

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

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Santiago (Chile), 3-15 November 2002

Strategic and administrative matters

Committee reports and recommendations

Plants Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Introduction

1. This report has been prepared by Ms Margarita Clemente Muñoz, Chairman of the Plants Committee (PC) with the kind collaboration of the PC members and the CITES Secretariat, and covers the period from April 2000 to June 2002. During this period the PC met on three occasions: 10th meeting in Shepherdstown, United States of America, 11-15 December 2000 (PC10); 11th meeting in Langkawi, Malaysia, 3-7 September 2001 (PC11); and 12th meeting in Leiden, the Netherlands, 13-17 May 2002 (PC12).
2. The Plants Committee comprised the following representatives of the six regions:

Region	Regional representative	Alternate regional representative
Africa	Mr Quentin Luke (Kenya) Mr John Donaldson (South Africa)	Mr K. Akpagana (Togo)
Asia	Mr N. P. Singh (India) Mr. Zulmukshar Shaari (Malaysia)	Mr Jiansheng Jia (China) Mr Irawati (Indonesia)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Mr Enrique Forero (Colombia) Ms Marga C.Werkhoven (Suriname)	Ms Dora Ingrid Rivera (Costa Rica) Ms Fatima Mereles (Paraguay)
Europe	Mr Jan de Koning (Netherlands) Ms Margarita Clemente Muñoz (Spain)	Mrs Hanna Werblan-Jakubiec (Poland) Mr Dieter Supthut (Switzerland)
North America	Mr Bertrand von Arx (Canada)	Ms Patricia Dávila (Mexico)
Oceania	Mr Greg Leach (Australia)	Mr Osia Gideon (Papua New Guinea)

PC meetings

3. At an informal meeting at the end of the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP11), the newly elected members of the PC who were present in Gigiri, Kenya, provisionally nominated Ms Margarita Clemente (Europe) as Chairman of the PC. The other members of the PC later confirmed this nomination. At PC10, the Committee elected Mr Bertrand von Arx (North America) as its Vice-Chairman.

4. Almost all members participated in the three meetings. At PC10, one regional representative of Africa was replaced by his alternate Mr K. Akpagana. Owing to health problems, Ms Marga Werkhoven could not attend PC10. Later she sent her resignation and at PC12 was replaced by the alternate regional representative, Ms Fatima Mereles.
5. The PC expresses its deepest gratitude to the hosting Parties of the meetings, the United States, Malaysia and the Netherlands.
6. In the course of PC10, the United States offered USD 45,000 to the PC for high-priority projects. The PC was grateful for this generous donation and submitted to the United States a selection of projects for financing. The projects that were financed concern *Guaiacum* (USD 10,000); *Harpagophytum* (USD 5,000); *Aquilaria* (USD 10,000); and Directories for Africa and for Central and South America and the Caribbean regions (USD 10,000). At its last meeting, the PC decided to allocate the remaining USD 10,000 to a project concerning the Review of Significant Trade in cycads.
7. The minutes of the three meetings have been sent to the Parties. Additional copies are available from the Secretariat.
8. Representatives of 23 Parties, one United Nations agency, one inter-governmental organization and 10 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in PC10; representatives of 25 Parties, one United Nations agency and 8 NGOs in PC11; and representatives from 24 Parties, one United Nations agency, one inter-governmental organization (IGO) and 7 NGOs in PC12.

Major issues

Regional reports and regional representation

9. The regional representatives presented their reports at every PC meeting in the agreed format, and the reports were included in the minutes of each meeting.
10. The regional directories were completed in the six regions in accordance with action point 1.7.2 of the Action Plan. These directories are essential for communication within each region and therefore very useful tools. The PC recommends to place the regional directories on the CITES website. The representatives should update them annually.
11. Regarding the training of new representatives on CITES procedures, the PC recommends that the Secretariat provides materials to the new regional representatives and alternate regional representatives, and a general introduction concerning the operation of the PC at its first meeting after the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12).

