting as soon as possible. The Secretary shall take into account the comments received within 20 days of the circulation and shall communicate the final summary record to all Parties after it is approved by the Chairman and preferably at least one month before the next meeting.'

The Chairman agreed that the draft minutes be distributed via email and the Internet to all participants for comments. The final version of the minutes would then be made available preferably at least one month before the next meeting.

## 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Working programme

The Agenda and Working Programme were adopted with a few minor modifications.

## 4. Admission of observers

Following a few minor alterations, there were no objections from the members of the Plants Committee or representatives of Parties, and all organizations listed in document PC12 Doc. 4 (Rev. 1) were admitted.

## 5. Regional reports and reports on regional meetings

and

## 6. Regional directories [Resolution Conf. 11.1, Annex 2, paragraph e)]

Written reports were presented by the regional representatives of Africa (document PC12 Doc. 5.1), Asia (documents PC12 Doc. 5.2a and PC12 Doc. 5.2b), Central and South America and the Caribbean (document PC12 Doc. 5.3), Europe (document PC12 Doc. 5.5), North America (document PC12 Doc. 5.4) and Oceania (document PC12 Doc. 5.6).



All representatives provided an oral report.

Mr Luke (representative of Africa) explained that the report for Africa had been compiled by both African representatives and that it was self explanatory. He highlighted the point that as a result of concerns raised by the Wildlife Conservation Society, the government of Tanzania had agreed to create a 52 square mile national park to protect orchids from the Kitulo Plateau to Zambia. The representative of Africa informed participants that the regional directory had been distributed at the meeting. He stated that once any necessary corrections had been made it would be made available in electronic format.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) congratulated Mr Luke on the regional directory and stated that the Plants Committee would write a letter of congratulations to the Tanzania Government.

Mr Shaari and Mr Singh (representatives of Asia) both presented regional reports. Mr Shaari reported that efforts were still being made to update the regional directory for the 27 Parties in Asia. He added that a regional meeting had not been convened since the last Plants Committee meeting, but that a sub-regional meeting among the 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member countries was scheduled for July 2002.

Mr Forero (representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean) also presented an oral report explaining that the regional directory was completed and had been made available to all members. He informed participants that Marga Werkhoven had resigned from her post as regional representative because of health problems and introduced María Fátima Mereles who had taken over her position. He added that although no regional meeting had taken place, a very successful course for police officers (the group of crimes against the environment) working on wildlife crime had been organized in Colombia.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) congratulated the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean for completing the regional directory and stated that the Plants Committee would write a letter to Marga Werkhoven in recognition of her work as a regional representative.

Mr de Koning (representative of Europe) presented the European regional report highlighting that there had been a regional meeting in Turkey in April 2001. He added that the European Union had also provided funds for the species database, designed and maintained by UNEP-WCMC. The observer from UNEP-WCMC briefly explained the purpose of the database, stating that it contained information on individual species, including CITES-listed taxa. The information on CITES species covered a complete history of the CITES listing, information on reservations, withdrawal of reservations and annual quotas.

The representative of Europe concluded by informing participants that the regional directory was available at the following Internet address:

[www.uco.es/organiza/servicios/jardin/ingles/address/marcdirec.htm](http://www.uco.es/organiza/servicios/jardin/ingles/address/marcdirec.htm)

Mr von Arx (representative of North America) gave an oral report on the activities of the North American region. He explained that the region had been extremely active. He highlighted the changes made to the regional directory and informed participants of the future activities for the region. Mr von Arx expressed how important it was for the regional representatives to promote a better image of CITES.

Finally, Mr Leach (representative of Oceania) presented his regional report. He reported on the capacity-building workshop, held in Fiji between 29 April and 1 May 2002, stating that it was a real success and congratulating the Secretariat for organizing the event. The attendance of seven non Parties was very encouraging and could lead to potential signatories to the Convention in the near future. He finished by stating that the participants in workshop had identified the need to make scientific capacity building a priority and there was good intention to build on this foundation and have another workshop within the next 12 months.



## **7. Report of the Standing Committee**

### **7.1 Review of Resolution Conf. 9.24**

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) informed participants that the conclusions from both the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee had been circulated in a document to all regional representatives and alternates.

She explained that many countries participated in the Standing Committee meeting and it was clear that the review of the criteria was a very important issue. She added that she had serious doubts about the draft final report that had been sent to her in November 2001 and that since the Chairmen of the Animals Committee and Criteria Working Group, and herself, did not come to an agreement in terms of the joint final report, she had prepared a final report separately. The Standing Committee had decided to send both final reports for consideration at CoP12.

Mr de Koning (representative of Europe), as a member of the Criteria Working Group informed participants that he supported the position of the Chairman of the working group and the Chairman of the Animals Committee, but did not support the position of the Chairman of the Plants Committee.

The Chairman informed participants that in her opinion it would be premature for the Plants Committee to present a proposal for changes in Resolution Conf. 9.24 and that more time was needed for discussion on this point.

The observer from Mexico expressed support to the Chairman of the Plants Committee. He agreed that the process should continue, but questioned how the work would proceed.

The Chairman stated that she was not sure what would be the view of the CoP, but felt it was necessary to make a decision to spend more time looking at this issue. She added that all previous work and comments should be considered and that the CoP should decide how to continue and prepare a new mandate. She concluded that it was a very difficult matter because of the differences in opinions.

### **7.2 Other plant issues**

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) referred to the report that she had presented to the Standing Committee. She stated that she had explained to the Standing Committee the problem that the regional representatives faced with regards to facilitating regional meetings. She then reported that the Standing Committee had congratulated the Plants Committee on its work and had addressed other issues such as budget and support to regional representatives.

### **7.3 Strategic planning**

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) presented document PC12 Doc. 7.3 and outlined the changes that had been made to the Action Plan by the working group at the Standing Committee meeting.

Mr von Arx (representative of North America) introduced document PC12 Doc. 15. He explained that the document contained action points directed at the Plants Committee that needed to be prioritized.

In response to several points raised by Committee members, the Chairman recommended that indicators be used to track the progress of the actions, thus allowing the Plants Committee to report to the CoP on progress made.

The Secretariat supported this idea and encouraged the Plants Committee to really look at each individual activity and decide on priorities.



The Chairman recommended that a working group be convened during the meeting to analyse document PC12 Doc.15 for priorities and necessary amendments.

The working group (comprising of regional representatives and alternates from Africa, Asia, Europe, Central and South America and the Caribbean North America and Oceania) concluded that three topics should be immediately prioritised:

- Review of Significant Trade
- Review of the Appendices
- Review of heavily traded non-CITES species

The representative of North America reported that the next step would be to focus on specific activities in order to get an idea of funding and timing and to set indicators to monitor progress.

