

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 17-21 March 2009

Regional reports

AFRICA

1. This report has been submitted by the regional representatives for Africa. As it was received by the Secretariat after the deadline for submission of documents, it is provided herewith in English only, the language in which it was submitted*.

General Information

2. Names of representatives: Dr. David Hafashimana (Uganda) and Dr. Beatrice Khayota (Kenya)
3. Alternate members: Prof. Koffi Akpagana (Togo) and Mr. Quentin Luke (Kenya)
4. Number of parties in the region: 52
5. Number of countries responding to request for information: 5 (Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Togo and Uganda)

Activities carried out

Significant Trade

Kenya

6. Following efforts in the implementation of the significant trade review recommendations, Kenya was eliminated from the review of significant trade in *Prunus africana*. If Kenya seeks to commence exports of the species, the Standing Committee recommends that Kenya provides information to the Secretariat on how the recommendations of the PC have been implemented
7. A review of significant trade in *Aloe* spp was done, culminating into publication of the "Status and Distribution of Commercial *Aloe* species in Kenya" and the "Strategy for Conservation and Management of Commercial *Aloe* species in Kenya" in July 2008.

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

Uganda

8. Inventories of *Prunus africana* were carried out in 8 districts covering *P. africana* on privately owned lands. Based on these data, a preliminary annual quota for *Prunus* export was proposed and accepted by the EU, the main export destination. In addition, exports of *Prunus africana* and *Aloe tweediae* was done during the reporting period.
9. Genetic and chemical analysis /studies on *Prunus africana*, in collaboration with Bioversity International and the Austrian Federal Research and Training Centre for Forestry, Natural Hazards and Landscape aimed at identifying the right genotypes for establishing *Prunus* mother gardens to generate elite planting material corresponding with what is demanded by the pharmaceutical industry and conservation of the entire genetic diversity.

Madagascar

10. An action plan for sustainable use of *Prunus africana* was put in place and tried on a pilot phase in one of the regions.
11. Some research work was also carried out on:
 - a) The rate of regeneration of *P. africana* bark as part of a PhD research project, collaboration between the Faculty of Science of the University of Antananarivo and the Museum for Central Africa based in Belgium.
 - b) Genetic and chemical analysis /studies on *Prunus africana*, in collaboration with Bioversity International and the Austrian Federal Research and Training Centre for Forestry, Natural Hazards and Landscape aimed at identifying the right genotypes for planting corresponding with what is demanded by the pharmaceutical industry.

Review of the Appendices

Namibia

12. Namibia has compiled a report on the periodic review of *Welwitschia mirabilis* on Appendix II for consideration at PC 18.

CITES-projects in the region

13. Most countries have applied for CITES Project funding for implementation of significant trade review in *Prunus africana* proposals prepared following the *Prunus africana* workshop held in Naivasha, Kenya.

Nursery Registration

Capacity building activities

14. The region conducted a workshop of the *Prunus africana* working group, co-hosted by Kenya with the CITES Secretariat, as a forum for capacity building among countries identified as of urgent concern with the implementation of significant trade review regarding *P. africana*. It was attended by representatives from the countries with *Prunus* populations described as of concern (Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar and Tanzania) as well as representatives from the importing countries in Europe (Italy, Germany, France and Spain) including representatives of some of the importing companies. It was facilitated by the regional representatives, alternate representative (Quentin Luke), CITES Secretariat representatives TRAFFIC and IUCN-CITES MIKE. The Workshop was funded by: Germany, Spain, Italy and France (see PC18 Inf. 1 and 2).
15. One of the key outcomes of the workshop was project proposals for funding for implementation of significant trade review in *Prunus africana* for Sustainable use and Conservation of *Prunus africana* in the different participating countries with *Prunus* populations listed as of concern, each aimed at addressing the concerns specific to that country.

Kenya

16. Three representatives from Kenya (Beatrice Khayota, Solomon Kyalo and Emily Wabuyele) participated in the International Expert workshop on Non-Detriment Findings in Cancun, Mexico and shared experiences in undertaking non-detriment finding studies on Aloe spp. and Orchids. They participated as co-chair of a WG, experts and members of the Steering Committee.

Madagascar

17. Madagascar hosted a regional workshop on Conservation of biological diversity, in which among other things, the issues related to measures Madagascar is taking to ensure sustainable use of *P. africana* and the issue of sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of *Prunus* in Madagascar was presented and discussed.
18. In addition meetings were also held to bring together members of the national CITES Committee, comprising the Management Authority, Scientific Authorities as well as relevant NGOs and donor groups aimed at exchanging ideas on CITES implementation in Madagascar, prioritization of activities and exchange of relevant information.

Contacts with specialists and or NGOs

Kenya

19. Through its SA and MA representatives, had contacts with experts from both government and NGOs in various plant taxa and on non-detriment finding studies during Cancun, Mexico meeting

Togo

20. In Togo contacts/linkages were established with different organizations such as Friends of the earth, Young Volunteers for the Environment, CONGAT, etc.

Difficulties of implementation encountered

General

21. Getting response from the parties when contacted continued to be a challenge especially to the regional representatives, making it difficult to report in a timely manner.
22. The issue of obsolete and sometimes contradictory laws with low penalties for offences involving plants continue to be a major challenge in many countries.
23. Inadequate human and financial resources for CITES implementation especially regarding Plants with priority given to large animals.
24. Inadequate capacity to differentiate between CITES and non-CITES species.

Other topics related to CITES

Kenya

25. Kenya has been contacted to review a draft discussion document prepared for submission by EU at the CoP15. The document aims at identifying solutions to problems associated with illegal and unsustainable trade in CITES-listed tropical timber and proposes application of universal certification and labelling of timber in the framework of trade control and marking of CITES listed timber species.
26. It was also involved in a Bioinformatics project at the East African Herbarium. CITES listed plants have been databased, citing their distribution and information such as use. Plans are underway to carry out IUCN based conservation assessments on these and other plant groups. This has enhanced the advisory function of the National Museums of Kenya as the CITES Scientific Authority.

Togo

27. Review of two important publications was done: Analytical Flora of Togo (1984) and the National Strategy for the conservation of Biological Diversity and its sustainable use in Togo (Togo).

Work to be done until next plants committee (if not already mentioned above)

28. Implementation of a project on Sustainable Conservation management of *Prunus africana* as part of CITES significant trade review.
29. Implementation of a project on National status and distribution of East African Sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*) and assessment of the species as a potential candidate for CITES Appendix II listing at CoP15 or CoP16.
30. Continued update of plant experts directory.