Decisions directed to the PC by the Conference of the Parties (CoP)

12. The PC strongly recommends to the CoP that when a proposal for a decision is directed to the PC, this should be discussed concurrently with an evaluation of the budget that will be required to implement the decision fully and, if possible, an indication of the available funding.

Regarding duties of the members of the Committee and their alternates (Decision 11.110)

13. A renewed analysis was undertaken of the difficulties the regional representatives are dealing with to carry out their mission adequately. The Chairman reported this problem to the 45th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC45), and it was later tackled during the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC46) in Geneva by a working group.

14. It is for most members practically impossible to hold regional meetings owing to lack of funding, even though PC members are convinced of their need. Only in the European and the North American regions were representatives able to organize regional meetings.
15. If funding is not available, the PC recommends organizing regional meetings by using seminars or other related meetings organized by the Secretariat. One day could be dedicated to deal with regional issues on plants. The regional representatives would prepare the agenda and chair the meeting and, where necessary, receive funding to attend this day.
16. Regarding the duties of the members of the PC and their alternates, the PC recommends:
 - a) to amend Decision 11.110 as proposed in Annex 1 to this document;
 - b) to encourage the Parties that present candidates for the PC to support them by providing the necessary facilities and (financial) means to fulfill their duties as representative properly; and
 - c) to include an increase in the PC budget specifically to fund regional activities.

Regarding the biological and trade status of *Harpagophytum* (Decision 11.111)

17. The PC concludes that *Harpagophytum* is an excellent example of a plant resource that can be sustainably harvested for commercial purposes if appropriate management practices are implemented. The utilization of *Harpagophytum* also raises important issues related to property rights, fair trade, the reliance of poor communities in the range States on a valuable plant resource, and the potential role of international agreements on conservation of and trade in these resources. Sustainable use requires harmonized policies dealing with conservation and sustainable utilization of *Harpagophytum* in all the range States, effective enforcement of permits and quotas, standardized monitoring of trade and harvesting, and research to develop sustainable harvesting methods. In the light of the information received and of the discussions held at PC12, the PC formulated specific recommendations (see document CoP12 Doc. 46).

Regarding *Aquilaria* spp. (Decisions 11.112 and 11.113)

18. During discussions at PC12 it was recognized that the agarwood issue had become more complex with five genera now reported as including species that produce agarwood (*Aquilaria*, *Aetoxylon*, *Gyrinops*, *Phaleria* and *Gonostylus*).
19. In considering taxa for a significant trade review, the PC recognized the extent of trade in agarwood as being of concern and recommended *Aquilaria malaccensis* as a candidate species to be included in the Review of Significant Trade.
20. It was recognized by the PC that funding would be a problem for the ongoing required work. Traders and importing countries were identified as possible funding sources.
21. The PC has agreed upon the following recommendations:
 - a) The DNA work currently being undertaken by the National Herbarium of the Netherlands under contract with the Secretariat should continue and should be aimed at investigating the options for the development of identification tools based molecular analysis.
 - b) More detailed information on the distribution of species should be compiled and assessed as an aid to better trade reporting, utilizing point of origin data.
 - c) As the trade is in the readily identifiable product of agarwood, studies should include all known agarwood producing taxa and not only the CITES-listed *A. malaccensis*.

- d) IUCN should re-evaluate the threatened status of all agarwood-producing taxa according to the 2000 IUCN criteria.
- e) A standard method for determining the population status of CITES-listed agarwood producing taxa should be developed to assist Scientific Authorities in advising that exports will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in compliance with Article IV of the Convention. Such a standard method could be used to verify populations across all agarwood-producing areas, and not allow only the setting of appropriate quotas but also allow the verification of species being harvested.
- f) Further field research should be conducted on trade dynamics, including in the major import and re-exporting states (Japan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Taiwan, province of China and United Arab Emirates).

