

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

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Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Strategic matters

Plants Committee

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

1. This report has been prepared and submitted by Ms Margarita África Clemente-Muñoz, Chair of the Plants Committee, with the kind assistance of the members of the Committee and the CITES Secretariat, and covers the period from 15 October 2009 to 30 September 2012.\*
2. During this period, the Committee held two meetings: the 19th (PC19), in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 to 21 April 2011, and the 20th (PC20), in Dublin, Ireland, from 26 to 30 March 2012. The 19th and 20th meetings were attended by 126 and 116 participants respectively.
3. The Committee would like to express its gratitude to the authorities of Ireland, which hosted PC20, for organizing and supporting it so effectively.
4. The Committee also wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the organization and preparation of the documentation for both meetings, and for all its intersessional support.
5. Before PC20, a joint meeting was held with the Animals Committee from 22 to 24 March in Dublin, Ireland, at which the topics that had been assigned to both Committees at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) were covered.
6. Listed below is the membership of the Plants Committee. After the closure of CoP15, the members and alternate members of the Plants Committee and the CITES Secretariat met unofficially in Doha (Qatar). Ms Margarita África Clemente-Muñoz (Spain) was designated interim Chair and Mr Hesiquio Benítez (Mexico) interim Vice-Chair. Both were formally elected at the beginning of PC19 in Geneva, Switzerland.

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\* *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.*

Region	Representative	Alternate
Africa	Ms Beatrice Khayota (Kenya) Mr David L.N. Hafashimana (Uganda)	Mr Koffi Akpagana (Togo) Mr Quentin Luke (Kenya)
Asia	Ms Zihua Zhou (China)	Ms Shereefa Al-Salem (Kuwait)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Ms Mariana de Jesús Mites Cadena (Ecuador) Ms Dora Ingrid Rivera (Costa Rica)	Ms Adriana Rivera Brusatin (Colombia) Mr Kenneth Richardson (Bahamas)
Europe	Ms Margarita África Clemente Muñoz (Spain) Chair Mr Maurizio Sajeve (Italy)	Mr David Kikodze (Georgia) Mr Paulo J.L. Carmo (Portugal)
North America	Mr Hesiquio Benítez Dias (Mexico) (Vice-Chair)	Ms Adrienne Sinclair (Canada)
Oceania	Mr Greg Leach (Australia)	Mr Marika Vuli Tuiwawa (Fiji)
<b>Nomenclature specialist</b>		
Mr Noel McGough (United Kingdom)		

7. The representatives attended both meetings, except for the representatives of the African region, who were unable to attend the 19th meeting and were replaced by their alternates (Mr Koffi Akpagana and Mr Quentin Luke) and for the representative of European region (Mr Sajeve), who was unable to attend the 20th meeting.
8. The Chair of the Plants Committee took part in the following meetings: 59th, 60th and 62nd meetings of the Standing Committee SC); Eighth European regional CITES plants meeting, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 19 to 22 September 2011, with the support of Italy; Meeting of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species, held in Petén, Guatemala, from 7 to 11 November 2011, with the support of Guatemala; and Meeting of the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions, held in Dublin on 25 March 2012.

#### Main topics covered

9. The Secretariat prepared document PC19 Doc. 7.1, which was submitted for consideration by the Committee at its first meeting after CoP15. Annexes 1 and 2 to this document present all the instructions directed to the Plants Committee or that may require consulting or informing the Committee. These instructions are contained in the Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties currently in effect.
10. Some of the topics that were covered at the Committee's joint meeting with the Animals Committee are simply listed in this report, and the recommendations that emerged from the discussions are recorded in various documents prepared jointly by the Chairs of the two Committees.
11. Listed below are the Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Plants Committee and the results achieved. The documents cited are available on the CITES website. The specific measures recommended are listed individually in separate documents.

#### Resolutions containing instructions directed to the Plants Committee or that may involve it

#### ***Registration of nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix-I plant species for export purposes [Conf. 9.19 (Rev. CoP15), Annex 3]***

12. No summary conclusions were presented to the Plants Committee. It is hoped that in future meetings, pursuant to the Resolution (Annex 3, paragraph d) the Secretariat will keep the Committee informed.

**Criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II [Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP15)]**

13. At the PC20, the Plants Committee tested the criteria for inclusion of species in Appendix II for *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii* (see document CoP16 Doc. 69).

