



**RESULTS OF THE
THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF
THE CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE**
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND • 15-19 APRIL 2008

PC = Plants Committee • AC = Animals Committee • SC = Standing Committee • RC = Resolution Conf. • CoP = Conference of the Parties

ISSUE		PROPOSED ACTIONS	RESULTS OF THE MEETING
1. Opening of the Meeting No Document		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC confirmed the provisionally appointed Chair, Margarita Clemente (representative of Europe), and Vice-Chair, Greg Leach (representative of Oceania), in their positions by acclamation.
2. Rules of Procedure		<i>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i>	
2.1	2.1 Current Rules of Procedure PC17 Doc. 2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains the Rules of Procedure adopted at PC16 in Lima, Peru, 2006. 	See comments under PC17 Doc. 2.2 below.
2.2	2.2 Proposed Amendments PC17 Doc. 2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on Establishment of committees resolves that, <i>"the Animals and Plants Committees shall adopt their own Rules of Procedure, which shall, however, be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee as far as is practicable."</i> Draft Rules of Procedure for meetings of the AC and PC were presented by the Committee Chairs at CoP14. This document contains the draft presented to CoP14 with minor amendments proposed by the Secretariat. 	<p>The AC/PC agreed to the following changes to the Draft Rules of Procedure [deleted text strikethrough, new text <u>underlined</u>]:</p> <p>Rule 7 (1): The last sentence shall read: <u>"The Chairman may limit the number of delegates representing a non-governmental organization to one for practical reasons."</u></p> <p>Rule 7 (3): Delete the following, "...and proof of the approval of the State in which the body is located."</p> <p>Rule 18: Change as follows, <u>"The time and place of meetings shall be determined by the Chairman, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Committee, and in line with any instructions provided by the Conference of the Parties."</u></p> <p>Rule 20: Change as follows, <u>"Documents to be considered at a meeting shall be provided to the Secretariat by Parties, or by members of the Committee, at the latest 75 60 days before the meeting"</u></p> <p>Rule 22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the text, <u>"Documents shall be placed on the Secretariat's website as soon as possible after they are received,"</u> add the following, <u>"but no later than 10 days after the submission deadline."</u> Replace the following sentence, <u>"The documents shall also be provided to all Parties that may be directly affected by any discussion of the documents and to all Parties that request them,"</u> with, <u>"The Secretariat shall alert all Parties that may be directly affected by any discussion of the documents and provide copies to</u>

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			<p><i>all Parties that request them.</i>"</p> <p>Rule 23: Regarding information documents, add, "<i>However, such documents may be referred to if they relate to the existing agenda items, but not discussed.</i>"</p> <p>Rule 26: Deleted.</p>
3. Adoption of the agenda and working programme			
3.1	3.1 Agenda PC17 Doc. 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional agenda for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document was adopted with minor amendments.
3.2	3.2 Working Programme PC17 Doc. 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional working programme for the meeting is presented for consideration and adoption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document was adopted.
4. Admission of observers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A list of observers was provided at the meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document was noted.
5. Regional reports		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports were provided from the Regional Representatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reports were noted.
6. Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees PC17 Doc. 6		<p><i>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.7 directs the AC and PC to evaluate the need to further review and revise the terms of reference in RC 11.1 (Rev. CoP14) on Establishment of the Committees for presentation to CITES CoP15. The Secretariat provides a chart of instructions from CoP14 to the AC and PC for the period between CoP14 and CoP15. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AC/PC noted the document and agreed that there was no need to revise their Terms of Reference at present.
7. Cooperation with advisory bodies of other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements PC17 Doc. 7		<p><i>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i></p> <p>Reports on the activities of the Secretariat and the Chairs of the AC and PC in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Meeting of the chairmen of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2007 CSAB meeting agreed that it may be valuable for conventions to adopt, endorse or use guidelines developed by other conventions. CITES Secretariat suggests this include RC 13.2 (Rev. CoP14) on the CBD's <i>Addis Ababa principles and guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity</i> and harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature of species. For the next CSAB meeting in May 2008, the secretariats will prepare a summary of guidelines which might be adopted, endorsed or used by the conventions. <u>2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP):</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AC/PC noted the document. The U.K. stated that it would provide advice on the development of indicators of sustainable use under the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BIP is an initiative led by UNEP-WCMC, with US\$3.6 million of funding from the Global Environment Facility, to streamline biodiversity indicators for the 2010 biodiversity target. ▪ The CITES Secretariat was asked to be the key indicator partner for the 'Status of species in trade' element of the indicators of sustainable use. ▪ Indicators are scheduled to be developed by the end of 2009 and the Secretariat will keep the Committees advised of progress. ▪ Secretariat recommends that interested Committee members and observers offer comments and advice on the development of the indicators. • <u>International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Steering Committee is comprised of representatives of governments, and inter-and non-governmental organizations, including the CITES Secretariat. Most recent meeting held in November 2007. ▪ The Steering Committee recommended that urgent consideration be given to the establishment of a means and enhancement of existing institutions, to provide an objective source of information about biodiversity change and its impacts on ecosystem services and human well-being. ▪ The Committee invited the Executive Director of UNEP to convene an intergovernmental meeting to consider establishing an international interface between science and policy to address these objectives. • <u>Conclusion:</u> The AC and PC are invited to identify volunteers to offer guidance on the development of indicators for the sustainable use of species in trade. 	
8. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species			
8.1	8.1 Evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade PC17 Doc. 8.1	<i>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the Terms of Reference for an evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade, adopted at CoP13 and a discussion paper on the evaluation, including an overview of species selected. • Invites the AC and PC to determine how an advisory Working Group will be established and to instruct the Secretariat on further steps needed to undertake the evaluation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AC/PC agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the fundamental question to answer is, what is the contribution that the Review of Significant Trade makes to improved implementation of Article IV? ▪ the advisory Working Group should identify elements that could be completed by and reported on at CoP15. ▪ the advisory Working Group should report on this at the next AC and PC meetings and any concrete recommendations will be considered by Working Groups constituted by the next AC and PC