Regarding *Guaiaacum* spp. (Decision 11.114)

- 22. The results of the project that was undertaken by Mexico and the United States pursuant to Decision 11.114 were presented at PC11. During discussions at this meeting, it was recognized that *Guaiaacum sanctum*, *G. coulteri*, *G. coulteri* var. *palmeri* and *G. unijugum* are distinguishable based on morphological features, but not their wood, which is the chief commodity in trade. The results also pointed out that further research on *Guaiaacum* spp. should explore different approaches to assess the relationships in the genus more definitively. Though not practical for monitoring purposes, analysis of molecular evidence could prove to be the simplest way of identifying the species. Though the phylogenetics of the Zygophyllaceae has been examined previously, the phylogeny of the genus *Guaiaacum* remains unexplored. Such a study may provide explanations for the morphological variation of *Guaiaacum* in areas such as Mexico, Oaxaca, and Guatemala. The PC considered that the project should be continued by way of a survey of the population status of the Mexican species only.
- 23. In the light of the information received and the discussions held at PC12, the PC agreed upon the following recommendation to the CoP: that the activities outlined in paragraph a) iii) of Decision 11.114 should continue beyond CoP12; and that in the interim, support should be given to Germany's proposal to include all species of *Guaiaacum* in Appendix II on a look-alike basis.

Regarding trade in alien species (Decision 11.115)

- 24. It is recommended that the issue of trade in alien species should be linked and developed with the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).

Regarding the periodic review of the Appendices (Decision 11.116)

- 25. In 1998, the Management Authority of the Netherlands published the *Contribution to an evaluation of tree species using the new CITES Listing Criteria*, a comprehensive study reviewing the conservation and trade status of tree species, and the potential role of CITES. At PC11, all participating Parties and observers were asked to send up-to-date or complementary information to the regional representatives of Europe. Unfortunately, the Netherlands reported at PC12 that little additional information had been received. The PC recommends that the development of proposals to amend the Appendices that are based on this evaluation of tree species in trade be included in the PC working plan for the period between CoP12 and CoP13.
- 26. PC11 also analyzed the pros and cons of the review of the family Orchidaceae, and mainly the Appendix-II listed taxa. The consensus was that the long lists of orchid genera outlined in document PC11 Doc. 13.1 prepared by the Secretariat would be unworkable for enforcement officers, and it was agreed to keep the entire family in the Appendices. Nevertheless, the PC considered that it would be very useful to produce a proposal for the next meeting of the CoP. The aim of the proposal would be to eliminate from the Appendices those orchid hybrids produced on an industrial scale and having no effect on wild populations of Orchidaceae. It would be a great help for nurseries and Management Authorities

of the producer countries if what is perceived as an unnecessary administrative burden could be lifted. The Scientific Authority of the United States and the American Orchid Society, with the help of various specialists, developed such a proposal. The PC supported the proposal from the United States to exempt certain genera of orchid hybrids from CITES controls and encouraged the United States to complete the proposal in time for CoP12, taking into account all issues discussed at PC12 (see document CoP12 Prop. 51).

27. Concerning the revision of the Cactaceae included in Appendix I, it was agreed at PC11 that Mexico and Switzerland would collaborate and produce a new document (see document PC11 Doc. 10.11).
28. Regarding the deletion of leaf-bearing cacti (Pereskioideae and Opuntioideae Cactaceae) from the Appendices, the PC at PC11 recommended that the draft proposal by Switzerland be postponed pending further cooperation between range States and Switzerland. At PC12, the PC recommended that further cooperation between Switzerland and the range States take place and that the final proposal be amended taking into account all comments from range States and non-range States (see document PC12 Doc. 10.2 and document CoP12 Prop. 44 and 45).
29. The PC recognizes the importance of the periodic review of the Appendices and recommends that:
 - a) it is set as a high priority in the strategic planning for the PC; and
 - b) the SC defines mechanisms to get a stronger involvement of the range States in this process and provides guidance to reach a clear recommendation after the completion of the review (see paragraph 60 b).

Regarding implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) (Decision 11.117)

30. The PC supported document PC12 Doc. 11.1 (Rev. 1), including amendments made by a working group. The revision of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) is discussed in greater detail under CoP12 Agenda item 48 (see document CoP12 Doc. 48.1).