**Inclusion of species in Appendix III [Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP15)]**

14. No request was received for a Committee opinion.

**Transport of live specimens [Conf. 10.21 (Rev. CoP14)]**

15. This topic was covered at the Committee's joint meeting with the Animals Committee, see document CoP16 Doc. 39.

**Regulation of trade in plants [Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15)]**

16. No request was received from Parties for a Committee opinion on proposals to CoP for amendments to the Appendices.

**Establishment of committees [Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP15)]**

17. With respect to the requirements laid down in Annex 2 of the Resolution, the Plants Committee fulfilled the responsibilities and functions assigned by the Conference of the Parties. The AC/PC meeting (Dublin, 2012) agreed an amendment to this Resolution, see document CoP16 Doc. 23.

**Identification Manual (Conf. 11.19)**

18. The Secretariat submitted reports at PC19 and PC20 on the status of the Identification Manual.

**Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13)]**

19. At PC19 the Committee agreed to categorize the species selected following CoP14 as follows:
20. Urgent concern: Euphorbias: *Euphorbia alfredi*, *E. aureoviridiflora*, *E. berorohae*, *E. bulbispina*, *E. capmanambatoensis*, *E. hofstaetteri*, *E. horombensis*, *E. iharanae*, *E. leuconeura*, *E. mahabobokensis*, *E. mangokyensis*, *E. pachypodioides*, *E. paulianii*, *E. primulifolia*, *E. robivelonae* and *E. rossii* (all from Madagascar); Palms: *Marojejya darianii* and *Voianola gerardii* (both from Madagascar); Trees: *Pericopsis elata* (Côte d'Ivoire) and *Swietenia macrophylla* (Plurinational State of Bolivia).
21. Possible concern: Euphorbias: *Euphorbia banae*, *E. biaculeata*, *E. capuronii*, *E. denisiana*, *E. didiereoides*, *E. elliotii*, *E. herman-schwartzii* and *E. neobosseri* (all from Madagascar); Aloes: *Aloe capitata*, *A. confiera*, *A. deltoideodonta*, *A. erythrophylla*, *A. guillaumetii*, *A. humbertii* and *A. imalotensis* (all from Madagascar); Palms: *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis*, *Lemurophoenix halleuxii*, *Ravenea rivularis* and *Satranala decussilvae* (all from Madagascar); Trees: *Pericopsis elata* (from the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and *Swietenia macrophylla* (from Belize, Ecuador, Honduras and Nicaragua).
22. Least concern: Euphorbias: *Euphorbia famatamboay* and *E. genoudiana*; Aloes: *Aloe acutissima*, *A. antandroi*, *A. betsileensis*, *A. bosseri*, *A. bulbillifera*, *A. isaloensis*, *A. itremensis*, *A. macroclada*, *A. prostrata* and *A. suarezensis* (all from Madagascar) and *A. pratensis* (from Lesotho and South Africa); Trees: *Pericopsis elata* (from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Ghana and Nigeria) and *Swietenia macrophylla* (from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Colombia); Orchids: *Calanthe alleizettii* and *Cymbidium erythrostylum* (both from Viet Nam), *Renanthera annamensis* (from Myanmar and Viet Nam) and *Cistanche deserticola* (from China and Mongolia).
23. The Committee formulated recommendations for the species of urgent concern and of possible concern in accordance with paragraphs m) to o) of the Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), see Summary record PC19.
24. In addition the Committee agreed the Species of priority concern for review following CoP15: *Pachypodium namaquanum*, *Dendrobium eriiflorum*, *Euphorbia itremensis*, *Alluaudiopsis fiherenensis* and *Alluaudia ascendens*.

25. At PC 20 the Committee, in accordance with paragraph f) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13), reviewed the available information to determine whether it was satisfied that Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, were being implemented; and proposed which species should be eliminated from the review with respect to the range State concerned, and which should be kept in the review. The Committee adopted the following:

Species	range State	Recommendation	Notes
<i>Pachypodium namaquanum</i>	Namibia	Exclude	No reported wild trade
<i>Pachypodium namaquanum</i>	South Africa	Exclude	No reported wild trade
<i>Dendrobium eriiflorum</i>	Bhutan	Exclude	No reported wild trade
<i>Dendrobium eriiflorum</i>	India	Include	No response, possible wild trade
<i>Dendrobium eriiflorum</i>	Malaysia	Exclude	No reported wild trade
<i>Dendrobium eriiflorum</i>	Myanmar	Exclude	No reported wild trade
<i>Dendrobium eriiflorum</i>	Nepal	Include	Wild trade, no written response
<i>Dendrobium eriiflorum</i>	Thailand	Exclude	No reported wild trade
<i>Euphorbia itremensis</i>	Madagascar	Include	Reported wild trade, no data on NDF
<i>Alluadiopsis fiherenensis</i>	Madagascar	Include	Reported wild trade, no data on NDF
<i>Alluadia ascendens</i>	Madagascar	Include	Reported wild trade, no data on NDF

