

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties  
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

ELEMENTS OF A POTENTIAL WORKPLAN  
FOR CITES IMPLEMENTATION FOR TRADE IN MEDICINAL PLANT SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat in relation to agenda item 55.
2. This document presents potential elements for a workplan on CITES-listed medicinal plant species, as referred to in document CoP18 Doc. 55.
3. The workplan is an evolved version of information documents submitted to the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC24) (see information document [PC24 Inf. 7](#)) and the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70) (see information document [SC70 Inf. 36](#)), and contains input from several Parties and stakeholders.
4. The elements of a potential workplan are presented in Annex 1. Overall, the workplan envisions a holistic approach towards aligning sustainable use and conservation of CITES-listed medicinal plant taxa, emphasizing proactive and collaborative bottom-up measures. It references existing CITES documentation, Resolutions, Decisions and mandates, as well as resources, policies, initiatives and institutions that are external to CITES. The Annex contains methods, proposed key actions and expected costs and outcomes to achieve four general objectives:
  - a) enhance mutual awareness and understanding between CITES bodies and medicinal plant trade stakeholders;
  - b) enable efficient and effective making of legal acquisition and non-detriment findings;
  - c) support *in-situ* conservation by incorporating traditional knowledge and networks, and increased attention to local livelihoods; and
  - d) strengthen CITES regulation and national capacities of Management and Scientific Authorities (MA/SA) for implementing CITES provisions for medicinal plants.

Potential elements for a workplan on CITES-listed medicinal plants

Objective	Method	Proposed actions	Expected Costs and Outcomes
<p>1. Enhance mutual awareness and understanding between CITES bodies and medicinal plant trade stakeholders</p>	<p>1.a In-depth analysis of e-commerce trade networks</p>	<p><b>The Secretariat shall</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Analyse the structure of supply value chains, with a focus on identifying key players or “nodes”, e.g. key producers, intermediate traders, or distribution platforms to end consumers.</li> <li>II. Analyse the structure of the demand side, with a focus on identifying influential key players or nodes, e.g. institutions influencing the demand for medicinal plant products in biomedical, traditional and alternative medical systems.</li> <li>III. Assess the findings of <a href="#">PC23 Inf. 10</a> to understand in more detail e-trade in high-priority species.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Costs:</b> Contract a consultant or expert institution (USD 100,000). Some aspects could be done by the Plants Species Officer (JPO) in the Secretariat.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Report to the Plants and Standing Committees and the Conference of the Parties, including a stakeholder analysis of medicinal plant markets, and value chain analysis of products from selected CITES-listed medicinal plants.</p>
	<p>1.b Proactively collaborate with relevant stakeholders from the medicinal plant supply chain, industry and health sectors</p>	<p><b>The Secretariat shall</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Reach out to key players or “nodes” to raise awareness of conservation impacts and CITES regulation of medicinal plants.</li> <li>II. Liaise with relevant actors, such as the <a href="#">Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online</a>, which brings together internet companies from across the world in partnership with wildlife experts at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), TRAFFIC the wildlife trade monitoring network, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) for an industry-wide approach to reduce wildlife trafficking online by 80% by 2020.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Costs:</b> Actions I. and II.: Travel expenses (ca. USD 20,000).</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Actions I. and II.: Strengthened relations with key stakeholders along medicinal plant trade value chains, enhanced awareness of CITES regulations among key stakeholders, and initiation of cooperation for better implementation of CITES regulations.</p>
	<p>1.c Reducing demand for unsustainably harvested and traded medicinal plant products</p>	<p><b>Parties are invited to</b></p> <p>Conduct workshops with key stakeholders, in line with <a href="#">Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14)</a> on <i>Traditional medicines</i>. This could entail to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop public education and awareness programmes on the elimination of illegal use of endangered species, on the need to avoid over-exploitation of wild species and on sustainable harvesting.</li> <li>○ Investigate and facilitate the use of alternatives to threatened wild species, such as synthetic compounds and derivatives of less threatened species, ensuring that this does not lead to other species becoming threatened.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Costs:</b> Up to USD 50,000 per workshop.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Reduced demand and raised awareness on unsustainably harvested and traded products of CITES-listed medicinal plant species.</p>
	<p>1.d In support of the CITES Strategic Vision post-2020, strengthen long term synergies with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in relation to medicinal plants</p>	<p><b>The Plants Committee and the Standing Committee shall</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. In line with <a href="#">Resolutions Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14)</a>, <a href="#">16.4</a> and <a href="#">16.5</a>, and in the process of revising the CITES strategic vision, strengthen synergies with CBD on common priorities as outlined in document <a href="#">PC24 Doc. 12</a>, and information document <a href="#">PC24 Inf. 6</a>.</li> <li>II. Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between both Secretariats, further identify in what form long-term collaborations are of interest to CBD, and whether it could form part of any follow-up to the present collaboration in the framework of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (see information document <a href="#">PC24 Doc. 12</a>).</li> </ol>	<p><b>Costs:</b> No additional costs.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Strengthened collaboration and use of synergies with CBD, collaboration and long-term alignment of priorities with regard to conservation, livelihoods and sustainable use of medicinal plant products.</p>