Regarding annotations for medicinal plants in the Appendices (Decision 11.118)

31. During PC11 it was agreed that the observers from Colombia, France, Germany, Spain and the United States would collaborate to produce a document for presentation and discussion at PC12. France would coordinate this collaboration. Unfortunately, France could not be represented at PC12 and therefore the issue was not discussed.

Significant trade

32. The PC supports the following activities pursuant to the implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.):
 - a) Review of plants in Madagascar: The review is proposed to be conducted by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (the Scientific Authority for plants of the United Kingdom). When possible, the Royal Botanic Gardens is recommended to undertake a workshop in Madagascar to discuss the results of the review.
 - b) Review of cycads: The Secretariat reported that this review has not yet been initiated owing to lack of funding. The PC decided to allocate USD 10,000 from the funding from the United States to this activity (see paragraph 6) to start this review.
 - c) For the period after CoP12, the PC recommends that the following taxa be reviewed: *Prunus africana*, *Aquilaria malaccensis*, *Pericopsis elata* and *Aloe* species from East Africa used as extracts.

CITES Action Plan and Resolution Conf. 11.1 regarding the establishment of Committees

33. During PC12, a working group consisting of the Chairman and all members looked at a draft revised CITES Action Plan and the actions directed to the PC. The issue was also discussed in the plenary session.
34. The general opinion was that only a few actions with high priority should be selected. The first action under Resolution Conf. 11.1, Annex 2, i.e. "Provide advice and guidance to the Conference of the Parties, the other committees, working groups and the Secretariat, on all matters relevant to international trade in plant species included in the Appendices, which may include proposals to amend the Appendices", was considered as the overarching action from which many others derive.
35. It was felt that action point 4.6.1 of the CITES Action Plan could also be directed to the PC (as well as to the Parties, the Secretariat and the SC). Although very general, it is of great importance, and specific activities to be undertaken by the PC should be identified under this action point.
36. There was general consensus that the following 3 topics should continue to get full attention and become high priorities for the PC:
 - a) the review of the Appendices (action point 2.1.2);
 - b) the Review of Significant Trade (action point 2.1.3); and
 - c) the review of heavily traded non-CITES species (action point 2.1.4).
37. For each of the priorities referred to in paragraph 36 above, specific activities should be identified to get a good idea of the funding, resources and time-frame that will be required to address them successfully. Furthermore, indicators should be identified to monitor the status and evolution of these activities closely.
38. Annex 2 presents the status of the tasks addressed to the PC and the order of priorities defined by the PC to carry them out.

Training and promotion of awareness (Objective 4.6. of the CITES Action Plan)

39. The PC Chairman was the director of the third master's course on "Management, conservation and control of species in international trade", which was held from 3 October to 15 December 2000 at the International University of Andalusia (at the Antonio Machado campus in Baeza).
40. The classes were taught simultaneously in Spanish and English, and amounted to 500 hours of tuition. There were 34 people taking the course from the Scientific and Management Authorities and non-governmental organizations of 25 countries (Bolivia, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Greece, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru, Slovakia, Slovenia, Saint Lucia, Spain, Thailand, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe). The participants were given a grant, which fully covered the tuition and accommodation. In addition, nine inspectors from the Spanish Management Authority took part in various weekly modules to enhance their training.
41. Courses were given by 57 experts from 10 countries. Together with the experts from the Spanish Scientific Authority (Ministry of the Environment) and Management Authority (Ministry of the Economy), individuals from the Scientific or Management Authorities of Argentina, Australia, Cuba, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, the CITES Secretariat, the Commission of the European Union, the Phylogenetic Resources Secretariat of the FAO, the University of Granada, the Polytechnical University of Madrid, the Spanish Environmental Police (SEPRONA), the Spanish Customs, the Forensic Laboratory of the United States of America, IUCN, African Resources Trust, Adena-WWF, and others also participated as experts.