26. The Committee agreed other issue not directly relating to implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a) and 3 and expressed concern that some specimens of *Pachypodium namaquanum* in trade may be misdeclared as of artificially propagated origin.
27. Parties are encouraged to check consignments of such material to confirm that specimens declared as artificially propagated are not in fact wild collected, and the Secretariat is requested to highlight this issue when carrying out capacity building or enforcement initiatives in the region or in importing countries.

**Standard nomenclature [Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP15)]**

28. With respect to the requirements laid down in the Resolution, the Plants Committee fulfilled the responsibilities and functions assigned by the Conference of the Parties.

**CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013 (Conf. 14.2, Annex)**

29. The Plants Committee contributed to the CITES Strategic Vision by way of the work carried out as part of the Review of the Appendices (Objective 1.4) and supplied and analysed the best available scientific information to make non-detriment findings for numerous species included in the Review of Significant Trade (Objective 1.5) (see PC19 and PC20 summary records).
30. In addition, the Committee analysed the results of workshops and expertise from the Parties on non-detriment findings in the preparation of the document on this topic which is submitted to be discussed at the present meeting (see document CoP16Doc. 33).

**CITES compliance procedures (Conf. 14.3, Annex)**

31. With respect to the requirements laid down in the Resolution, the Plants Committee fulfilled the responsibilities and functions assigned by the Conference of the Parties.

**Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber (Conf. 14.4)**

32. The Secretariat kept the Plants Committee informed on the activities undertaken under the agreement made with ITTO. At PC19, the Secretariat reported the results of the collaboration with ITTO. The Committee's attention was drawn to progress made in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. At PC20, the Committee was informed on the assistance which was being offered to Madagascar under the ITTO-CITES capacity building program to implement the new listings. A

Meeting of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species was hosted by Guatemala and co-financed by the fund of first phase of the program.

33. Since the PC19, both Secretariats have worked together to build and finalize a project proposal to seek funding for a second phase of this collaboration and several fund programs had been decided by the Council of ITTO. The proposal has been approved by the EC that has generously agreed to fund 80 per cent on the total budget of 7.5 million euros over the next four years. The Committee welcomed the good progress regarding cooperation between CITES and ITTO.