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<p>8.2</p> <p>8.2 Progress report on the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 8.2</p>	<p><i>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Madagascar. 	<p>meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AC/PC agreed that the country-based Review of Significant Trade in Madagascar was now complete and that this country-based Review will be included as a case-study in the evaluation of the Review of Significant Trade.
<p>8.3</p> <p>8.3 Overview of the species-based Review of Significant Trade</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 8.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the PC to note a report that presents an a brief summary of the status of reviews undertaken after CoPs 11, 12, and 13. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document was noted.
<p>8.4</p> <p>8.4 Species selected following CoP13</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 8.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides reports on the biology and management of and trade in <i>Christensonia vietnamica</i>, <i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i>, <i>Pachypodium bispinosum</i>, <i>Pachypodium succulentum</i>, <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>, <i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i> and <i>Taxus wallichiana</i>, and provides a preliminary categorization of these species in compliance with paragraphs h) and i) of RC 12.8 (Rev. CoP13). The AC is requested to review these reports and responses, revise the categorizations provided and, to formulate recommendations for species of urgent concern and of possible concern. 	<p><u>Christensonia vietnamica (orchid):</u> The PC changed the classification to Urgent Concern for Vietnam; Vietnam should confirm that it will not be issuing export permits for the species and the Secretariat can include this on the CITES website as a voluntary zero export quota.</p> <p><u>Myrmecophila tibicinis (flute-player's or cow horn orchid):</u> The PC confirmed the classification as Possible Concern for Belize; Belize to confirm that it will not issue export permits for the species until surveys of its status have been made.</p> <p><u>Pachypodium bispinosum (succulent shrublet):</u> The PC confirmed the classification as Possible Concern for South Africa; South Africa to carry out an inventory of standing stock and establish estimates of sustainable offtake.</p> <p><u>Pachypodium succulentum (bottle tree):</u> The PC changed the classification to Possible Concern for South Africa; South Africa to carry out an inventory of standing stock and establish estimates of sustainable offtake.</p> <p><u>Pterocarpus santalinus (red sandalwood):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC confirmed the classification as Urgent Concern for India; India should clarify the legislative status of exports of this species, the level of artificial propagation, the permit process and discrepancies between reported customs data and CITES data. If exports of wild origin are to be continued, India should establish a conservative quota of CITES listed products of this species. The PC requested the Secretariat to liaise with Nepal over illegal and unreported trade coming from and passing through that country.