42. The third master's course was made possible by the International University which organized it, by the generous sponsorship of the Fundación Biodiversidad and by the assistance of the University of Cordoba, the Spanish Ministries of the Environment and the Economy, the CITES Secretariat, the Botanical Gardens of Cordoba and the zoos of Barcelona and Jerez. The contribution made by Spain in the year 2000 to finance the course was USD 170,000.
43. In the area of training and information, the PC was also pleased to receive information from the United States on the production of a brochure on CITES and the timber trade. The brochure is intended to provide information to importers, exporters and the general public, and has been designed in such a way that any country can very economically use it and insert whatever specific information it wishes to include. Thirty thousand copies in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish have been printed and sent to the Management Authorities of the Parties.
44. Chile reported that the Chilean Management and Scientific Authority had produced a guide on the identification of Chilean tree species, *Araucaria*, *Fitzroya* and *Pilgerodendron* that is available on CD-ROM. The guide is also available on a Chilean CITES website.
45. Canada also reported to the PC the publication of a new guide on tropical woods in its well-know series of Identification Guides. This latest addition, and the first one in the series dealing with plants, is mostly aimed at enforcement officers. This simple but accurate field guide is the result of a fruitful collaboration between Environment Canada and two services from the US Department of Agriculture (the American Plants Health Inspection Service and the Forest Service).

Other meetings and tasks performed

46. For the first meeting of the Criteria Working Group (CWG) (Canberra, 2-4 August 2000), the Chairman nominated the following experts: Mr Donaldson, Mr Shaari, Mr de Koning, Mr Leach and Ms Davila Aranda.
47. The following representatives of the PC took part in the Second Joint Meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees (Shepherdstown, 7-9 December 2000): Mr Donaldson (Africa), Mr Luke (Africa), Mr Shaari (Asia), Mr Singh (Asia), Mr Forero (Central and South America and the Caribbean), Ms Werkhoven (Central and South America and the Caribbean), Ms Clemente (Europe), Mr de Koning (Europe), Mr von Arx (North America) and Mr Leach (Oceania). During the meeting, the results of the first meeting of the CWG were considered, and it was agreed that it was necessary to hold a second meeting of the CWG to deal with Annex 5 of Resolution Conf. 9.24 that refers to definitions. Messrs. von Arx, Luke, Leach, Shari, de Koning and Forero attended this meeting as experts (Sigüenza, May 2002).
48. The PC Chairman participated in a meeting of the Chairmen of the PC, Animals Committee and CWG in Geneva in April 2001, with the intention of preparing Notification to the Parties No. 2001/037. Discussions on Annex 5 were excluded from this meeting because it would be addressed at the second CWG meeting.
49. The PC Chairman prepared a final report, presented in a separate document at the 46th meeting of the SC (SC46), in compliance with Decision 11.2 on the review of criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II. Amongst other things, the SC decided to submit the PC Chairman's report, with equal weight as the one from the AC and CWG Chairmen, for consideration at CoP12 (see document CoP12 Doc. 58, Annex 5b).
50. The PC Chairman has participated in the preparation of a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) adopted at the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD CoP6). She attended three meetings of the *ad hoc* experts working group held in Canada, the United Kingdom and Spain, the 7th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBBSTA-7) and the CBD CoP6. The GSPC offers a interesting framework and an excellent opportunity for CITES to work in synergy with the CBD (Objectives 5.1 and 5.2 of the Strategic Vision through 2005).

51. It is recommended that the PC analyse the GSPC in detail and links with its activities and collaborations, especially regarding target xi "No species of wild flora endangered by international trade".
52. The PC Chairman participated in the meeting of the SC working group held in Geneva in March 2002 regarding strategic planning and the review and prioritization of tasks and budgets. She also attended SC45 (Paris, June 2001) and SC46 (Geneva, March 2002). It is recommended that the Chairmen of the technical committees be invited on a regular basis to the meetings of the SC, and at future sessions of the SC working group regarding the strategic planning and the review and prioritization of tasks and budgets.