#### **Periodic Review of the Appendices (Conf. 14.8)**

34. With respect to the Periodic Review of Appendices I and II, at PC19 the Committee discussed the documents PC19 Doc. 13.1 (Rev. 1) and 13.2 and established a working group during the meeting.
35. As result of the recommendations of the working group, the Committee agreed the following: range States should volunteer to review: *Tillandsia kammii* (Honduras), *Tillandsia mauryana* (Mexico), *Dioscorea deltoidea* (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Viet Nam), *Hedychium philippinense* (the Philippines); and *Cycas beddomei* (India). The Committee requested the Secretariat to send a Notification to the range States listed above.
36. Concerning species for which a periodic review report already exists: *Agave victoriae-reginae*: maintain in Appendix II on the basis of document PC19 Inf. 15; *Saussurea costus*: maintain in Appendix I on the basis of document PC19 Inf. 7; *Balmea stormae*: request Costa Rica and Guatemala to provide a status update of the review; *Platymiscium pleiostachyum* and *Peristeria elata*: request Costa Rica to provide a status update of the reviews; *Tillandsia kautskyi*, *T. sprengeliana*, and *T. sucrei*: request Brazil to provide a status update of the reviews; and *Welwitschia mirabilis*: request Namibia to provide a status update of the review.
37. The following five species that remained from the previous review cycle (terminated at CoP15) should be subject to the Periodic Review of Appendices between CoP15 and CoP17: *Tillandsia kammii* (Honduras), *Tillandsia mauryana* (Mexico), *Dioscorea deltoidea* (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam), *Hedychium philippinense* (the Philippines); and *Cycas beddomei* (India). In addition, the United States would review *Sclerocactus*.
38. The Secretariat was requested to send a Notification to the four range States regarding the trade status of the following species in Appendix I (document PC19 Doc. 13.2, Annex 2): *Encephalartos spp.* (Zimbabwe), *Aloe polyphylla* (Lesotho and South Africa), *Fitzroya cupressoides* (Chile), in compliance with Article IV of the Convention.
39. Concerning document PC19 Doc. 13.2, Annexes 1, 3 and 4 the Committee agreed the following: i) the 15 species in Annex 1 were not to be included in the next review because the Appendix-I listing was appropriate; ii) from the 26 genera listed in Annex 3, 15 were not considered for various reasons (e.g. deleted from the Appendices, listed within the last 10 years, look-alike concerns). Two taxa were selected for consideration: *Dudleya stolonifera* and *Lewisia serrata* (United States). The remaining genera were not proposed for consideration for this review.; iii) from the 27 species listed in Annex 4, 10 were not considered for various reasons (e.g. deleted from the Appendices, listed within the last 10 years, included in the Review of Significant Trade). For the remaining species, the Committee asked the range States to take note of the information in the Annex and, if appropriate, to consider reviewing their native species for potential deletion from Appendix II and finally, it was agreed that *Pachypodium brevicaule* (Madagascar) would be considered for the Periodic Review.
40. At PC20 the Committee discussed the documents PC20 Doc.16.1.1, PC20 Doc.16.1.2 and PC20 Doc.16.2 and established a working group during the meeting. The Committee noted on the resignation of the Plants Committee Working Group on the Periodic Review Chair (Dr. Dávila) and thanked for her service to the Committee on this issue. The Committee designated the regional representative of North America (Mr Benítez) as Chair of the Working Group. As result of the recommendations of the Working Group, the Committee adopted the following:
41. *Tillandsia kautskyi*, *Tillandsia sucrei*, *Tillandsia sprengeliana* [Appendix II]: On the basis of available information, recognizing that no international trade data for wild specimens is reported for these species since 1990, the Plants Committee recommends that these species be delisted and concludes that the Review is complete. Brazil is requested to take into account, that there appears to be trade in artificially propagated specimens and that specimens are held by private collectors outside of Brazil. The Plants

Committee also recommends that Brazil provides information on look-alike issues in their proposal particularly for those four species that remain in the Appendices.

42. *Welwitschia mirabilis* [Appendix II]: The Plants Committee noted that Namibia reports that there is limited information on the population status and trends of the species. Therefore, despite little to no trade in this species, based on the best available information, the Plants Committee supports Namibia's recommendation to maintain this species in Appendix II. The Plants Committee concludes that review of this species is complete.
43. *Balmea stormiae* [Appendix I]: The Plants Committee notes that review of this species is still in progress and that this information should be corrected in the table in PC20 Doc. 16.1.2. The Plants Committee recommends that the Nomenclature Specialist addresses the taxonomic status (*Balmea stormiae*) and distribution of this species. The Plants Committee also recommends that information be requested from the range States (Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras), and that information on trade be requested from UNEP-WCMC. The Representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Rivera) will oversee this review.
44. *Platymiscium pleiostachyum* [Appendix II]: The Plants Committee notes that review of this species is still in progress. The Plants Committee notes that the IUCN classification of this species as Endangered was done in 1998 and needs updating. The Committee recommends that the Nomenclature Specialist addresses the taxonomic status and distribution of the species, that information be requested from the range States and, that information on trade be requested from UNEP-WCMC. The Representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Rivera) will oversee this review.
45. *Peristeria elata* [Appendix I]: The Plants Committee notes that review of this species is still in progress. A report from Panama was provided, stating that: the species is the national flower; that the species is subject to intense trade and collection which is diminishing local populations; and that, Panama recommends that the species be maintained in Appendix I. The Plants Committee recommends that information be requested from the other range States in order to assess whether the species continues to meet the criteria for listing in Appendix I and, that information on trade be requested from UNEP-WCMC. The Representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Rivera) will oversee this review.
46. *Balmea stormiae*, *Platymiscium pleiostachyum*, and *Peristeria elata*, the Plants Committee recommends that the Secretariat issues a Notification requesting the range States of these species to provide relevant information to the representative of North America (Mr Benítez).
47. That the Secretariat includes in the table of species reviewed (PC20 Doc.16.1.2), the name of the Party or representative undertaking the review, the range countries, the current Appendix listing of the species, and the IUCN status, if applicable. The Plants Committee notes that this is consistent with the work of the Animals Committee on the review.
48. The Plants Committee notes that the United States of America reports that their review of fifteen species of *Sclerocactus* is in progress.
49. *Tillandsia kammii* [Appendix II]: The Plant Committee notes that the Plants Committee Representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Rivera) is undertaking the review which is in progress. A report from Honduras was provided that states that there is no trade in the species but there is a look-alike problem with other species, and Honduras recommends that the species be maintained in Appendix II.
50. *Hedychium philippinense*: The Plants Committee requests that the Plants Committee Representatives of Asia request the Philippines to consider undertaking the review.
51. Updates regarding the species discussed in the working group were made, and are included in tables in Annexes 1 and 2 of PC20 Doc. 16.1.2. The Plants Committee recommends that the Secretariat updates the tables accordingly.
52. *Cycas beddomei* [Appendix I]: The Plants Committee supports the Netherland's recommendation to maintain this species in Appendix I, noting that the IUCN specialist that reviewed classification of this species considers that the species continues to meet the biological criteria for listing in Appendix I. The