The Chairman recommended that the working group maintain contact and that Parties inform their regional representative of any activities that had not been identified in this report.

## 8. Follow-up of CoP11 Decisions

### 8.1 *Harpagophytum* spp.

#### 8.1.1 Common statement by the participants of the Regional Devil's Claw Conference, Windhoek, Namibia, 28 February 2002

and

#### 8.1.2 Imports of *Harpagophytum* in Germany

Mrs Domitilla Raimondo (National Botanical Institute, South Africa) made a presentation on the trade, management and biological status of *Harpagophytum* spp. (devil's claw). Her report included background information on the source and use of these plants and she explained the current trade status. She reported that Namibia was currently the biggest exporter, with 92 per cent of trade, followed by Botswana with 5 per cent and South Africa with 3 per cent. She concluded by stating that Namibia and Botswana were not in favour of an Appendix-II listing as they felt it would have a detrimental effect on the income of the local people. She added that Botswana might consider an Appendix-III listing in order to gather trade data information and that South Africa would take the views of Namibia and Botswana into account.

Berit Hachfeld (Institute of Botany, University of Hamburg, Germany) then gave a presentation on the occurrence and density of *Harpagophytum procumbens* in Namibia and South Africa. She stated that the project was initiated and funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and would provide results on the distribution and population status of *Harpagophytum* in southern Africa.

Mr Donaldson (representative of Africa) informed participants that a Regional Devil's Claw Conference had been held in Windhoek, Namibia, on 28 February 2002. The meeting had brought together various stakeholders from the communities and countries that deal with *Harpagophytum* and allowed the discussion of the key issues. A report of the meeting is included in document PC12 Doc. 8.1.1. He explained that many of the stakeholders had expressed concern over a CITES listing due to the potential negative impacts it could have on local communities. He concluded that there was a need for further collaboration and research.

The observer from the United Kingdom highlighted that an Appendix-III listing could be beneficial to the species. He stated that problems could arise in the future if wild plants were exported and used for large scale propagation, potentially undermining



local production. He explained that an Appendix-III listing would help to monitor this situation.

The observer from Germany referred to document PC12 Doc. 8.1.2 documenting the imports of *Harpagophytum* into Germany. He stated that the trade information recorded in this report did not match trade data available from exporting countries. He expressed concern over these discrepancies and stated that a CITES listing may help to solve this problem.

In response to concerns over how to proceed, the observer from Germany stated that it was important to build up links between all the various stakeholders and encourage the industry to get more involved.

The Secretariat stated that monitoring of *Harpagophytum* was essential and that a CITES listing could assist this. It added that countries do not see the benefits of an Appendix-III listing and that it was maybe necessary to develop information on the role of an Appendix-III listing and how it is linked to CBD issues.

The observer from IWMC-CH stated that CITES can sometimes have a very negative image and that there is a need to promote the idea that CITES support sustainable use as the long-term answer.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) recommended that the Plants Committee gather information to put into a report of CoP12 in response to Decision 11.111 (Regarding the biological and trade status of *Harpagophytum*).

The representative of Africa recommended that a working group be convened during the meeting to consolidate the discussions and recommendations.

The working group summarized the result of the meeting in document PC12 WG *Harpagophytum* (Annex 3). The representative of Africa stated that the document contained background information on the issue, a summary of the key points and recommendations.

The Chairman supported the recommendations laid out in document PC12 WG *Harpagophytum* and asked the representative from Africa to prepare a report to be presented at CoP12. She added that the Plants Committee would also report at CoP12 in response to Decision 11.111.

## 8.2 *Guaiacum sanctum*

The observer from Mexico reported on the work undertaken since the previous meeting of the Plants Committee making reference to a document prepared by TRAFFIC North America [document PC12 Doc. 8.2 (Rev. 1)]. She reported that a dialogue was currently occurring between CONABIO and the U.S. Forest Service to discuss the proposal submitted by CONABIO, to study the effects of anthropogenic disturbances, including agricultural practices and harvest on *Guaiacum sanctum*, *G. coulteri* and *G. unijugum* in Mexico and to clarify the populations status and ecology of these species in the wild.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) and Mr von Arx (representative of North America) both pointed out the need for the Plants Committee to carry out the work that was outlined in paragraph iii) of Decision 11.114 stressing that it was important to be able to report to the CoP on the work that had been undertaken.

The observer from Germany presented document PC12 Doc. 10.3 outlining the proposal to include *Guaiacum* spp. in Appendix II. He explained that both *G. sanctum* and *G. coulteri* were traded, but that the species were indistinguishable unless very sophisticated methods of



identification were used. He added that *G. angustifolium* was also a species in trade although the exact status of this species was unknown. In order to tackle this 'look-alike' issue, he suggested that all species be included in Appendix II of the Convention.

The observer from Mexico, TRAFFIC International and the representatives of Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean and Oceania all supported the German proposal. The Observer from Mexico also agreed to communicate with Guatemala and seek their support.

In response to several questions, the observer from Germany explained that document PC12 Doc. 10.3 was a draft proposal and that more information on the species would be included where possible. The Secretariat added that Resolution Conf. 9.24 addressed the issue of look-alike species and outlines the need for information in order to make non-detriment findings.

The Secretariat suggested that in order to obtain information about the species, a Review of Significant Trade could be undertaken or range States could be asked to take measures to prevent unsustainable trade. In response to this, the observer from Mexico mentioned that his country was considering establishing export quotas and that a Review of Significant Trade was unnecessary.

In response to a question from the representative from IWMC-CH, the observer from Germany agreed that an annotation for the Appendix-II listing would be necessary (#1 is currently used for the species already listed), but the type of annotation had not been decided upon.

Mr Leach (representative of Oceania) asked if there was any way to identify species at the point of extraction. The observer from Germany replied that Mexican species were not sympatric so it could be possible to link the species with the source.

The representative of North America expressed concern about not being able to fulfil the requirements of Decision 11.114. The Secretariat responded that the Plants Committee suggest at CoP12 that the activities outlined in paragraph iii) of Decision 11.114 should continue for the next work period. In the interim, the Plants Committee could give support to the German proposal to include all species of *Guaiacum* in Appendix II on a look-a-like basis.

### 8.3 *Aquilaria* spp.

Dr Barbara Gravendeel from Leiden University gave a presentation on the CITES funded project looking into the development of species-specific DNA markers in *Aquilaria* (Thymelaeaceae). She described the basic characteristics of the 15 *Aquilaria* species explaining that the wood is infected by a fungus that produces a resin known as Gaharu. This resin is used in rituals, medicines and perfume. The resin is in high demand and this demand can not be met by current supplies. She highlighted that there were problems with identification. At present, only one species of *Aquilaria* is controlled under CITES and because the wood containing the resin is usually traded as dry samples, it is impossible to differentiate between this controlled species and the other species in the genus. She concluded by saying that further work was necessary to isolate DNA in wood samples and develop an identification test that could be used by Customs officers.