Budget for the PC

53. The PC Chairman reported at SC45 and SC46 the costs incurred in organizing PC10 and PC11, as provided by the Secretariat (see documents SC45 Doc. 17 and SC46 Doc. 22).

Expenses for organizing PC meetings in 2000 and 2001 (in USD)

	PC10	PC11
Logistics costs for the meeting inclusive the interpretation	24,526 ¹	28,486
Report-writer for the meeting	960 ²	5,025
Translation of documents	886 ³	11,937
Travel costs and subsistence for the PC members	24,699 ⁴	12,180 ⁴
CITES Secretariat Staff travel		9,400
Total	51,941	67,028
<p>1. The cost of hiring interpretation equipment was covered by the United States.</p> <p>2. USD 1,000 for report writing; the written report paid from the 2001 budget.</p> <p>3. External translations, but not including external translations commissioned by the Secretariat.</p> <p>4. The two representatives from the European region were financed by the Netherlands and Spain, and the one from North America by and Canada.</p>		

54. The expenditures in 2001 and 2002 for organizing meetings of the PC included budget items (Secretariat staff costs; translation costs) that were not incorporated in PC budgets in previous years. This is the result of a decision by the Standing Committee at SC45, requiring the Secretariat to provide a breakdown of the true costing of the support provided to the technical committees.
55. For the next triennium 2003-2005, the PC requires as a minimum the same financial support as in the previous three years. Taking into account the decision of the Standing Committee concerning the inclusion of the cost incurred by the Secretariat and the translation of the documents, *status quo* support would require USD 89,000, 91,000 and 91,000 for the respective years, which would enable the PC to simply continue organizing its regular meetings as in the preceding three years.
56. The PC recommends that the CoP approve a budget of USD 89,000 for 2003; and of USD 91,000 for 2004 and 2005 respectively for organizing the annual PC meetings (see document CoP12 Doc. 9.1, Annex 1).

Proposed budget for PC meetings for the period 2003-2005 (in USD)

Description	2003	2004	2005
Translation of documents	10,000	10,000	10,000
Salary/travel of Conference staff to PC meeting (interpreters and rapporteurs; their travel, fees and per diem)	32,000	33,000	33,000
Travel of PC members (10) (include air fare and per diem)	25,000	26,000	26,000
Logistics for PC meeting (shipment of documents, renting of equipment, conference room rents, stationary, photocopying, etc.)	10,000	10,000	10,000
Travel of Secretariat's staff (3 staff) (include air fare and per diem)	12,000	12,000	12,000
Total	89,000	91,000	91,000

57. The PC recommends considering the allocation of additional annual funds of USD 30,000 to assist the work of PC members in case these individuals would not be able to benefit from government or institutional financial or technical support, such as may be expected in certain developed countries. This support would be allocated for specific projects, to update directories, to facilitate communication with the regions, etc. The PC will make a breakdown according to priorities set in the CITES Action Plan.
58. The PC also recommends to approve a budget line to carry out its work adequately and to accommodate costs related to activities other than the regular meetings and for example to support the participation, when this were appropriated, of the alternates or the chairmanship work coming from undeveloped countries. This would require an additional USD 20,000 per year.
59. Nevertheless, the PC recommends to save money, if were possible, with the following measures:
- a) to look for cheaper offers for the translation of documents;
 - b) to encourage developed Parties to support the representatives coming from these Parties by funding their travels;
 - c) to reduce the participation of the Secretariat staff (1 or 2 persons); and
 - d) to encourage hosting Parties of the PC meeting to support it offering part of the logistics. The savings would be allocated to support the regional work of the representatives coming from developing Parties.