Objective	Method	Proposed actions	Expected Costs and Outcomes
2. Enable efficient and effective making of legal acquisition and non-detriment findings	2.a Specify the role of certification approaches in CITES	<p><b>The Plants Committee, in collaboration with the Secretariat, shall</b></p> <p>I. Build on ongoing analysis of certification systems (see information document <a href="#">PC24 Inf. 12</a>) with a view to explore how far they would be able to satisfy CITES provisions of ensuring legality and sustainability of international trade in medicinal plants. In particular, consider the <a href="#">FairWild</a> standard, which was developed by TRAFFIC, WWF, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and others, and involved extensive consultation with representatives from government, private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations, and certification agencies. The standard is based on the <a href="#">International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants</a>. Take into account lessons learnt from an ongoing project, funded within the Darwin programme, on certification of <i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i> trade chains in Nepal.</p> <p>II. In line with Resolution <a href="#">Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)</a> and document <a href="#">AC30 Doc. 10.1 / PC24 Doc. 10.1</a>, assess how far existing non-detriment finding (NDF) guidelines are complementary to the information provided by certification systems. If appropriate, propose amendments or specifications to existing NDF guidelines that allow to incorporate information provided through certification systems.</p> <p>III. Consider an expert workshop, in collaboration with relevant Parties, governmental and non-governmental organizations, with a view towards synergies and barriers between certification-based approaches and the CITES permitting system, and towards identifying how and at what level certification approaches could contribute to CITES decision making.</p>	<p><b>Costs:</b> Action I. and II.: No additional costs. Action III.: Costs for an international expert workshop (ca. USD 80,000).</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Action I. and II.: Mainstream existing knowledge on certification approaches within CITES, focused on medicinal plants. Report to the Conference of the Parties, comparing CITES NDF guidelines with the methods and objectives of selected certification approaches. Assessment of complementarities, synergies, and lessons for improving and/or amending NDF guidance.</p> <p>Action III.: Options are elaborated, how and at what level certification approaches could contribute to CITES NDF and livelihoods provisions (from lowest to highest level of contribution: information provision to CITES authorities, partial adaptation of certification procedures in CITES processes, recognition of certification assessments by CITES authorities, joint execution of assessment processes between CITES authorities and certification bodies).</p>
	2.b Enhance transparency and traceability of medicinal plant trade	<p><b>The Plants Committee and the Standing Committee shall</b></p> <p>I. Consider linking the CITES Checklist to existing reference bases of trade names of medicinal plant species (e.g. Kew Garden's <a href="#">Medicinal Plant Name Service</a>) to enable tracing of medicinal plant products and to facilitate communication with and among CITES industry stakeholders, regulation, and enforcement bodies. To the same end, liaise with standard setting bodies, e.g. the International Organization for Standards, which harmonizes specifications for <a href="#">identification and description of medicinal plant products</a>.</p> <p>II. Focusing on priority species, collaborate with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and relevant industry stakeholders to propose systems for tracing medicinal plant products, taking into account BioTrade traceability of CITES-listed medicinal and ornamental species, undertaken by UNCTAD under contract with the CITES Secretariat (see information documents <a href="#">PC23 Inf. 05</a>, <a href="#">PC23 Inf. 06</a>, <a href="#">PC23 Inf. 07</a>).</p>	<p><b>Costs:</b> Action I.: No additional costs. Action II.: Costs for a technical study (ca. USD 50,000 – 100,000).</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Action I.: Adoption of standard terminology for medicinal plants and products facilitates communication, product tracing and recognition, and enforcement between CITES bodies, national authorities and stakeholders.</p> <p>Action II.: A case study report proposes an implementation strategy for tracing exemplary medicinal plant products in complex trade chains.</p>
	2.c Focus CITES regulation on products close to the first point of export	<p><b>The Plants Committee and the Standing Committee shall</b></p> <p>For main products of specimens in international trade (identified in action 1.a III), assess potential revisions of annotations, with a view to reducing administrative burden without endangering the sustainability of trade and the populations of concerned species.</p>	<p><b>Costs:</b> No additional costs.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Report to the Conference of the Parties, proposing potential revisions of annotations, as appropriate.</p>

