

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2013/039

Geneva, 4 September 2013

CONCERNING:

Trade in *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar

1. In order to conserve populations of *Dalbergia* spp. (rosewoods) and *Diospyros* spp (ebonies) and to control international trade in products thereof, in March 2010 Madagascar adopted a decree that prohibits the cutting, exploitation and export of specimens of these species. In 2011, Madagascar included in CITES Appendix III the species of the genera that occur in their country.
2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, March, 2013), the Conference of the Parties agreed to the inclusion in Appendix II of the populations of Madagascar of the species in the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros*. The listings are annotated #5, indicating that the only parts and derivatives included are "logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets". The Conference of the Parties also adopted Decision 16.152 on *Malagasy ebonies* (*Diospyros* spp.) and *Malagasy rosewoods* (*Dalbergia* spp.) and a related action plan.
3. That action plan states, in its paragraph 4, that:

Madagascar shall ... put in place an embargo on export of stocks of these timbers until the CITES Standing Committee has approved the results of a stockpile audit and use plan to determine what component of the stockpile have been legally accumulated and can be legally exported.
4. In accordance with this Decision, in August 2013 the Management Authority of Madagascar communicated to the Secretariat the setting of a zero export quota for specimens of *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp. for the period 13 August 2013 to 13 February 2014.
5. The World Bank is contributing to efforts to protect the Malagasy populations of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. by funding three studies to assess the current stockpiles of these timber species and to prepare a plan for the use of such stockpiles. This will assist in the implementation of paragraph 4 of the action plan.
6. Recent information from Madagascar and other Parties confirms that illegal shipments of timber of *Diospyros* spp. and of *Dalbergia* spp. continue to be exported from Madagascar.
7. The Secretariat therefore seeks the cooperation of all Parties to assist Madagascar by checking shipments of timber from that country in order to stop any illegal trade in specimens of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species. This cooperation is essential to the successful implementation of the action plan and the inclusion of these species in Appendix II.
8. Parties that seize illegal shipments of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar are encouraged to communicate information about these seizures to the Management Authority of Madagascar and to the Secretariat.