In response to a question asked by Mr de Koning (representative of Europe), Dr Barbara Gravendeel stated that in an ideal situation and if fresh material were available, it would take approximately six months to develop identification tools for Customs officers.

The observer from Mexico enquired about the used of phytochemicals related to Gaharu. Dr Barbara Gravendeel responded that this might be useful but would entail a new project that would require new resources and funding.



Mr Leach (representative of Oceania) asked about other genera that produced Gaharu and enquired about the trade in these species. In response, Dr Barbara Gravendeel stated that she did not have any information on other Gaharu species in trade.

The observer from TRAFFIC-East/Southern Africa introduced document PC12 Doc. 8.3 on Agarwood harvest and trade in New Guinea. He stated that it could be concluded from field research that there was no obvious distinction between the species when traded as products. He highlighted the recommendations made in the report and asked for any feedback from the Plants Committee members.

The representative of Oceania highlighted the need to get an understanding of the total trade in 'Agarwood', not just in *Aquilaria*. He suggested that *Aquilaria* would be a good candidate for a Review of Significant Trade. He concluded by stating the he strongly supported the first recommendation outlined in document PC12 Doc. 8.3 but was concerned as to how the work would be funded. He suggested that it would be a good idea to form a link with traders as a possible source of information and funding.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) congratulated TRAFFIC on the report and agreed that funding was an issue. She added that the suggestion to make links with traders and industries to provide funding would be included in her report for CoP12.

Mr Shaari (representative of Asia) asked for clarification of a number of points. He raised concerns over the problems associated with an Appendix-III listing if identification to species level was impossible. The Secretariat explained that the main purpose of an Appendix-III listing was that countries of import and export could eliminate illegal trade.

Mr Donaldson (representative of Africa) asked for clarification over the need to develop population monitoring methods. In response to this, the Secretariat stated that only one out of every five *Aquilaria* trees is infected with fungus and this infection can only be detected once the tree had been felled. With this in mind, a population study should look at the total populations, not just those producing Gaharu. Mr Leach (representative of Oceania) stated at there was some anecdotal evidence that experienced collectors could tell which trees were infected, but this claim has not been proved. He added that it was something that should be investigated.

The Chairman concluded that the Plants Committee would support the work carried out on *Aquilaria* and the recommendations made by TRAFFIC Oceania.

#### **8.4 Mahogany Working Group**

The Secretariat informed participants that the Mahogany Working Group had held a meeting in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, on 3-5 October 2001. It stated that 13 out of the 14 range States had attended, along with a number of importing countries and NGOs. It reported that the participants had a series of reports and that a number of recommendations had been agreed. It concluded that the main feeling from the meeting was that an Appendix-III listing would be a positive move to regulate trade. A report on the meeting would be prepared and submitted at CoP12.

### **9. Technical proposals for the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

#### **9.1 Definitions of the technical terms used in the annotations**

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) reminded participants that at the previous Plants Committee meeting, a working group had been established in order to discuss the definitions of the technical terms used in the annotations. She stated that as a result, document PC12 Doc. 9.1 had been produced. Unfortunately, the Chairman of the working group was not at the meeting



to present the report and discussion on this point was postponed until the following Plants Committee meeting.

## **9.2 Trade in seeds**

### **9.2.1 Comments of the Secretariat with respect to document PC12 Doc. 9.2**

The observer from the United States of America introduced document PC12 Doc. 9.2.1 stating that it had been prepared in response to the confusion over Resolution Conf. 11.11 and whether material grown from wild-collected seed fulfilled the CITES definition of artificial propagation as laid out in Resolution Conf. 11.11. He explained that the United States of America disagreed with the Secretariat's interpretation that paragraphs a) to e), listed under the definition of 'artificially propagated' in Resolution Conf. 11.11, should be read separately. The observer from the United States of America also made reference to Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.), regarding the definition of 'bred in captivity'. He stated that it was very similar to Resolution Conf. 11.11, and he advised that in both cases the definitions were applicable to all three Appendices. Therefore, it could not be presumed that Resolution Conf. 11.11 related only to Appendix II when deciding whether particular specimens qualified as artificially propagated in the CITES context. A possible solution for this would be to include a paragraph such as 'material grown from exempt material could be considered as artificially propagated'.

The Secretariat agreed that there might be a problem with the interpretation of this Resolution. It informed participants that the paragraphs a) to e), listed under the definition of artificially propagated in Resolution Conf. 11.11 should be read separately.

The Secretariat remarked on how many of the plant and animal Resolutions were difficult to understand and recommended that many of them be simplified and re-written.

The observer from the United Kingdom suggested that a simple implementation guide could be provided to all Parties that would assist with the interpretation of the Resolutions.

The Secretariat informed participants that the Secretariat hoped to have an explanation of all elements relating to Plants and CITES available to all Parties at CoP12.

The observer from IWMC-CH agreed that the situation was confusing and that interpreting the definition was difficult.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) recommended that the Plants Committee include the need to revise and clarify all Resolutions pertaining to plants in the working plan for the following two years and that this recommendation be included in the report for CoP12. On the suggestion of Mr Donaldson (representative of Africa), she asked Parties to indicate where they had problems with interpretation. Any comments or feedback could then be used as a basis for producing guides and clarifying points.

## **10. Species proposals for the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

### **10.1 Artificially propagated orchid hybrids**

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) reminded participants that at the 11th Plants Committee meeting in Langkawi, Malaysia, a working group had been set up to discuss the possibility of putting forward a proposal to remove artificially propagated hybrids of six selected orchid genera. She



explained that the United States of America and the American Orchid Society had been asked to draft a proposal.

The observer from the United States of America stated that a proposal had been drafted to exempt selected artificially propagated orchid hybrids on the basis that they were mass produced and had no impact on wild populations. He specially wanted to thank Ned Nash from the American Orchid Society for all the work that he had contributed to this joint project. He added that there were concerns over enforcement issues and the fact that hybrid plants were often indistinguishable from species plants; in some countries where resources were poor, propagated plants may not look artificially propagated and this would cause real problems. He asked the Plants Committee to comment on the proposal and these problems.

A number of participants showed their support for this proposal but agreed that enforcement was a problem. The observer from Austria highlighted the fact that the artificially propagated plants are often traded in large containers and suggested that a way to solve the enforcement issues could be to include the way that the plants are traded in the proposal.

The Chairman suggested that a precautionary measure should be included. She suggested that the Management Authorities could certify that the material being traded was from a nursery known to be producing artificially propagated material.

The regional representatives from Asia, Central and South America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America and Oceania all supported the proposal.