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		<p><u>Rauvolfia serpentina (snakewood):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC changed the classification to Urgent Concern for India; India should clarify the legislative status of exports of this species, the level of artificial propagation, the permit process and discrepancies between reported customs data and CITES data. If exports of wild origin are to be continued, India should establish a conservative quota of CITES listed products of this species. • The PC changed the classification to Possible Concern for Thailand; Thailand to carry out an inventory of standing stock and establish estimates of sustainable offtake • The PC confirmed the classification as Possible Concern for Myanmar; Myanmar should confirm that it does not issue export permits for the species and the Secretariat should include this information on the list of voluntary export quotas. <p><u>Taxus wallichiana (Himalayan yew):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC changed the classification to Urgent Concern for India; India should confirm that it does not allow export of wild harvested product. If exports are confirmed, India to provide confirmation that the existing policies in place provide an adequate scientific basis for the formulation of non-detriment findings for the species. • The Secretariat should confirm with Nepal that export of <i>T. wallichiana</i> (syn. <i>T. baccata</i> ssp. <i>wallichiana</i>) is banned and include this information on the list of voluntary export quotas.
<p>8.5</p>	<p>8.5 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP14</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 8.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC selected the following species for inclusion in the Review: 52 <i>Euphorbia</i> species, 28 <i>Aloe</i> species, <i>Pericopsis elata</i>, <i>Calanthe alleizettei</i>, <i>Cymbidium erythrostylum</i>, <i>Renanthera annamensis</i>, <i>Cistanche deserticola</i>, <i>Beccariophoenix madagascariensis</i>, <i>Lemurophoenix halleuxii</i>, <i>Marojejya darianii</i>, <i>Ravenea rivularis</i>, <i>Satranala decussilvae</i>, and <i>Voanioala gerardii</i> • Regarding <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>, the PC agreed that Belize, Bolivia, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana and , Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela, Santa Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have not demonstrated ability to implement non-detriment findings and should be selected for the Review of Significant Trade.
<p>8.6</p>	<p>Progress report of regional representatives on seven Asian species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 14.20 directs the range States of <i>Cistanche deserticola</i>, <i>Dioscorea deltoidea</i>, <i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i>, <i>Picrorhiza kurrooa</i>, <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>, <i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i> and <i>Taxus wallichiana</i>, the regional • The PC agreed to ask the Secretariat to bring issues of non-compliance and illegal trade in the species concerned to the attention of the Standing Committee, noting that issues relating to non-detriment findings for three of the species were being dealt

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	PC17 Doc. 8.6	<p>representatives for Asia on the Plants Committee and the Secretariat to ensure:</p> <p>a) implementation of regionally coordinated actions to improve the management of and prevent illegal trade in the seven species and</p> <p>b) submission of progress reports at the 17th and 18th meetings of the Plants Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No responses were received to an October 2005 CITES Notification (No. 2007/033) reminding Parties to submit the above information for discussion at PC17. 	with under agenda item 8.4.
9. Review of the use of source code 'R'	PC17 Doc. 9	<p>(To be discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 14.52 directs the AC/PC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ obtain information on the management program for species to which source code 'R' is applied ▪ review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching and identify common elements in these programs ▪ based on this review, propose a definition of ranching and the use of source code 'R' to CoP15. • Provides data on all exports of specimens of species with the source code declared as 'R', for the years 1991-2005 and requests the AC/PC to select countries using the code on a regular basis so that the Secretariat may request information on the management programs for these species. • AC/PC are invited to decide how they will review the literature on wildlife management for current information on management systems that would resemble ranching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An intersessional Working Group was established and it also was decided that animal and plant issues will not be considered together, but their consideration will follow the same process. • The Working Group will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ send a select group of Parties applying the 'R' code a questionnaire regarding their management program for these species, and ▪ undertake a literature review of the application of ranching or management systems that resemble ranching for different taxa.
10. International expert workshop on non-detriment findings	PC17 Docs 10.1 (Rev. 1), 10.2	<p>(Discussed in the AC/PC Joint Meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by Mexico on behalf of the International Steering Committee in charge of the international expert workshop on non-detriment findings. • Decision 14.49 encourages Parties to provide financial support for an international expert workshop on non-detriment findings (NDFs). • Provides information on the date, venue, objectives, format, Working Groups, and species to be discussed in the workshop. • Invites AC and PC Members, Parties, and NGOs to suggest experts and case studies to be considered for discussion in the workshop. • Invites Scientific Authorities to provide information on the use of the IUCN checklist in making non-detriment findings. 	The AC/PC noted the document.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites Parties, NGOs and IGOs to provide financial support for the workshop. 	
11. Periodic review of plant species included in the CITES Appendices PC17 Doc. 11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC 14.8 on Periodic Review of the Appendices, states that: the AC and PC “shall establish a schedule for the Periodic Review of the Appendices and identify a list of taxa they propose to review during the next two intersessional periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP). The list should be established at their first meeting after the meeting of the CoP that initiates the review period.” Reviews of <i>Agave parviflora</i> and <i>Podocarpus parlatorei</i> are provided. The PC has to decide on their appropriate listing. Provides a list of taxa for which reviews need to be undertaken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC agreed that <i>Agave parviflora</i> should be retained in Appendix I. The PC requested the Secretariat to send a Notification to the Parties to request volunteers for taxa that are still not under review and to call for voluntary financial contributions for contracting experts for the review of taxa. An intersessional Working Group will coordinate and monitor the Periodic Review, draft guidelines for contracting experts for the review, and report to PC18 on both issues. The Working Group recommended that the PC should apply, at CoP15, for the allocation of funds to the Periodic Review of Plant Taxa. The PC was informed that reviews of the following species will be undertaken: <i>Welwitschia mirabilis</i> (Namibia), <i>Cycas beddomei</i> (The Netherlands), <i>Euphorbia antisiphilitica</i> (Mexico), <i>Agave victoriae-reginae</i> (Mexico), and 10 Madagascan <i>Euphorbia</i> spp. in Appendix I (France). The PC was informed that Argentina may submit a proposal to CoP15 to transfer <i>Podocarpus parlatorei</i> from Appendix I to II and that South Africa will submit a proposal to CoP15 to delete <i>Orothamnus zeyheri</i> and <i>Protea odorata</i>. from the Appendices
12. Strategic Planning			
	12.1 Resolutions and Decisions directed to the Plants Committee PC17 Doc. 12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a list of all instructions directed to the PC that can be found in current Resolutions and Decisions. Invites the PC to include these instructions its work programme for 2008-2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC noted this document.
	12.2 Establishment of the Plants Committee priorities No document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC received a report that those members of the PC present had met informally to discuss future PC activities. They gave each activity a ranking of high, medium or low priority and also assigned responsibilities within the PC.
13. Annotations			
	13.1 Cactaceae and Orchidaceae: review of annotations PC17 Doc. 13.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Switzerland. Decision 14.130 directs the PC to analyze the amendments of annotations #1, #4 and #8 of proposal CoP14 Prop. 26, and if there is merit in refining them, prepare a proposal for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC agreed to a new merged annotation of <u>Annotations #1 and #4</u>, with some modifications to those that were recommended by Switzerland. The new proposed annotation reads: a) seeds, spores, and pollen (including pollinia) except those