Plants Committee noted the offer of India to supply additional information later. The Plants Committee concludes that review of this species is complete.

53. With respect to the requirements laid down in the Resolution, the Plants Committee fulfilled the responsibilities and functions assigned by the Conference of the Parties.
54. In addition, the Committee agreed to the amendments to Resolution Conf.14.8. These revisions build upon the recommendations made at the 26th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee, the joint session of AC26/PC20, and the 20th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee. The Committee agreed that the Chair, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, would inform the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee of these proposed amendments which respond to the concerns of the Standing Committee to improve the efficiency of the process.
55. The proposal submitted on behalf the AC and PC to the SC62 was built upon the recommendations derived from the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee (AC26; Geneva, March, 2012), the AC26/PC20, the PC20 and further e-mail consultations among members of the Animals Committee (see document SC62 Doc. 53.2).
56. The SC endorsed the submission at CoP16 of the revised version of Resolution Conf. 14.8 contained in the Annex to document SC62 Doc. 53.2, and agreed that amendments suggested during the discussion would be added in square brackets (see document CoP16Doc. 74.1) and to refer the suggestion in paragraph 14. c) of document SC62 Doc. 53.2 to its Finance and Budget Subcommittee.

***Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the biennium 2012-2013 (Conf. 15.1)***

57. In accordance with paragraph c) of Resolution Conf. 15.1 on *Financing and the costed programme of work for the Secretariat for the triennium 2012-2013*, the Chair was consulted by the Secretariat on the assignment of scientific consultants and the definition of terms of reference for specific projects requiring scientific expertise.

Decisions directed to the Plants Committee or instructions that may involve it

***Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade [Decision 13.67 (Rev. CoP14)]***

58. At PC19, the Chair called for volunteers to fill the vacant places of Parties that had agreed to be members of the advisory working group. Madagascar put its name forward and the Plants Committee members were asked to contact their colleagues in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Iceland and the Russian Federation. It was also suggested that Committee members follow up with the Chair whether a replacement was still needed.
59. During the Joint Sessions of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (Dublin, March 2012), the Committees heard and commented on the case studies prepared and presented by TRAFFIC. The Committees also confirmed the membership of the Advisory Working Group for the Evaluation and were informed that Germany had offered to host a meeting of this Working Group at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm, Germany in June 2012. The Committee takes this opportunity to warmly thank the German CITES authorities for their generous support and the staff of the International Academy and CITES Secretariat for their faultless organisation.
60. During the Joint Session the Plants Committee, in collaboration with the Animals Committee, developed an agenda for the meeting of the advisory working group for the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade. The Committees also provided instructions in the form of issues for consideration and prepared a roadmap of milestones towards the fulfilling the requirements under the terms of references for the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade and submitting a final report at CoP 17.
61. The face-to-face meeting of the Advisory Working Group for the evaluation was held June 24-28, 2012. The Advisory Working Group focussed their attention on key areas for possible improvement in the Review of Significant Trade process as outlined in the agenda prepared by the Committees. This included examination of issues related to the selection of species, correspondence and communications, categorization of species/countries, recommendations and implementation of recommendations and non-article IV issues. It also included identification of other issues that influence the effectiveness of the Review of Significant Trade. The Advisory Working Group identified that, to be effective, the Review of Significant

Trade should be proportional, transparent, timely and simple. It should help build the capacity of the Scientific Authorities to carry out their non-detriment findings as the making of an effective, proportional and science based non-detriment finding is critical to the effectiveness of the Convention. Core to this is the presence of an effective, empowered and resourced Scientific Authority.