The Chairman congratulated the working group and the United States of America for all their hard work and recommended that the United States of America complete the proposal in time for CoP12, taking into account all the issues discussed at the Plants Committee meeting.

## 10.2 Delisting of leaf-bearing cacti (Pereskioid and Opuntioid Cactaceae)

The observer from Switzerland introduced document PC12 Doc. 10.2, reporting on the progress made with the two species proposals on Cactaceae that had been submitted at the 11th meeting of the Plants Committee. He stated that the proposals had been forwarded to all Parties with Notification 2002/009 of 6 March 2002 and that interested Parties should send their comments to the Management Authority of Switzerland by 6 June 2002 in order to allow for the submission of revised proposals in time for CoP12. In addition to these proposals he drew attention to document PC12 Doc. 11.2.3, stating that a number of species of *Opuntia* had been looked at under the selection of taxa for review and that it had been concluded that these species were not of conservation concern. He added that a recent paper from a cactologist in Mexico made reference to the fact that *Opuntia* were easily recognizable even to non-experts.

The observer from Chile acknowledged all the work that has been done by Switzerland but raised concerns over the delisting. He informed participants that there were a number of threatened *Opuntia* species in Chile and that enforcement and identification issues could cause problems.

The observer from Chile also wanted to make a correction to the proceedings of the last Plants Committee meeting. On page 35 of the English version, the text should read: *'The observer from Chile supported the views of Mexico with regard to leaf-bearing cacti, adding that there is a genus corresponding to Maihuenia in South America, for which there was limited taxonomic information available'*.

The observer from Mexico also raised concerns over the delisting proposal. He informed participants that a number of the species put forward were endemic to Mexico and that the population status of these species was unknown. He added that the proposal had indicated



that no trade existed, however an Internet survey had shown that there were at least 14 species traded.

The observer from Mexico drew attention to document PC12 Doc. 14.2, prepared by the Scientific Authority of Mexico, on the updated taxonomical list of *Opuntia* and segregates. He added that Mexico would be hosting a meeting on *Opuntia* on 30 May 2002 and asked Switzerland not to submit the proposal pending further investigation of the situation.

The observer from the United States of America informed participants that a high percentage of the total cactus seizures in his country between 1998 and 2000 had been *Opuntia* species and that this evidence of illegal trade may affect the United States of America's support of this proposal.

Mr de Koning (representative of Europe) gave his support to the proposals stating that trade did not appear to impact negatively on the species concerned. He suggested that Switzerland elaborate on the proposals even further with the help of the range States and non range States.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) congratulated Switzerland on the production of the proposal and recommended that there be further consultation between Switzerland and the range States. She urged Switzerland to take into account all the comments that had been discussed and produce a revised proposal for CoP12.

The observer from Switzerland thanked the members of the Plants Committee for all their comments. He stated that he would collect and evaluate all the comments and then decide on how to proceed with the proposal. He reminded participants that there were two different proposals and that they should be dealt with separately.

### **10.3 Inclusion of *Guaiaacum* spp. in Appendix II**

See Agenda item 8.2.

### **10.4 *Araucaria araucana***

The Secretariat informed participants that as a result of an objection raised by the Philippines (the Philippines objected on the grounds that they have plantations of *Araucaria araucana*), Parties had been asked to amend the *Araucaria* listing by means of a postal vote. He stated that the postal vote had failed, owing to lack of a quorum.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) stated that there was some confusion over whether populations of *Araucaria* did occur in the Philippines. According to an IUCN specialist, populations were not known in the Philippines. Despite this, The Chairman reminded participants that the Philippines had every right to raise an objection. She asked the Plants Committee to help clarify the situation.

After some discussion, the Chairman asked the observer from Chile to inform Argentina that the Plants Committee would help and support Argentina with this issue. She urged participants to provide any information and comments that would help Argentina prepare the proposal in time for CoP12.

## **11. Significant trade in plants**

### **11.1 Problems and inconsistencies in Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) and Decision 11.117**

Mr von Arx (representative of North America) reminded participants that at the previous Plants Committee meeting, a working group had been established to collaborate with the working



group convened by the Animals Committee. The mandate of the working group was to ensure recognition of the different requirements of the review of plants and animals.

He introduced document PC12 Doc. 11.1 (Rev. 1), explaining that the document contained details on the outcome of the discussions to clarify and simplify the Review of Significant Trade for Appendix-II plants. He summarized the changes that had been made to the text. He recommended that the Plants Committee have the same process as the Animals Committee in the framework of this Resolution and this be included in the working plan. He concluded by stating that the aim was to remove what was redundant, define the different stages, simplify the process and concentrate all elements of the Review of Significant Trade into a single resolution.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) recommended that a working group comprising of the regional representatives from North America (Chairman), Asia Africa and Oceania and observers from Chile, Mexico the United States of America, the European Union, TRAFFIC South Africa, IUCN and IWMC-CH meet to discuss document PC12 Doc.11.1 (Rev. 1) to ensure that the simplified process prepared by the Animals Committee was also applicable to plants.

The representative of North America reported the results of the working group informing participants that the changes were presented in the revised document PC12 Doc. 11.1 (Rev. 2) (See also document CoP12 Doc. 48).

He pointed out that the working group had identified five major points [see document PC12 Doc. 11.1 (Rev. 2), point 5, paragraphs a-e] and that a number of minor changes had been made to ensure consistency throughout the text.

He suggested that at its following meeting, the Plants Committee have a presentation to define clearly the different stages of the review and its role in this process. He added that the working group agreed with the proposal of the Animals Committee that a review of the effectiveness of the Review of Significant Trade needed to be built into the resolution, that this review could arise from a decision at CoP12 and that the work should be completed no later than CoP14.

The Chairman concluded that the Plants Committee would support the changes made to the document by the working group and the Plants Committee members.

## **11.2 Implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) (cf. Decision 11.117)**

### **11.2.1 Trade in plants from Madagascar**

Mr McGough (Coordinator, Review of Significant Trade) reported on the status of the project to review the trade in plants from Madagascar. He referred to document PC12 Doc. 11.2.1 stating that the review was being carried out in collaboration with the CITES Management Authority and Scientific Authority of Madagascar. All data gathered from the review will be summarized and translated into French and given to the CITES Authorities in Madagascar. He added that the next stage of the project would be to convene a workshop in Madagascar in order to consider all the information collected and make recommendations to facilitate sustainable trade in the species concerned. A date for the workshop had not been agreed given the political situation in Madagascar at the time of the meeting.

The Secretariat informed the participants that at the 18th meeting of the Animals Committee in April 2002, Madagascar had announced a six-month trade moratorium. It stated that the Secretariat had been unable to contact the Malagasy Authorities to confirm this.



### 11.2.2 Cycads

The Secretariat announced that funding for this project was largely consumed by the Madagascar Review of Significant Trade. It stated that the project would hopefully begin by the end of the year, once the new Plants Officer had taken up the position.