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	<p>consideration at CoP15. (Note that annotation #8 for Orchidaceae was deleted at CoP14). CoP14 Prop. 26 proposes exemptions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Artificially propagated cut leaves ▪ <i>Hylocereus</i> spp. and <i>Selenicereus</i> spp. fruits ▪ Finished products of certain Medicinal and Aromatic Plants ▪ Herbarium specimens. 	<p>seeds from Cactaceae spp. exported from Mexico;</p> <p>b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers;</p> <p>c) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants;</p> <p>d) fruits and parts and derivatives thereof of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genera <i>Vanilla</i> (Orchidaceae), <i>Opuntia</i>, subgenus <i>Opuntia</i> (Cactaceae), <i>Hylocereus</i> and <i>Selenicereus</i> (Cactaceae);</p> <p>e) stems, flowers, and parts and derivatives thereof of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genera <i>Opuntia</i>, subgenus <i>Opuntia</i>, and <i>Selenicereus</i> (Cactaceae).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The PC established an intersessional Working Group to discuss the issue of non-living herbarium specimens for non-commercial purposes.</u> • Regarding <u>cacti lacking chlorophyll</u>, the PC agreed to delete “lacking chlorophyll” from footnote 6 of the Appendices related to artificially propagated specimens of hybrids and/or cultivars. • Regarding <u>finished products</u>, an intersessional Working Group was formed to investigate and report to PC18 on the issue of ‘finished pharmaceutical products’ and related annotations.
<p>13.2 Orchids: annotation for species included in Appendix II</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 13.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 14.133 directs the Parties to make recommendations and prepare identification material on further exemptions for artificially propagated hybrids of Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II, taking into consideration the capacities of countries to implement and control such exemptions effectively. The PC shall evaluate the results and adopt appropriate measures. • Decision 14.134 directs the PC to monitor and assess possible conservation problems arising from the implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II and report to CoP15. • In response to Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033, Ecuador reports that it has not applied the exemption for orchid hybrids because of the difficulty in distinguishing them from other specimens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC agreed that exporting and importing countries are to be requested to send to the Secretariat identification material and technical information on artificially propagated orchid specimens exempted from the CITES Appendices, for taxa that could be exempted in the future, and on specimens from the wild. • The PC requested the Secretariat to send a questionnaire to the Parties, via a Notification, regarding implementation of the annotation to Orchidaceae spp. included in Appendix II. • The responses to the Notification and any additional information will be discussed at PC18.
<p>13.3 Tree species: annotations for species included in Appendices II and III</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 13.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision 14.148: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) directs the PC to review and, if appropriate, draft amendments to the annotations to the tree species listed in Appendices II and III and/or prepare clear definitions for the terms used in those annotations; b) states that the amended annotations shall focus on the articles that initially appear in international trade as exports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to range States for timber species listed in Appendices II and III requesting information on whether annotations for those species appropriately focus on specimens that initially appear in trade from the range States and on those specimens that dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource. • The PC requested the Secretariat to compile the responses to the