Objective	Method	Proposed actions	Expected Costs and Outcomes
<p>3. Support <i>in-situ</i> conservation by incorporating traditional knowledge and networks, and increased attention to local livelihoods</p>	<p>3.a Develop effective strategies for incorporating traditional knowledge and local governance in CITES decision making</p>	<p><b>The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Plants and Standing Committees, shall</b></p> <p>I. Elaborate proposals for enhancing participation and integration of traditional knowledge in CITES decision-making processes. Liaise with pertinent institutions, as appropriate. In line with <a href="#">Resolutions Conf. 10.4 (Rev. CoP14)</a>, <a href="#">16.4</a> and <a href="#">16.5</a>, assess synergies with relevant tools and guidelines, case studies, access and benefit sharing, and other aspects of sustainable use of biodiversity provided by CBD (<a href="#">PC24 Inf. 6</a>) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (<a href="#">Decision IPBES-2/4</a>, <a href="#">IPBES/5/15</a>, <a href="#">IPBES/3/INF/7</a>). Take into account experiences in wildlife-related conventions (see information document <a href="#">SC69 Inf. 26</a>), the Addis Ababa principles and guidelines for sustainable use of biodiversity [<a href="#">Resolution Conf. 13.2 (Rev. CoP14)</a>], and resources and experiences developed elsewhere (e.g. Bergmann et al. 20120, Hitziger et al. 2017, 2018, <a href="#">UNCTAD 2017a, b</a>).</p> <p>II. Propose amendments of the <i>Handbook on CITES and livelihoods</i> (<a href="#">Part 1</a>, <a href="#">Part 2</a>) with detailed guidance for participative governance and decision-making, in particular during listing proposals, and <i>in-situ</i> monitoring and management.</p> <p>III. Propose amendments on integrating knowledge and expertise of local and indigenous communities; consultations with local, regional and international experts; and local knowledge on trade in NDF guidance. Hold a dedicated expert workshop to develop new or updated materials.</p> <p>IV. In line with <a href="#">Resolution Conf. 16.6 (Rev. CoP17)</a>, disseminate these methods and encourage their use in the assessment, management and monitoring of CITES-listed medicinal plant species in side events at CITES conferences.</p>	<p><b>Costs:</b> Action I.: Travelling costs (USD 15,000). Action II.: No additional costs. Action III.: Costs for an international expert workshop (ca. USD 80,000). Action IV.: Costs for side events at PC, SC and CoP and dissemination materials (USD 10,000). <b>Outcomes:</b> Action I.: Report to the Plants and Standing Committees, proposing methods to incorporate traditional knowledge and participation in NDFs, and in monitoring and management of CITES-listed medicinal plant species. Action II.: These proposals are integrated into the <i>Handbook on CITES and livelihoods</i>. Action III.: These proposals are implemented in amendments to existing NDF guidance. Action IV.: The guidance is submitted to PC, SC and CoP, and presented at side events.</p>
	<p>3.b Develop best practice case studies of linking CITES implementation with local knowledge and governance</p>	<p><b>Parties, in collaboration with CITES bodies and stakeholders are encouraged to</b></p> <p>I. Develop best practice case studies of linking CITES with local governance mechanisms and livelihood considerations, in a framework similar to the CITES-European Union (EU) project on “<i>Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant</i>”.</p> <p>II. Submit best practice case studies of linking CITES with local governance mechanisms and livelihood considerations to the Secretariat, for demonstrating the benefits of sustainable use policies, and for disseminating best practices among CITES Parties and other stakeholders.</p>	<p><b>Costs:</b> Action I.: Up to USD 300,000 per case study to implement methods in 3.a I. – III. Action II.: No additional costs. <b>Outcomes:</b> Actions I. and II.: Methods for enhancing <i>in-situ</i> conservation by incorporating traditional knowledge and local governance are validated, and their benefits are demonstrated and disseminated to Parties and stakeholders.</p>
<p>4. Strengthen CITES regulation and national MA/SA capacities for implementing CITES provisions for medicinal plants</p>	<p>4.a Revise existing CITES regulations</p>	<p><b>The Plants Committee, in collaboration with the Secretariat, shall</b> Elaborate revisions to <a href="#">Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14)</a>, to render the resolution applicable to all CITES-listed medicinal species, and to reflect specific provisions for trade in these taxa.</p>	<p><b>Costs:</b> No additional costs. <b>Outcomes:</b> An updated Resolution to support Parties in regulating trade in medicinal taxa.</p>
	<p>4.b Assist national MA/SA authorities in taking specific measures that strengthen their capacities to manage CITES-</p>	<p><b>The Secretariat, in collaboration with Parties and stakeholders, shall</b></p> <p>I. Develop capacity building materials to enable national MA/SA authorities to manage CITES-listed medicinal plant species drawing on the outputs from objectives 1 – 3.</p> <p>II. Upload these materials on the CITES website and the CITES Virtual College to make them accessible to Parties.</p> <p>III. Liaise with the University of Andaluc�a to consider options for including content on medicinal plants in the CITES Masters curriculum.</p>	<p><b>Costs:</b> Action I.: Contract a consultant or expert institution (USD 40,000). Actions II. and III.: No additional costs. Action IV.: Up to USD 300,000 per capacity-building initiative to implement objectives 1. – 3.</p>