62. At the time of submission of this report, the Chairs of the Advisory Working Group were finalizing their report of the Advisory Working Group meeting with the aim of facilitating further electronic intersessional work for presentation at the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee and 21st meeting of the Plants Committee.

***Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (Decision 15.11)***

63. At PC19, the Secretariat reported that it had participated in the partnership. The final report of its first phase could be found in document PC19 Inf. 1.

***Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (Decision 15.12)***

64. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 17.

***Climate change (Decision 15.15)***

65. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16 Doc. 27.

***Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Decision 15.19)***

66. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 16.

***Capacity-building programme for science-based establishment and implementation of voluntary national export quotas for Appendix-II species (Decision 12.91)***

67. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 23.

***Non-detriment findings (Decision 15.23; Decision 15.24)***

68. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 33.

***Annotations to the Appendices for plants (Decision 15.31)***

69. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 76.

***Review of annotations for Cactaceae and Orchidaceae: evaluation of trade in finished products (Decision 15.34)***

70. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 76.

***Orchids: annotation for species included in Appendix II [(Decision 14.133; Decision 14.134 (Rev. CoP15)]***

71. The Committee covered this topic at PC19. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 76.

***Tree species: annotations for species included in Appendices II and III [Decision 15.35; Decision 14.148 (Rev. CoP15)]***

72. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 76.

***Review of Significant Trade in *Cistanche deserticola*, *Dioscorea deltoidea*, *Nardostachys grandiflora*, *Picrorhiza kurroa*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Rauvolfia serpentina* and *Taxus wallichiana* (Decision 15.36, Decision 15.37)***

73. At PC19, the Secretariat provided an oral report on the capacity building workshop on “*Non-detriment Findings and Review of Significant Trade in Plant Species*” organized by Nepal in January 2011. At PC20, the Committee was informed that Bhutan was willing to host and support a follow-up workshop which would involve representatives of CITES Management and Scientific Authorities in range States, importing Parties, the PC regional representatives for Asia, WHO, traditional medicine associations and TRAFFIC. The Committee congratulated Bhutan and Nepal for workshops undertaken and planned, and offered detailed comments to Bhutan regarding the workshop agenda, drawing attention to the specific wording of Decision 15.37. The workshop was held in May 2012.

***Reporting on trade in artificially propagated plants [Decision 14.39 (Rev. CoP15); Decision 14.40 (Rev. CoP15)]***

74. At PC20 the Secretariat reported that external funding had recently been secured to conduct the survey referred to in Decisions 14.39 (Rev. CoP15) and that UNEP-WCMC had been contracted to undertake this work. However, its report was not available for the present meeting. The Committee noted the oral report from the Secretariat and the Chair was unable to report on this matter at SC62. At SC62 the Secretariat reported under document SC62 Doc. 24.3. The SC agreed that the Chair of the Standing Committee should report progress with the implementation of Decisions 14.39 to 14.41 (Rev. CoP15) at the CoP16 and that the subject would then be on the agenda for the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee.

***Production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species (Decision 15.52; Decision 15.53)***

75. At PC19, the Secretariat reported that they had located funding through the European Commission and would soon be engaging a consultant to produce the report called for in Decision 15.52 for PC20 and this was noted.

***Transport of live specimens (Decision 15.59)***

76. At PC19 the Secretariat introduced document PC19 Doc. 15. The Committee agreed with the suggestions in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the document and nominated Austria to serve as co-Chair of the proposed intersessional transport working group and Chile to be a member of the group. The Committee further agreed that the Chair of the Plants Committee would be the Committee's point of liaison with the working group and noted the Secretariat's report on the implementation of Decisions 15.59 and 15.60.

77. At the AC/PC joint meeting (Dublin, 2012) Austria, as Chair of the joint Working Group on Transport of Live Specimens, introduced document AC26/PC20 Doc.11, drawing attention to the recommendations in paragraph 11. He also indicated that the working group had drafted an addendum to the IATA Live Animal Regulations (IATA/LAR) with taxa that required particular modifications of the existing IATA container requirements or transport procedures in order to ensure adequate transport by non-air modes. A working group was established during the meeting and the results agreed by the AC and PC are presented in the in the document CoP16 Doc. 39.

***Standard nomenclature (Decision 15.63)***

78. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 43.1.

***Use of taxonomic serial numbers (Decision 15.68)***

79. As directed in Decision 15.68, in advance of SC62, the Standing Committee working group on taxonomic serial numbers consulted the Plants Committee nomenclature expert and noted his opinion regarding the usefulness and feasibility of incorporating taxonomic serial numbers as an element of CITES data sets.