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	<p>from the range States and on those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource and;</p> <p>c) directs the PC to draft, if necessary, proposals to amend RC 10.13 (Rev. CoP14) and/or to amend the Appendices so these may be submitted to CoP15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invites the PC to decide on the action needed to comply with Decision 14.148. 	<p>Notification, and to compile definitions and corresponding harmonized tariff codes for both primary and secondary processed timber products. This information will be considered by an intersessional Working Group which will make recommendations to PC18.</p>
<p>14. Review of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> spp. in Appendix II</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by Switzerland. • Decision 14.131 directs the PC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) analyze trade data and conservation status of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species (except those species currently included in Appendix I); b) prepare a revised list of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> species that meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14) for inclusion in Appendix II; c) prepare proposals for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties that provide for the deletion of <i>Euphorbia</i> species from Appendix II that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP14), are frequently traded and can be clearly identified by non-specialists; and d) determine the need for identification material for species retained in Appendix II. • States that an informal Working Group was established after CoP14 on this issue. • Proposes two approaches for work on this issue: a) identify individual species to list in Appendix II (preferred by Switzerland) or, b) eliminate certain species from Appendix II. • Provides a summary of issues regarding trade in <i>Euphorbia</i> spp. and also 2000-2006 trade data for these species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC established an intersessional Working Group on this issue, and directed it to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ investigate, whether one or several subgeneric units of the genus <i>Euphorbia</i> in the new, amplified sense correspond to the former listing and, if possible, narrow the listing of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> spp. in Appendix II down to this subgeneric taxon or those subgeneric taxa; ▪ analyze the trade data provided in PC17 Doc. 14 (Annex); ▪ identify species for possible exclusion from Appendix II, based on this and all other available, relevant information; and ▪ prepare a list of candidate species for possible delisting for consideration at PC18 and submit a report containing this list and all other available, relevant information. • The PC requested the Secretariat to publish a Notification to the Parties asking range States of succulent <i>Euphorbia</i> spp. to indicate species that are actually or potentially negatively impacted through harvest from the wild for international trade. The Secretariat shall forward responses to the chair of the Working Group for consideration at PC18.
<p>15. Transport of live plants</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC 10.21 (Rev. CoP14) on Transport of live specimens directs the AC and PC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to participate in meetings of the Live Animals and Perishables Board of IATA in order to amplify or update the Live Animals Regulations and the Perishable Cargo Regulations; b) to examine new or additional references for transport of live specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, if appropriate; c) to examine developments related to the transport of live plant specimens for incorporation into the present Resolution, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC referred this item to the joint session of the AC/PC and agreed that, were Austria to be appointed chairman of a Working Group to address this item at the joint session or at AC23, Austria would also represent the PC in the Working Group. • A joint Working Group of the AC and PC elected Andreas Kaufmann from Austria as the new Chair of the Transport Working Group (TWG) and noted that Michael Kiehn from Austria would represent the PC on this issue.

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		<p>if appropriate; and d) to examine regularly high mortality shipments of live specimens and make recommendations to relevant Parties, exporters, importers and transport companies on how to avoid this in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the PC to decide on the action needed to implement these instructions. 	
16. Timber issues			
	<p>16.1.1 Progress report on the implementation of the action plan for bigleaf mahogany</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CoP14 adopted Decision 14.145 which contains an action plan for the control of international trade in bigleaf mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>). This action plan states that all range States should facilitate the making of non-detriment findings by submitting reports on progress in the implementation of this Action Plan to the Secretariat no later than 90 days before PC17. Provides the responses of range States to Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033 issued on 5 October 2007 which requested responses to a questionnaire on tasks under the action plan. The Committee is invited to analyze the report on progress made in implementing the action plan and discuss a way forward to implement the tasks directed to it by Decision 14.145. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC agreed to Terms of Reference For the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group work until CoP15, directing the Working Group to utilize the existing action Plan for Bigleaf Mahogany for further guidance. The progress reports from the range States were used as the basis for selecting bigleaf mahogany range States for inclusion in the Review of Significant Trade (see Results under PC17 Doc. 8.5).
	<p>16.1.2 International Workshop of Experts on Non-Detriment Findings on Bigleaf Mahogany (Cancun, April 2007): endorsement and adoption of guidelines for making NDFs for mahogany</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.1.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by Mexico, as Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group of the PC. The action plan for the control of international trade in bigleaf mahogany (Decision 14.145) directs the range States to adopt and implement forest management plans and to develop and conduct forest inventories as outlined in the results of the workshop after its endorsement and adoption by the PC. Invites the PC to review and endorse the results of the International Workshop of Experts on Non-Detriment Findings on Bigleaf Mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>), held in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico, in April 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC endorsed document PC17 Doc. 16.1.2 recognizing that <i>“the elements it contains represent ideal guidelines for non-detriment finding determination for bigleaf mahogany, and that specific implementation of this idealized approach will necessarily require modification to respond to specific national circumstances”</i> (PC17 WG10).
	<p>16.1.3 Volumetric conversion of standing trees to exportable mahogany sawn wood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex provides the results of a CITES regional implementation workshop was held on 'Improving International Trade in the Bigleaf Mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) in Nicaragua in August 2007). Requests the PC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) study, verify and debate the contents of the Annex; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC endorsed the document and agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that range States reporting at PC18 under part 1b of the Bigleaf Mahogany Action Plan, report on how they implement these volume conversion methodologies in their quotas and/or a timetable for doing so; to urge Parties to explicitly and transparently address, in future