Objective	Method	Proposed actions	Expected Costs and Outcomes
	listed medicinal plant species	IV. Support national capacity-building efforts for implementing CITES for medicinal plants, drawing on outputs from objectives 1. – 3., and in a framework similar to the CITES-EU project on “ <i>Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant</i> ”.	<p><b>Outcomes:</b> Actions I. – III.: Capacity-building materials are developed, made available to Parties and integrated into CITES Masters.</p> <p>Action IV.: National CITES implementation on medicinal plants is strengthened by focused capacity building.</p>

## References

Bergmann M, Jahn T, Knobloch T, Krohn W, Pohl C, Schramm E (2012). *Methods for Transdisciplinary Research: A primer for practice*, Campus Verlag: Frankfurt, Germany.

Hitziger M, Berger Gonzalez M, Gharzouzi E, Ochaíta Santizo D, Solis Miranda R, Aguilar Ferro AI, Vides-Porras A, Heinrich M, Edwards P, Krütli P (2017). Patient-centered boundary mechanisms to foster intercultural partnerships in health care: a case study in Guatemala. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 13:44

Hitziger M, Esposito R, Canali M, Aragrande M, Häsler B, Rüegg S (2018). Knowledge integration in One Health policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. *Bull. World Health Organ.* 96: 211–218.