**Assessment of trade in epiphytic cacti and review of listing of Cactaceae spp. in Appendix II (Decision 15.89)**

80. At PC19, the Committee agreed the following: a) The Secretariat was requested to send a Notification to range States, regarding the possibility of exempting certain taxa of Appendix-II epiphytic cacti included in Annex 1 of document PC19 Doc. 14.1, and to request information about the conservation status and possible look-alike concerns of the taxa; b) A Notification would be prepared in conjunction with the Secretariat; c) The intersessional working group would provide an update of the consultation with range States at PC20; d) The Committee noted that, given the number of range States, the number of taxa involved and the complexity of the task mandated in Decision 15.89, it would be difficult to accomplish the work during this intersessional period; and e) Due consideration should also be given to the implications of exempting such taxa through an annotation which most likely would result in implementation challenges (e.g. laundering of wild specimens).
81. At PC20, this topic was included in a working group to consider, on the basis of document PC20 Doc.16.3, Annex 2, the relevance of drafting a proposal to delete from Appendix II the following seven genera of epiphytic cacti: *Disocactus*, *Epiphyllum*, *Hatiora*, *Lepismium*, *Pseudorhipsalis*, *Rhipsalis* and *Schlumbergera*), for consideration at CoP16. As result of the WG recommendations, the Committee adopted the following:
82. The Plants Committee recognizes that criteria 2(a) is not fulfilled but criteria 2(b) is met and, that range States' views support the current listing. A communication was received from the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Rivera) that the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization supported maintaining these species in Appendix II. Therefore, the Plants Committee concludes that these species should be retained in Appendix II and that the mandate of Decision 15.89 has been completed.

***Euphorbia* spp. [Decision 14.131 (Rev. CoP15)]**

83. At PC19, the Committee discussed the document PC19 Doc. 14.2 (Rev. 1) and this topic was included in a working group, as result of the WG recommendations the Committee adopted the following:
84. a) the species included in document PC19 Doc. 14.2 (Rev. 1) (Annexes 1 and 4) were not proposed for consideration in the Periodic Review; b) the Secretariat was requested to send a Notification to range States, regarding the possibility of deleting certain taxa of Appendix-II succulent *Euphorbia* included in Annex 3 of document PC19 Doc. 14.2 (Rev. 1), and to request information about the conservation status and possible look-alike concerns regarding these taxa; c) a Notification would be prepared in conjunction with the Secretariat; d) the intersessional working group would provide an update of the consultation with range States at PC20; e) the Committee noted that, given the number of range States, the number of taxa involved and the complexity of the task mandated in Decision 14.131, it would be extremely difficult to accomplish the work during this intersessional period. Deleting such species would require the preparation of numerous proposals for consideration at the CoP16. If range States were unable to prepare such proposals for the CoP, according to the Decision, the Plants Committee was expected to prepare proposals for consideration and this would be difficult to accomplish during the intersessional period; and f) due consideration should also be given to the implications of deleting individual species which most likely would result in implementation challenges (e.g. laundering of wild specimens, trade in listed species as non-listed ones).
85. At PC20, the Committee discussed the information prepared for this topic and agreed that no changes to the listing of succulent *Euphorbia* species included in Appendix II were required. It requested its nomenclature specialist to address the issue of new *Euphorbia* species as well as taxonomic changes that had been proposed for genera that phylogenetically belonged within *Euphorbia*, including *Elaeophorbia*, *Endadenium*, *Monadenium*, *Synadenium* and *Pedilanthus*.
86. Therefore, the Plants Committee concludes that these species should be retained in Appendix II and that the mandate of Decision 14.131 (Rev. CoP15) has been completed.

***Aniba roseaodora* (Decision 15.90)**

87. At the PC19 a working group was established (PC19 WG12) and the results are included in the PC19 Summary record. At the PC20 Brazil introduced document PC20 Doc. 15.2, stressing the replanting scheme in place for the species, the fact that all exported rosewood essential oil came from planted trees

and the existence of an online traceability scheme (see PC20 Doc 15.2). The Committee noted the document.

***Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species (Decision 15.91; Decision 15.92)***

88. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 68.

***Cedrela odorata, Dalbergia retusa, Dalbergia granadillo and Dalbergia stevensonii [Decision 14.146 (Rev. CoP15)]***

89. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 69.