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<p>PC17 Doc. 16.1.3</p>	<p>b) issue conclusions on the same and incorporate any relevant modifications, if necessary; c) determine how to proceed with regard to the method for volumetric conversion of standing trees to exportable mahogany sawn wood; and d) advise range States of the methodology to follow.</p>	<p>non-detriment findings, the identified need for application of conversion factors and/or other methodologies that link harvested wood volumes to export shipment volumes; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ that volumetric conversion factors be considered in deliberations on guidance for timber nondetriment findings of the PC Intersessional Non-detriment Finding Working Group and at the International Workshop on NDFs.
<p>16.2 Progress report on the joint CITES ITTO timber project: first regional meeting</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariats of ITTO and CITES are collaborating on a project aimed at ensuring that international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation. The project will focus on <i>Pericopsis elata</i> (afromosia), <i>Gonystylus</i> spp. (ramin) and <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> (bigleaf mahogany). • ITTO and the CITES Secretariat will provide an oral report on the first regional workshop held under this project, regarding an action plan for <i>Pericopsis elata</i> exported from Cameroon, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to be held in April 2008. • Provides a preliminary action plan for the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC noted the document.
<p>16.3 <i>Cedrela odorata</i>, <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>, <i>D. granadillo</i> and <i>D. stevensonii</i></p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the responses of range States to Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033 issued on 5 October 2007, regarding implementation of the Action plan for <i>Cedrela odorata</i>, <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>, <i>Dalbergia granadillo</i> and <i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ urge any Parties that have not responded to the questionnaire to immediately provide the requested data and information; ▪ ask the Secretariat to send a Notification asking range and importing States to provide, prior to PC18, additional information regarding the status of conservation of, trade in, and sustainable management of these species; ▪ have the Secretariat ask range States to provide additional information on any increases in <i>Cedrela odorata</i> exports; and ▪ encourage the Parties to submit for analysis at PC18 new listing proposals for these genera that are intended for consideration at CoP15. • The PC agreed that PC18 will discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ developing recommendations for these species for consideration at CITES CoP15; and ▪ identification of these species, including potential look-alike difficulties that exist within the genera <i>Cedrela</i> and <i>Dalbergia</i>.
<p>16.4 Problems regarding population-specific Appendix-III timber listings</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the United States of America. • There have been several instances in which a CITES Party has listed a timber species in Appendix III, but has limited that listing to cover only its own national population. Some non-listing range countries issue CITES certificates of origin for these species, whereas other range countries do not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC agreed that the Secretariat shall distribute a Notification asking Parties if they had encountered inconsistencies and problems implementing Appendix III timber listings and to respond directly to the USA, who could present the results to the SC.

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	<p>issue any CITES documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution Conf. 9.25 (Rev. CoP14) states, “for species that are traded for their timber, consideration is given to including only that geographically separate population of the species for which the inclusion would best achieve the aims of the Convention and its effective implementation, particularly with regard to the conservation of the species in the country requesting its inclusion in Appendix III.” Notes that this text was adopted for the purpose of addressing circumstances similar to Costa Rica’s initial listing of the bigleaf mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) in Appendix III in 1995. In that case, Costa Rica limited the listing to the populations in the Americas, and thus excluded plantation-grown specimens originating outside the natural range of the species. The US would like to learn if other countries have problems implementing Appendix III timber listings limited to the population of the listing country and invites the feedback of the PC on this issue. 	
<p>16.5 Physical inspection of timber shipments</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 16.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.60, directs the Secretariat to establish an electronic Working Group to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) solicit and compile existing procedures adopted by the Parties for: i) identification of CITES-listed and look-alike timber species; and ii) physical inspection of shipments of CITES-listed timber species; b) indicate how those procedures can be accessed by CITES authorities; and c) identify possible elements for further work and report at SC58. The Secretariat will issue a Notification to the Parties later in 2008, informing Parties of the establishment of the Working Group and the electronic discussion forum. Italy has expressed its interest in Chairing the electronic Working Group; PC Members are invited to join the Working Group and to suggest ideas on membership of the group at the present meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat introduced document PC17 Doc. 16.5, welcoming Italy’s offer to chair the intersessional electronic Working Group referred to in the document. The Committee noted document PC17 Doc. 16.5 and encouraged CITES Authorities to participate in the Working Group.
<p>17. Non-detriment findings</p>		
<p>17.1 Timber species and medicinal plants</p>		
<p>17.1.1 Overview on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.135 directs the PC to: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC established an intersessional Working Group on NDFs for