### 11.2.3 Selection of taxa for review

The Secretariat reminded the participants that at the 11th meeting of the Plants Committee, a working group had analysed the trade data for a group of species and generated a list of species of concern. Since the meeting, the Secretariat had evaluated the trade data for these species and summarized the findings in document PC12 Doc. 11.2.3.

Mr Luke (representative from Africa) pointed out that the data in the document referring to *Aloe ellenbeckii* was incorrect. He stated that it was likely that the data referred to one of the more common species found in Kenya.

Mr McGough (Coordinator, Review of Significant Trade) highlighted the need to conduct a study on *Pericopsis elata*. He stated that there was great difficulty in making a non-detriment finding and that the species urgently needed to be reviewed.

In response to a question from the observer from Mexico, the Secretariat and the coordinator of the Review of Significant Trade explained the criteria that were used to assess the species. The coordinator of the Review of Significant Trade further explained that the process involved looking at all available data on the species, using experts and seeking advice and cooperation from the range States. He added that the process was difficult, as the trade data were not always comprehensive. However, the combination of obtaining all the information and consulting with experts and range States was the best method to use.

The observer from the European Commission informed the participants that the European Union had expressed concern over *Pericopsis elata* in November 2001 and had issued a negative opinion relating to Cameroon. However, this opinion was reversed in April 2002 pending the outcome of a review. He added that in terms of reviewing tree ferns, the European Commission had a contract with UNEP-WCMC and that further funding might be possible.

The Secretariat pointed out that it was best not to try and look at too many species as his experience from the Animals Committee showed that this did not necessarily give good results. It suggested that the Plants Committee focus on a limited number of species depending on resources available, and keep in mind that plants from Madagascar and Cycads were already under review.

In response to a question from Mr Donaldson (representative of Africa), the Secretariat stated that there were budget restrictions and that the Committee needed to decide which species were a priority.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) recommended that the coordinator of the Review of Significant Trade convene a working group during the meeting to discuss prioritizing species for review.

The working group concluded that the following species should be reviewed:

- *Prunus africana*
- *Aquilaria* spp.



- *Pericopsis elata*
- *Aloe* spp. from east Africa (including species traded as extracts)

In response to a request from the Chairman, the coordinator of the Review of the Significant Trade agreed to provide a short proposal and budget breakdown for the review of these species.

## 12. Medicinal plants

### 12.1 Implementation of Decision 11.165 on trade in traditional medicines

#### 12.1.1 Inventory of operations where artificial propagation of CITES species is conducted for medicinal purposes

The Secretariat introduced document PC12 Doc. 12.1.1 on the implementation of Decision 11.165 to compile an inventory of operations where artificial propagation of CITES species is conducted for medicinal purposes. The Secretariat expressed some concern over the enormous amount of work that this process would entail and asked the Plants Committee to discuss the benefits. It stated that the Animals Committee had concluded that the conservation benefits of the process were unclear and needed to be defined before any work was carried out. It added that the issue was discussed at the Standing Committee where it was agreed that it was a low priority since the purpose was unclear. The Secretariat proposed that the Plants Committee might consider recommending at CoP12 that Management Authorities initiate a national inventory of operations within their countries.

The observer from Austria supported this idea adding that work could be coordinated with the CBD's Global Biodiversity Information Facility which may already hold information on the subject.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) agreed with the Secretariat that this was a huge task and suggested that in future, when a decision is made at the CoP, Parties proposing the decision should quantify the amount of work required.

The observer from Mexico questioned whether the Plants Committee was fulfilling Decision 11.165. He added that it would be more appropriate to ascertain what exactly is required at the time a decision is made and then it would be possible to assess the benefits.

The Secretariat responded by stating that a huge number of decisions are made at the CoP and not all of the requirements are always clear. It suggested that the CoP be informed of this issue.

The observer from the Netherlands agreed that this should be given a low priority and that future proposals should include the possible costs and manpower required in order to obtain a better overview of things.

The representative from the European Union drew attention to the fact that UNEP-WCMC data were often speculative in terms of whether species were exploited specifically for medicine or whether the medicinal use was a by-product of another use.

The Chairman recommended that the Secretariat prepare a document for CoP12 including the comments and suggestions from the Plants Committee. She suggested that if the CoP wanted to continue with this issue, then it could be done via a Notification to the Parties.



### 12.1.2 List of species traded for medicinal purposes

The Secretariat introduced document PC12 Doc. 12.1.2 explaining that this element of Decision 11.165 was also a considerable challenge and that there were problems associated with how 'medicinal purpose' was defined and whether species were internationally traded specifically for medicinal purposes. It asked the Plants Committee whether this project was something that needed to be set as a high priority.

A number of observers supported these concerns and highlighted that there were not the necessary resources to undertake the task. Several participants questioned the original objectives of Decision 11.165 and agreed that any future decisions should have clearly defined objectives. All participants agreed that there was a considerable amount of work that needed to be done and that although the information was important, it was not a high priority.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) recommended that the Secretariat prepare a document for CoP12, drawing special attention to the problems highlighted in the Plants Committee discussions. She added that the list of plants in document PC12 Doc. 12.1.2 was accurate in terms of CITES and international trade and should be included in the report.

### 12.1.3 Proposal from Italy

The observer from Italy introduced document PC12 Doc. 12.1.3 on the trade in medicinal plants growing in Italy. He explained that the Scientific Authority of Italy had begun to study the status of some of the Italian medicinal plants that were potentially threatened by trade.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) congratulated Italy for their work and encouraged the continuation of the study.

## 13. Review of the Appendices

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) reminded participants that this issue had been discussed at the previous Plants Committee meeting and wanted to encourage all Parties to cooperate with the Plants Committee on this issue.

Mr Donaldson (representative of Africa) informed participants that southern African countries had been reviewing species and would be submitting a proposal at CoP12 to transfer *Aloe thorncroftii* from Appendix I to Appendix II. He added that Lesotho was also looking at the sustainable harvest of *Aloe polyphylla* and planned to submit a proposal to downlist this species. This proposal however, would not be ready in time for CoP12.

Mr von Arx (representative of North America) stated that the species assessed through using this process were covered under CITES project S109. He added that there were concerns with *Saussurea costus* as it was unclear whether there were complete data to support the Appendix-I listing.

The observer from Switzerland also raised concerns over *Saussurea costus*, listed in Appendix I. He stated that it was often hard to keep track of the species, as there were repeated transfers between Switzerland and Germany during processing.

The observer from Germany supported the comments made by Switzerland and asked the representative from Asia whether a proposal had been considered for CoP13 to transfer this species to Appendix II. He added that the biggest exporter was China where all material was artificially propagated. The range States being India and Pakistan.