***Agarwood-producing taxa (Decision 15.94; Decision 15.95)***

90. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in documents CoP16Doc. 67.1 and CoP16Doc. 67.2.

***Bulnesia sarmientoi (Decision 15.96)***

91. At the PC19 a working group was established (PC19 WG12) and the results are included in the PC19 Summary record. At PC20, Argentina submitted a document (PC20 17.1.2.6) and the Committee noted it.

***Madagascar (Decision 15.97; Decision 15.98)***

92. Decision 15.97 was directed to Madagascar and the Plants Committee and inter alia directed Madagascar and the Committee to gather further information on succulent plant taxa proposed for listing at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and not adopted and review and gather further information on species (including tree species) which would benefit from CITES listing. This work is to be reported on at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and if necessary, proposals to amend the Appendices prepared and presented at that meeting.

93. The Plants Committee and Madagascar through working groups at its 19th and 20th meetings worked to complete the tasks outlined in Decision 15.97. This culminated in a series of recommendations from the Plants Committee with regard to listing of succulent plant species and also tree species on the appendices (see CoP16Doc. 66).

94. At the time of preparation of the current report Madagascar was preparing proposals for submission to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties based on those recommendations. On submission of these proposals to the Conference of the Parties the Plants Committee considers that the tasks addressed to the Committee have been accomplished.

Other issues considered at the PC19 and PC20

***Timber species, medicinal plants and agarwood-producing species (Decisions 15.26 and 15.27)***

95. The Committee covered this topic at PC19 and PC20. The results are contained in document CoP16Doc. 67.2.

**Budget of the Plants Committee**

96. At a minimum, the Plants Committee will require for the triennium 2013-2015 the same support as in the preceding three years. The Committee calls on the Parties to give consideration to approving a supplementary budget, estimated by the CITES Secretariat, to support the chairmanship, in especial when it is held by a national of a developing country.

## Acknowledgements

97. Finally, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the members and alternates of the Plants Committee for their commitment, enthusiastic collaboration and the excellent work they performed. I should also like to thank the Chairs and members of the Animals and Standing Committees, with special mention to Mr. Carlos Ibero Solana, who always has been ready in a very supportive manner for the collaboration and the shared work with the Plants Committee; the Chairs and members of the working groups, for their cooperation and support. I should like to extend my gratitude to the observers from the Parties, to the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and to the CITES Secretariat, with special thanks to John Scanlon, David Morgan, Milena Sosa Schmidt, Elena Kwitsinskaia, Marcos Silva, Tom de Meulenaer, Marceil Yeater, Jonathan Barzdo, Laurent Gauthier, Victoria Zentilli and Maritza Campos for their extremely valuable contributions to the Plants Committee. And last of all, I wish to express my deepest thanks to the Scientific and Management Authorities of my country, Spain, and to the University of Cordoba, for the help, support and funding that they provided to enable me to fulfill my functions as Chair of the Plants Committee.

## COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The report of the Chair of the Plants Committee refers to specific Plants Committee activities and issues that are dealt with jointly by the Animals and Plants Committees and are the subject of separate agenda items. The Secretariat provides its comments on these issues under the corresponding agenda items.
- B. On the basis of this report and as indicated by the Chair of the Plants Committee, it is recommended that:
- i) the following Decisions be deleted: 15.11, 15.36, 15.37, 15.89, and 14.131 (Rev. CoP15); and
  - ii) the following Decisions be maintained: 13.67 (Rev. CoP14), 15.52 and 15.53.

The following decisions that are referred to in the report are discussed under separate agenda items: 15.12, 15.15, 15.19, 12.91, 15.23, 15.24, 15.31, 15.34, 14.133, 14.134 (Rev. CoP15), 15.35, 14.148 (Rev. CoP15), 14.39 (Rev. CoP15), 14.40 (Rev. CoP15), 15.59, 15.63, 15.68, 15.91, 15.92, 14.146 (Rev. CoP15), 15.94, 15.95, 15.97, 15.98, 15.26 and 15.27.

- C. Regarding Decisions 15.90 on *Aniba rosaeodora* and 15.96 on *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, the range States have not submitted any report for consideration at CoP16, as called for in paragraphs f) and e) of the respective Decisions. The Secretariat notes that in the present report of the Chair of the Plants Committee, there is no recommendation to maintain or delete these. The Secretariat recommends that both Decisions be deleted at CoP16 if no range State is of the opinion that they should be maintained.
- D. In the framework of Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber*, Decision 15.93 has been implemented and the Secretariat recommends that it be deleted.