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<p>non-detriment findings for timber species and medicinal plants</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 17.1.1</p>	<p>a) develop principles, criteria and indicators for the making of non-detriment findings for wild specimens of high-priority taxa such as timber species, <i>Prunus africana</i> and other medicinal plants; and</p> <p>b) before CoP15, support the organization of a workshop on non-detriment findings for tree species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the PC to decide on the action needed to comply with Decision 14.135, and to consider how best to achieve its effective implementation. The PC may want to make use of the results of the meeting of the <i>Prunus africana</i> Working Group (mid 2008) and/or the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (November 2008). 	<p>medicinal plants and agreed that the Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> will work with the documents and guidance that will come out of the Mexican workshop; will take the 'International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP)' and extract all elements relevant to CITES from it; and will develop a document on identifying elements for NDF making for medicinal plants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC also established an intersessional Working Group on non-detriment findings for timber species and decided that <i>Prunus africana</i> will be dealt with in this Working Group. The PC agreed that the chairs of the three Working Groups dealing with NDFs are to liaise on these topics and reach agreement on common usage for the terms "principle", "criterion" and "indicator." 	
<p>17.1.2 Summary report on the non-detriment findings for ramin (<i>Gonystylus</i> spp.) for Malaysia in 2008</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 17.1.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Management Authority of Malaysia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC noted the document. 	
<p>17.1.3 Final report on the study on abundance, distribution and conservation status of <i>Guaiaacum sanctum</i> L. in Mexico</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 17.1.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Scientific Authority of Mexico. Decision 11.114 directs the Plants Committee to assess the status of <i>Guaiaacum</i> species in the wild, the status in trade and threats to the species. Provides the final report on the study of <i>Guaiaacum sanctum</i> in Mexico, including the elements needed to formulate non-detriment findings (NDFs); can be used as a reference for studies and NDFs in other exporting countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC noted the document. 	
<p>17.2 Agarwood-producing species</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 17.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Plants Committee regional representative of Oceania. Decision 14.143 directs the PC, in consultation with range States and the Secretariat, to develop principles, criteria and indicators for the formulation of non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species. Invites the PC to provide comments on a draft methodology for the formulation of non-detriment findings for agarwood-producing species drafted by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia TRAFFIC has agreed to assist with preparation of a case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC established a Working Group on this issue and agreed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the TRAFFIC report (PC17 Inf. 4) is a good basis for moving towards the implementation of decision 14.143; the regional representatives of Asia should contact range states for comments on the document, particularly in relation to the proposed NDF method and present the responses to the Working Group chair for incorporation into the NDF workshop discussions; the NDF workshop should assess the possible relevance and contribution of the document 'International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants 	

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		<p>study on agarwood to be considered at the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) in November 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invites the PC to consider the recommendation that Decision 14.143 be implemented through the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings and reported on at PC18. 	<p>(ISSC-MAP)', to an agarwood NDF methodology, given that agarwood is utilized as a medicinal and aromatic plant;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC18 shall assess the agarwood-specific output from the NDF workshop in terms of meeting the requirements of Decision 14.143.
18. Definition of non-timber forest products PC17 Doc. 18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.142 directs the PC and the Secretariat, in consultation with relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the FAO, to draft a definition of non-timber forest products to be considered at CoP15. RC 10.13 (Rev. CoP14) states, that <i>"timber and non-timber products derived from trees grown in monospecific plantations be considered as being artificially propagated..."</i> Notes that Decision 14.142 refers to a definition of 'non-timber <u>forest</u> products' not merely 'non-timber products'. The PC should consider whether a plantation can be considered a forest. Participants at an Experts Group Meeting on Agarwood in November 2006 agreed that the FAO definition could be an appropriate definition to be used in CITES. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC created an intersessional Working Group to draft a definition of non-timber forest products for discussion at PC18.
19. Hybrids and cultivars under the Convention			
	19.1 Overview of hybrids and cultivars under the Convention PC17 Doc. 19.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision 14.147 directs the PC to discuss hybrids and cultivars, and other entities recognized in horticulture (e.g. forms and varieties), and provide recommendations to CoP15 regarding their treatment under the Convention, particularly with regard to Article I, paragraph (b). Provides a report to serve as the basis of discussions on this issue. Definitions of the terms 'hybrid', 'cultivar' and 'variety' have not been formally adopted by the Conference of the Parties but have been provided in biodiversity glossaries developed by UNEP and others. Invites the PC to review the report and the definitions proposed, and to consider whether one would be appropriate for CITES. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Working Group was established to address agenda items 19.1 and 19.2. <u>Regarding hybrids</u>: The PC agreed that the Parties should continue to follow the guidance of Res. Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP14). <u>Regarding cultivars</u>: The PC recommended adoption of the definition of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants for Cultivars. Furthermore, the PC recommended that, <i>"Cultivars shall be subject to the provisions of the Convention even though not specifically included in the Appendices, but may be excluded from CITES controls by a specific annotation in Appendix I, II or III, if meeting the definition of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants"</i>, and requested that the Secretariat, on behalf of the PC, submit a proposal to CoP15 to amend Res. Conf. 11.11. (Rev. CoP14) accordingly.
	19.2 Summary of CoP14 Decisions on hybrids and cultivars PC17 Doc. 19.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the Regional Representative for North America at the request of the PC. At CoP14, the Parties adopted an annotation to the listing of <i>Taxus cuspidate</i> which exempts certain, <i>"Artificially</i> 	