Mr Singh (representative of Asia) informed participants that he would liaise with the Chinese Government and produce a document as required. He added that at the previous CoP, problems were identified regarding range States not being consulted on some of the proposals.

The Chairman stresses that range State cooperation was extremely important and encouraged consumer states to work with range States.

The observer from the United States of America informed participants that his country was submitting a number of proposals for consideration at CoP12. These included a proposal to transfer *Dudleya traskiae* from Appendix I to Appendix II and a proposal to delete *Lewisia maguirei* from Appendix II.

The Chairman concluded that this was a very important issue and recommended that it be set as a high priority in the strategic plan.

## 14. Checklists and nomenclature

### 14.1 Progress report

Mr McGough (Vice Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee) gave a progress report on the status of checklists and nomenclature. He drew attention to document PC12 Doc. 14.1, listing the current checklists that were available and outlining possible future plans. He added that there were plans to work with UNEP-WCMC on tree ferns and asked the Plants Committee for comments and suggestions for future work and sources of potential funding.

Mr Donaldson (representative of Africa) commented on how useful the checklist were. He informed participants that the Cycad Specialist Group had produced a guide to cycads that was available on the website:

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.gov.au/PlantNet/cycad>

The observer from Austria informed participants on the current situation regarding the *Bulbophyllum* Checklist. He explained that the collection of raw data (over 6,000 names) had been completed and that funding (approximately USD 20,000) was being sought for the next stage of the project. He added that the list (not just accepted names) would be available in printed form and on the Internet. He concluded that the National Herbarium – Leiden University branch had just received a four-year grant to look at *Bulbophyllum* and its relatives and that the study would provide even more data for the checklist. He concluded that financial support pending, Austria hoped to complete the technical side of the work by CoP13.

The observer from Switzerland reported that the new Cactaceae Lexicon was currently being prepared and would be available in two years' time.

The observer from Mexico informed participants that a book was currently in press on Mexican cacti. She added that the data would also be made available on the Web.

The observer from Germany stated that with reference to the Cactaceae Lexicon, whilst it was excellent to have other sources of information available, the CITES approved Cactaceae Checklist should be the main point of reference. He added that this was a stand-alone checklist that should be updated when required. He also raised concerns about the *Euphorbia* Checklist, stating that the current checklist was in urgent need of updating and that this job should be a priority. He recommended that an Addendum be compiled containing all the new taxa covered by CITES.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) concluded by recommending that the Vice Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee take note of the comments and suggestions made by members of



the Plants Committee and formulate recommendations for future work to be presented in a report at CoP12.

#### **14.2 Updated taxonomical list of *Opuntia* and segregates**

The observer from Mexico presented document PC12 Doc. 14.2, an updated list of *Opuntia* and segregates. She explained that the document contained basic information and would be used as a foundation to build on.

In response to a question from the observer from Germany, the observer from Mexico explained that the work had not been published and the information contained in the document was just a small part of the total report. She added that the next step would be to get contributions from other experts.

Mr McGough (Vice Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee) congratulated Mexico on the production of the list and suggested that the list be submitted for publication and then presented at the next CoP for review or included in an edition of the checklist, whichever was appropriate.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) also congratulated Mexico and recommended that there be communication between Mexico and the Vice Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee in order to proceed with this work.

#### **14.3 List of the American *Dicksonia* species**

The observer from Germany presented document PC12 Doc. 14.3. He reported that the list was not yet complete but had been created in response to the new annotations added to *Dicksonia* at the previous CoP. He appealed to the Plants Committee for any comments or suggestions.

Mr Leach (representative of Oceania) suggested that as the list should be used by enforcement agencies, the species distributions be listed at the country level.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) agreed that the distribution information needed to be made clearer and recommended that any other comments on the list be sent to Germany in time for the report to be presented at CoP12.

### **15. Strategic planning (PC)**

See Agenda item 7.3.

### **16. ID Manual**

#### **16.1 Progress report**

The Secretariat presented document PC12 Doc. 16.1 and informed participants that a more detailed report would be presented at CoP12.

Mr von Arx (representative of North America) acknowledged the excellent work done on the ID Manual and pointed out to the Plants Committee that the Canadian Timber ID Manual, funded by the US Government and Canadian Authorities, had been published. He added that the manual was used by border personnel to identify tropical wood and would be made available to anyone that was interested.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) congratulated Canada on the Timber ID Manual and suggested that it would be useful if each Committee member received a copy.



The observer from the United States of America informed participants that his country had sent a CD-ROM to the Secretariat containing identification material for several species.

## **16.2 Presentation of a book on Identification of Appendix-I cacti**

The observer from Switzerland gave a presentation on the identification manual for Appendix-I cacti. He demonstrated the CD-ROM and informed participants that the manual, currently available in English, had been sent to the Secretariat for distribution to all Management and Scientific Authorities.

Dr Forero (representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean), Mr de Koning (representative of Europe), Mr von Arx (representative of North America), and observers from the Czech Republic and Mexico all congratulated Switzerland on the identification manual.

The observer from Mexico informed participants that there was a meeting planned with cacti experts on 30 May 2002. He stated that someone at that meeting might be willing to help with the translation of the manual.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) congratulated Switzerland on the publication and urged Parties to assist with the translation of the manual into French and Spanish.

## **17. Guidelines for transport of live plants**

Mr von Arx (representative of North America) informed participants that at the previous meeting of the Plants Committee, he had presented document PC11 Doc. 17. In response to comments and suggestions received at the meeting, he had prepared an updated version, document PC12 Doc. 17. The representative of North America added that he had also been in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee transport working group and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The IATA provided a brochure on the handling of perishable goods and the representative of North America recommended that the Plants Committee cooperate with the IATA to include the necessary requirements for plants and to use the brochure to produce a more general guide.

He concluded by stating that he would incorporate the information from the IATA brochure into the document.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) thanked the representative of North America for all his work and recommended that the Plants Committee support the suggestions outlined by the representative of North America and the changes made in document PC12 Doc. 17.

## **18. Tree species evaluation: progress report by the Netherlands**

Mr de Koning (representative of Europe) informed participants that despite repeated requests, only four countries had provided feedback on the evaluation of tree species report produced by the Netherlands. He asked the Plants Committee how they wished to proceed.

The observer from UNEP-WCMC reminded participants that after the previous meetings, reports were sent out to all Parties. She stated that if Parties had not received the reports then they could be resent and this also applied to the translated French and Spanish versions.

The observer from Austria highlighted the fact that the list was available on the Internet. Universities and Scientific Authorities had access to this list and could check local names of tree species. He added that it would be useful if Parties could check the list and provide a list of names that were not already recorded.

The representative of Europe requested that the data available were incomplete and sometimes incorrect. He urged range States to check the data and provide any corrections to the Netherlands.