Working programme of the PC until CoP13

60. The Plants Committee proposes that the PC undertake the following working programme from CoP12 to CoP13:
- a) to continue with the implementation of the Action Plan of the PC resulting from the adoption of the Strategic Plan for the Convention at CoP11;
 - b) to apply the mechanisms established by the SC to review the Appendices. These mechanisms should clearly identify who would draft a proposal for presentation at the next CoP once a review has been finalized and is supported by the PC. Ideally, one or more range States of the proposed taxa would commit to draft and submit proposals to amend the Appendices, but in case this is not

happening, the Depository Government, with the support of the PC members, should be asked to accomplish this task;

- c) to continue the review of the Appendices with the following priorities: timbers, based on 'Contribution to an evaluation of tree species using the new CITES Listing Criteria', the review of tree species in trade by the Netherlands, and artificially propagated plants traded in large quantities;
- d) to participate in the implementation of Resolution Conf. 8.9 (Rev.) concerning trade in specimens of Appendix-II species taken from the wild;
- e) to review the Resolutions concerning plants and the plant trade to improve their clarity and to facilitate their understanding through guides or other materials;
- f) to support the Secretariat in its work on the development of a programme to assist Scientific Authorities in making non-detriment findings in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Convention;
- g) to take responsibility for the scientific analysis of problems related to the international trade in plants in order to provide scientifically-based findings for the drafting of proposals to be presented at meetings of the CoP;
- h) to collaborate, when requested, in the preparation of identification materials for plants for the identification manual;
- i) to collaborate with the Nomenclature Committee, when requested, in the preparation of checklists and in addressing taxonomic questions concerning plants;
- j) to strengthen the work of the regional representatives regarding the updating of regional directories;
- k) to establish links with industry and traders to promote projects on sustainable use of plants and plant resources in collaboration with local communities of exporting countries;
- l) to analyse the relations between *in situ* conservation and *ex situ* production of plants;
- m) to explain the role of Appendix II and to identify good case studies for a better understanding of a listing in this Appendix; and
- n) to establish permanent relations with the CBD regarding the GSPC and other issues of interest to the PC.

61. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the members of the PC for their commitment, enthusiastic collaboration and excellent job. I also wish to deeply thank the observer delegates from the Parties; Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and the CITES Secretariat, with special mention to Mr Lindeque, Mr van Vliet, Mr Bardzo, Mr De Meulenaer, Ms Zentilli and Ms Campos, for their very valuable contributions to the PC. Finally, I would like to thank the Management and Scientific Authorities of Spain, my country, and the University of Cordoba and Botanic Gardens of Cordoba, my institutions, for the superb support that I have received from them to perform my tasks as Chairman.

DRAFT DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Amendment of Decision 11.110

Regarding duties of members of the Committee and their alternates

- a) Each member should collaborate with his/her alternate regarding the work to be undertaken between the meetings of the PC.
- b) Each member should maintain regular communication with the Parties in his/her region.
- c) When a region has more than one representative, the representatives should agree which Parties each represents. Contact persons should be identified in those countries. Contact should also be established with non-Parties in the region.
- d) Each member should increase the awareness of the role and function of the PC, its mandate and the issues of concern to his/her region through mechanisms such as his/her participation in seminars or in related meetings organized by the Secretariat and/or by other organizations at regional or sub regional level.
- e) Before the meetings of the PC, the members should inform and consult Parties in their region about the agenda, and in particular on matters specifically relevant to the countries of the region.
- f) The members should submit a written report covering the preceding period to each meeting of the PC.
- g) The members should inform the Parties in their regions of the results of each meeting of the PC.
- h) The members must inform the alternates well in advance if they will not attend a forthcoming PC meeting.
- i) The members should provide to their successors all relevant information on the activities in the region.

