

## SUCo-SA Feedback Report on the Plants Committee Meeting

### Introduction

This report provides a summary and feedback from the Plants Committee meeting, still in progress, highlighting key discussions and decisions made, particularly in the context of the Plants Committee's activities. The focus areas include trade in medicinal and aromatic plant species, periodic review of species in Appendices I and II, nomenclature, review of significant trade in Appendix II species, and identification of timber and other wood products.

### Day 1 Summary

#### Trade in Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Species

A study is currently underway to assess the international trade of medicinal and aromatic plant species. This study will be shared with member parties once completed. An in-session working group was established to refine the draft resolution concerning these species. SUCo-SA joined this working group to contribute to the discussion and development of the resolution.

#### Periodic Review of Species in Appendices I and II

An in-session working group was formed with the task of setting a schedule for the periodic review of species listed in Appendices I and II. This group will also identify a list of plant taxa to be reviewed during the next intersessional period until CoP21 (2028). SUCo-SA has joined this working group to participate in the scheduling and review process.

#### Nomenclature

The Plants Committee established an in-session working group focused on nomenclature. This group is tasked with considering comments from specialists on botanical nomenclature to ensure consistency in naming plant species. Nomenclature is critical for the accurate identification and classification of species, which aids in conservation and trade regulation efforts.

### Day 2 Summary

#### Review of Significant Trade in Specimens of Appendix II Species

The Plants Committee formed an in-session working group to review significant trade in Appendix II species. This group's mandate includes:

- Supporting the Secretariat in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the Review of Significant Trade (RST) recommendations for various species/country combinations.

**Executive Committee:** Chair Pieter Swart, (SATTA), Vice-Chair Mr. Stephen Palos (CHASA),  
Sec-General Mr. Trevor Oertel (SAFA), Treasurer Mr. Richard York (WRSa)  
**Additional Members:** Mr. Ron Thomson (TGA); Dr. Herman Els (Natshoot),

- Drafting additional recommendations for the Secretariat to consider in its report to the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78).

SUCo-SA joined this working group to help oversee and guide the review process.

### **Identification of Timber and Other Wood Products**

An in-session working group was also created to focus on the identification of timber and other wood products. The group's mandate includes reviewing the progress made by the intersessional working group on this issue. SUCo-SA has joined this working group to assist in evaluating and enhancing the identification techniques and protocols for timber products.

### **Observations**

The amount of technical data that member states must provide annually is extensive. This data is essential for effective monitoring and regulation of CITES-listed species. We commend the dedication and hard work of our officials at SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute) and DFFE (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment) who compile these annual reports. Their efforts ensure that South Africa meets its CITES obligations and contributes valuable data to the international community.

### **Conclusion**

SUCo-SA's active participation in the various working groups formed during the Plants Committee meeting demonstrates our commitment to contributing to the effective regulation and conservation of plant species. The ongoing studies, reviews, and nomenclature standardization efforts are crucial for the success of CITES' mission. We will continue to support these initiatives and provide our expertise to achieve the objectives set forth by the Committee. The Plants Committee will have a joint meeting with the Animals Committee starting tomorrow and Saturday. The Animals Committee will convene again from next week Monday till Friday.

### **Next Steps**

- Continue active participation in the working groups.
- Provide input and support for the draft resolutions and recommendations.
- Monitor the progress of studies and reviews to ensure timely contributions.
- Acknowledge and support the efforts of SANBI and DFFE in compiling and submitting necessary data and reports.

By staying engaged and proactive, SUCo-SA will help drive forward the important work of CITES in protecting and regulating trade in endangered plant species.

**Pieter Swart**

**SUCo-SA CITES Team**

11 Jul. 24