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	<p><i>propagated hybrids and cultivars.</i>” During the discussion of this proposal, concerns were expressed that cultivars cannot be distinguished from their species, and therefore their exclusion from a listing did not conform to the provisions of the Convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response, CoP14 adopted Decision 14.147, directing the PC to discuss hybrids and cultivars, and provide to CoP15, recommendations regarding their treatment under the Convention. • <u>Regarding hybrids</u>: RC 11.11 (Rev. CoP14) allows hybrids to be excluded from CITES controls by a specific annotation in Appendix II or III; this differs from the Convention, which require that all listings include whole live or dead specimens and allow that only readily recognizable parts and derivatives may be excluded by annotation. Plants Committee needs to consider whether any further guidance is required, and if so, whether this should be accomplished by amending Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP14). • <u>Regarding cultivars</u>: The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants contains a glossary that includes the definitions of infraspecific taxa or other designations below the level of species such as cultivar, form, variant, and variety. The PC needs to consider how these infraspecific taxa and other designations should be appropriately treated under the Convention. 	
<p>20. Nomenclatural matters</p> <p>PC17 Doc. 20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared by the nomenclature specialist on the PC. • Requests the PC to address the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) experts to review the reference source, <i>World Ferns</i>; b) consider standard references for <i>Gonystylus</i>, <i>Aquilaria</i> and <i>Gyrinops</i>; c) experts to review the draft text of the revised orchid checklist Volume 1; d) consider options for updating the CITES standard reference for Cycads; and e) consider harmonization of nomenclature and taxonomy across the biodiversity-related MEAs (Decision 14.15). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>World Ferns</i>: PC members were asked to provide to the nomenclature specialist names of experts from their regions who could help review <i>World Ferns</i> to determine whether it might serve as a standard reference for nomenclature for <i>Cyathea</i>. • <i>Gonystylus, Aquilaria, and Gyrinops</i>: range States were asked to provide to the nomenclature specialist references for these taxa that might serve as standard references. • <i>Volume 1 of the Orchid Checklist</i>: PC members were asked to provide to the nomenclature specialist names of relevant experts, who could review the draft updated checklist. • <i>Nomenclature and taxonomy in MEAs</i>: The PC agreed to establish an intersessional Working Group to work on implementation of Decision 14.15, particularly as it related to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
<p>21. Identification matters</p>		

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21.1 Progress report on the Identification Manual PC17 Doc. 19.21.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a report on the progress made with the production of the Identification Manual that currently can be viewed on-line in PDF format files. The Secretariat proposes to transform the Manual into a web-based database in which the identification segment for each species or group of species could be created and modified by users in an approach known as a "Wiki". A demonstration of a Wiki format CITES Identification Manual will be presented during the meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document was noted. 	
21.2 The development of genetic techniques for the forensic identification of <i>Gonystylus</i> (ramin) timber and wood products PC17 Doc. 19.21.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared by the United Kingdom. Provides the result of a project to develop a quick and cost-effective method for the forensic genetic identification of ramin (<i>Gonystylus</i> spp.) timber and wood products, for use by enforcement agencies and commercial traders. States that it should be possible to replicate this type of test for a large proportion of traded timbers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC noted the document and encouraged Parties to send relevant information to the observer from TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network. 	
22. Time and venue of the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC agreed that PC18 should be held in Argentina, February 2009. 	
23. Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 		
24. Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No document. 		



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