Actions directed to the PC pursuant to the CITES Action Plan and Resolution Conf. 11.1 concerning the establishment of Committees

Resolution Conf. 11.1 Annex 2	Action point number	Description	Status
CURRENT ACTIONS DIRECTED TO THE PC WITH HIGH PRIORITY AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PRIORITY ACTIONS <i>(indicated in bold and italics)</i>			
a)		Provide advice and guidance to the Conference of the Parties, the other committees, working groups and the Secretariat, on all matters relevant to international trade in plant species included in the Appendices, which may include proposals to amend the Appendices.	Ongoing work of the PC.
	4.6.1	<i>As part of Objective 4.6 to strengthen knowledge, promote awareness and facilitate enforcement on flora issues in CITES:</i> <i>Ensure that adequate attention is given to plant conservation in all activities related to the implementation of this Plan.</i>	<i>Identify the activities</i>
f)	2.1.3	Continue the Review of Significant Trade as initiated by the Parties in Resolution Conf. 8.9. (Rev.).	Taxon based: – Cycads – <i>Prunus africana</i> – <i>Aquillaria malaccensis</i> – <i>Aloe</i> spp. for extract from Eastern Africa – <i>Pericopsis alata</i> Country based: – Madagascar
h)	2.1.2	Regularly review the Appendices to ensure that listed taxa satisfy the relevant criteria.	<u>Done for:</u> – Orchidaceae <u>Ongoing for:</u> – Appendix-I Cactaceae
g)	2.1.4	Evaluate trade and biological information on currently unlisted species subject to significant international trade to determine whether they would qualify for and benefit from CITES listing.	Parties have started to look at the following unlisted taxa: – <i>Harpagophytum</i> spp. – <i>Guaiacum</i> spp. – <i>Taxus</i> spp. other than <i>T. wallichiana</i> – Tree species

Resolution Conf. 11.1 Annex 2	Action point number	Description	Status
e)	1.7.2	Develop regional directories that list the botanists and zoologists in each region who are experts in CITES-listed species.	Done for all regions. Future activities: find mechanisms for coordinated update and improvement, and for dissemination on the CITES website of the Secretariat.
FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WITH LOWER PRIORITY, NO ORDER WAS SET <i>(potential future actions indicated in bold and italics)</i>			
b)		Assist the Nomenclature Committee in the development and maintenance of a standardized list of species names.	Lead with Nomenclature Committee. Ongoing work of the PC.
c)		Assist the Secretariat with the implementation of the Resolution on the Identification Manual and Decisions related to it and, upon request of the Secretariat, review proposals to amend the Appendices with regard to possible identification problems.	Lead with the Secretariat. Ongoing work of the PC.
d)	1.7.1	Develop a manual specifying the obligations and procedures of the Scientific Authorities in order to encourage the development of specific training courses for them.	Lead with the Secretariat. Cooperate with the Secretariat on the implementation of its programme of work to assist Scientific Authorities. Regional workshops organized by the Secretariat with participation of the regional representatives of the PC, when possible.
e)	1.7.3	Communicate to the Parties the importance and advisability of including plants experts within the structure of the Scientific Authorities.	To establish mechanisms with the SC.
i)		Make available advice on management techniques and procedures for range States requesting such assistance.	To establish mechanisms with the SC.
j)		Draft resolutions on matters related to animals or plants, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.	Ongoing work of the PC.
k)		Perform any other functions that may be entrusted to them by the CoP or the SC.	Chairman and/or members selected by Chairman of PC to attend technical meetings as experts such as in the Criteria Working Group.

Resolution Conf. 11.1 Annex 2	Action point number	Description	Status
	l)	Report to the CoP and, if so requested, to the SC, on the activities they have carried out or supervised between meetings of the CoP.	PC Chairman report to SC meetings.
	1.1.6 (new for PC)	<i>Develop further regulations to prevent unnecessary loss during harvesting, storage and transportation of live [...] plants.</i>	<i>PC working group preparing guidelines to improve chances of survival of live specimens during transportation.</i>
	2.2.2	Encourage Parties to consult with the Animals Committee and Plants Committee as appropriate to assist in the preparation of proposals to amend the Appendices.	To establish mechanisms with the SC. Ongoing work of the PC.
	2.2.3	For identified commodities, develop standardized units of measure for permits, trade analysis and reporting.	Ongoing work of the PC.
	4.3.2	Participate actively at scientific meetings and conferences, and encourage participation in CITES issues by the scientific community.	PC members and observers at PC meetings attend scientific meetings and explain CITES issues.