The Secretariat reminded the Committee of the fact that at PC11, a report had already been adopted for presentation at CoP12 in relation to Decision 11.116.

In response to issues raised by Mr von Arx (representative of North America), Mrs Clemente (Chairman) stated that there was a mechanism in place for this type of review and that over 300 species had been identified. She added that this review was a high priority and asked the Netherlands whether it was possible to prepare a set of specific proposals based on data from this review, for consideration at the following Plants Committee meeting and at CoP12.

The representative of Europe agreed that it was possible to prepare a report to be presented at CoP12 but was unsure how useful proposals would be considering the incomplete information available.

The Chairman concluded that within the framework of reviewing the Appendices, a series of proposals based on the evaluation of tree species should be included in the following working plan and be presented at PC13. These proposals would allow the Plants Committee to focus on selected tree species.

## 19. Evaluation of certification schemes

The Secretariat reminded participants that at the previous meeting of the Plants Committee, it had asked TRAFFIC International to prepare a proposal to evaluate certification schemes. In response to this request, TRAFFIC International had prepared document PC12 Doc. 19. The aim of the proposal being "to evaluate whether current forest certification systems are compatible with the scientific requirements of making a non-detriment statement under CITES for the export of Appendix-II tree species". The secretariat informed participants that the cost of the project would be USD 10,000 and that the money was available if the Plants Committee chose to pursue the project.

The observer from the United States of America informed participants that current certification schemes only covered a minority of populations and that the schemes could vary widely from country to country. He stated that although certification schemes could assist CITES in the future, it was too early to conduct this study.

The observer from Malaysia agreed with the observer from the United States of America, adding that timber certification was currently voluntary and was at different stages in different countries and that the forest certification scheme was not widely implemented, with only 2.7 per cent of the total world forest currently certified. He was concerned that the proposal might discriminate certain schemes because schemes were at varying stages of development. He concluded that CITES should proceed with caution and as schemes were not species specific, they could not be used to replace the non-detriment statement.

Mr McGough (Coordinator, Significant Trade Programme) suggested that if the money was not used to support the proposal then it could be used to support other projects such as the Review of Significant Trade.

The observer from Austria stated that since CBD had discussed the issue at the previous CoP, links could be made to avoid duplicating work.

Mr de Koning (representative of Europe) suggested that it could be useful to investigate one or two of the schemes to see whether they could be used for helping make the non-detriment findings.

Mr von Arx (representative of North America) agreed with the observers from Malaysia and the United States of America and recommended that the evaluation be postponed.

Mr Singh and Mr Shaari (representatives of Asia) both agreed that the study would be premature. Mr Shaari stated that many foresters were still trying to define what was sustainable and a lot of work still needed to be done.



The observer from IWMC-CH raised concerns over the political and economic issues associated with this proposal, stating that very often certification schemes were considered by range States as being obstacles to trade and stopping legitimate trade in certain countries.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) thanked participants for their comments and recommended that the evaluation be postponed and the money be used for other projects, such as the Review of Significant Trade in *Pericopsis*.

The observer from the United States of America agreed with this recommendation and supported the alternative use of the funds.

## 20. Issues resulting from PC11, not included elsewhere in the Agenda

### 20.1 Review on the genus *Taxus*

The observer from the United States of America presented document PC12 Doc. 20.1. He informed participants that at the 11th meeting of the Plants Committee, it had been decided that China, France, India and the United States of America should collaborate on a review of the trade in yew in order to determine whether additional species should be included in Appendix II, whether the traded commodities derived from *Taxus* species were readily recognizable and whether they should be subject to CITES controls. The United States of America had sent letters to all range States and received a number of responses. He concluded by stating that the main question was whether the current listing for *Taxus* was effective and asked the Plants Committee for comments.

The observer from Hungary reported on the status of *Taxus* in Hungary. She explained that only one species occurred, *Taxus baccata*, and that the population was protected by national legislation. She raised concerns over listing the genus *Taxus* on Appendix II, stating that this listing could cause a number of practical difficulties in terms of enforcement and control.

The observers from Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Poland all agreed with the concerns raised by the observer from Hungary.

The observer from China supported the Appendix-II listing but added that the problems associated with what to control needed to be addressed. He was concerned that the inclusion of chemical extracts and derivatives in the listing could cause problems when trying to distinguish species.

The observer from Italy introduced document PC12 Doc. 20.1.1 on the review of the genus *Taxus* in Italy. He explained that there was deep concern about the high level of imported medicinal plants and that Italy supported listing the genus in Appendix II.

The Secretariat stated that the problem at the moment was that the trade in the extract (Taxol) was not regulated. Taxol could be traded freely and so CITES had no effect on protecting populations.

The observer from China informed participants that there were three species and three varieties of *Taxus* in China and that if the extract and chemical derivatives were included in controls, there could be problems with distinguishing species.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) concluded that the main problem centred on the identification of derivatives. She recommended that the United States of America proceed with the review and work with China and India in order to obtain a better understanding of all the issues associated with *Taxus*. She added that all the comments from the range States and members of the Plants Committee should be considered before a listing proposal was produced.



## 20.2 Illegal trade in *Paphiopedilum* spp.

The observer from the United States of America informed participants that at the 11th meeting of the Plants Committee, documents from the United States of America and Switzerland had been submitted on the illegal trade in *Paphiopedilum* spp. He reported that since the meeting, the United States of America had seized a number of illegally traded *Paphiopedilum* plants. These had been used to produce seeds and flaked seedlings that could be released into the market in order to try and suppress demand for illegal material. He added that there was a commercial operator in the United States of America willing to propagate the plants to assist reintroduction in the wild.

Mr von Arx (representative of North America) informed participants that there had been a similar situation with the carnivorous plant genus *Nepenthes*. He was also in favour of reintroducing these plants.

The Secretariat asked Malaysia, Thailand and the United States of America to provide an article on this subject for CITES News, with a view to increase understanding of this subject and of how different countries operated. He suggested that the issue be discussed further at the following meeting of the Plants Committee.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) recommended that Plants Committee members send any comments they had to the United States of America.

## 20.3 Relationship between *ex situ* production and *in situ* conservation

The Secretariat introduced document PC12 Doc. 20.3, explaining that there was increasing concern over the impact of *ex situ* production on wild populations. It informed participants that following Decision 11.102, a Notification had been sent out inviting all Parties and organizations to provide information on the relationship between *ex situ* production systems and *in situ* conservation programmes for any CITES-listed species. At the time of the meeting, no response to this Notification had been received. The Secretariat added that the Animals Committee had suggested that the Notification be re-issued and suggested that it should also cover plants. It asked the Plants Committee for comments on this suggestion and to provide specific examples involving plants.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) supported this suggestion and asked the Plants Committee for examples.

Observers from Austria, Germany and Mexico and regional representatives from Africa (on behalf of the Cycad Specialist Group) and North America all supported the recommendation and provided examples.

The observer from Austria also highlighted the need to link this issue to other Conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity. He added that forming this link could help local communities and overall sustainability.

The observer from Mexico agreed that this subject was of great importance and that mass production did not necessarily favour *ex situ* conservation. She stated that the objectives of CITES should be more creative in order to find the right balance and supported the suggestion to work with CBD and with local communities. She concluded by highlighting the fact that *in situ* conservation should be investigated. Problems occurred when non range States, with more advanced technology, mass-produced plants, leading to the range States not being able to compete in the market.

Mr von Arx (representative of North America) stated that this was a very important issue to the Plants Committee and that it should be a high priority. He supported the idea of issuing a Notification and suggested that it be slightly amended to change the tone. He drew attention



to a workshop that had taken place in Florida in December 2001, organized by the Species Programme of IUCN. The workshop was used as a first step in the process to review the conservation costs and benefits of commercial captive-breeding and propagation systems for wild species and to develop a strategy to guide further action on this issue.

The observer from IUCN/SSC informed participants that the results of the workshop held in Florida were included in document PC12 Doc. 20.3, Annex 2. She pointed out that the overriding recommendation from the three working groups in Florida, dealing with medicinal plants, aquaculture and terrestrial animals, was that before commercial production facilities were established, risk assessments should be undertaken. She added that as a follow-up to the workshops in Florida, IUCN aimed to develop a project to undertake a series of case studies to examine the conservation and socio-economic factors associated with *ex situ* commercial production. The project concept required further development and discussion with donors and was a high priority for the TRAFFIC network.

She concluded by stating that the final report would be made available on the Web and that IUCN supported the continuation of work on these issues after CoP12.

The Chairman concluded that this issue would be included in the Plants Committee working plan as a priority and that the Plants Committee supported the Secretariat's decision to consolidate all the information and include the views and examples provided by the Plants Committee members in a report for CoP12.

## 21. Training initiatives

### 21.1 Standard slide package: progress report

The observer from the United Kingdom informed participants that the updated slide pack 'CITES and plants – A user's guide' was almost finished and would be made available on the Internet. He added that after the following CoP, the pack would be updated and made available as a CD-ROM. He reported that work on the Succulent and Orchid packs had begun and that once completed, these packs would also be made available on CD-ROM and on the Internet.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) encouraged the work on the packs to continue and asked participants to send any comments and ideas to the United Kingdom.

## 22. Sales of cacti on the Internet

The observer from Mexico introduced document PC12 Doc. 22. She stated that the report included a list of nurseries that supplied cacti on the internet and asked members of the Plants Committee to review the list. The report also contained details on the cacti most in demand. She added that a CD-ROM containing all data (from the 27 field Access Database) would be made available to the Plants Committee Chairman.

The representative from the Association of German Nurserymen remarked that the report only showed the species that were offered and did not give any indication of demand. He added that more details were required and that a more comprehensive study should be considered. He concluded by saying that the Association would be more than happy to provide assistance.

The observer from Mexico thanked the representative from the Association of German Nurserymen for his offer of help and stated that the report was only a data sample. A much more comprehensive data set could be accessed on the database.

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) thanked the observer from Mexico and encouraged continuation of the work.



## **23. Production systems involving CITES-listed species and their impact on wild populations – source code designations**

### **23.1 Plant production system**

Mr von Arx (representative on North America) introduced document PC12 Doc. 23.1. He reminded participants that at the previous Plants Committee meeting it had been decided that a review of production systems would be undertaken and information on the codes used should be compiled. Following this decision, countries had been consulted and it had become obvious that a full range of production systems were being used. The United States Management Authority provided a list of broad categories that could be defined more concisely if a complete list needed to be created. However, it was felt that a new list of codes would not necessarily be helpful for the implementation of CITES. He concluded by stating that it might be helpful just to create new codes for specific categories.

The Secretariat thanked the representative from North America for his report and stated that this had become quite a complicated but very important issue that was linked with the making of non-detriment findings. It added that the precise origin of specimens in trade was seldom known and therefore the conservation impact was unknown. This was clearly something that needed to be addressed. The Secretariat informed participants that there was an emerging consensus that supported the use of extra source codes, especially for specific cases such as bulbs from Georgia. It concluded that the situation and the need for new codes would be considered at CoP12.

Mr Shaari (representative of Asia) highlighted the example of the need for new codes with respect to the situation with tropical timber. In many cases, seeds collected for plantations have a low viability. However, it is much more successful to allow to fall and germinate in their natural environment. The ground underneath the mother trees can be manipulated and the germinated seeds collected and replanted. In this case the origin of the specimen is known and the growing area has been manipulated. He stated that there was really no difference between this and plantations and suggested it be considered under Resolution Conf. 11.11, Regulation of trade in plants.

The observer from IWMC-CH stated that the problems arose when trying to determine whether the export of a specimen was detrimental to wild populations. He added that using multiple codes would not necessarily help and could confuse the issue further.

The observer from the United States of America supported the view of the observer from IWMC-CH and was also concerned about the implication of using the source code 'W' on permits. He stated that this was often viewed negatively. He concluded that the exercise of reviewing the production systems could be beneficial to the Parties if linked with the identification of the likely risks and pitfalls.

The Secretariat thanked the Plants Committee for all the comments and congratulated members for remaining objective. It recommended that the issue be discussed again at the following Plants Committee meeting with a view to preparing a report on the subject for CoP13.

## **24. Time and venue of the 13th meeting of the Plants Committee**

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) informed participants that she would be approaching Botswana, Namibia and South Africa as potential hosts for the next meeting of the Plants Committee, provisionally scheduled for August 2003.



## 25. Any other business

### 25.1 Progress report of the CITES Management Authority of China in plant protection and management in 2001

The observer from China referred to document PC12 Doc. 25.1. He informed participants that the report had been sent to the Secretariat and other Parties.

### 25.2 CBD – The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Mrs Clemente (Chairman) reported on the tremendous success of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, adopted at CoP6 of CBD. She highlighted Objective 11 that states that “no wild plant species should be placed in danger through international trade”. She informed participants that a draft of the final document has been distributed to members, but that CBD had not yet made the final document available. She added that once a final report had been made, all participants should have a copy and that the strategy would be mentioned in the Chairman’s report for CoP12 in order to promote synergy between CBD and CITES.

## Closing remarks

Before closing the meeting, Mrs Clemente (Chairman) thanked the organizers of the meeting, in particular Mr de Koning and his staff, for the excellent venue they had elected to host the meeting and for the smooth way in which the meeting had been run. She further thanked the members of the Committee for their excellent work and all participants for their contributions to the discussions.



Photo: Ger van Vliet

Flower auction Aalsmeer

