

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



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 8 – 13 July 2024

Regulation of trade

Identification of timber and other wood products

REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair	representative for North America (Mr. Boles);
Members:	representative for Africa (Mr. Balama), representative for Asia (Ms. Zeng), representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Núñez Neyra);
Parties:	Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and
IGOs and NGOs:	International Tropical Timber Organization; Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, International Wood Product Association, Species Survival Network, Sustainable Use Coalition South Africa, TRAFFIC.

Mandate

- a) consider the progress achieved by the intersessional working group of identification of timber and other wood products and the Annexes 1 to 8 of document PC27 Doc. 18.2;
- b) consider the reflections on the status of the implementation of Decisions 19.145 to 19.147, and the pertinence for any new or revised focused decisions;
- c) prepare draft recommendations for consideration of Standing Committee at SC78; and
- d) report its recommendations to the Committee

Recommendations

- a) note the progress achieved by the intersessional working group of identification of timber and other wood products and the Annexes 1 to 8 of document PC27 Doc. 18.2;
- b) Note that measures and activities outlined in the [outcome document of the CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species](#) address some of the aspects covered in Decision 19.147, and that the Secretariat issued a Notification to the Parties [No. 2024/079](#) inviting Parties to submit information relating to the implementation of [Decision 19.89](#) on the Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species.

- c) invite the Secretariat to, subject to external funding, raise awareness relating to the online resources available on the Timber Identification Resources and Tools webpage on the CITES website.
- d) agree to submit the following revised decisions for consideration by the Standing Committee at SC78 for submission to CoP20:

Directed to Parties

19.146 (Rev.) Parties are encouraged to:

- a) collaborate with the Secretariat in sharing relevant information in support of the implementation of Decisions ~~20.AA 19.145 and 19.147 *Dalbergia* species~~, taking into consideration progress made in document PC25 Doc. 34 and document CoP19 Doc. 84.1, and giving attention to frontline identification materials to assist differentiating look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as *Dalbergia sisso*;
- b) prioritize the development of identification material for:
 - i. priority CITES listed tree species, taking into consideration the prioritization done by the Plants Committee in Decision 19.147 (Rev.) and the needs of frontline enforcement staff; and
 - ii. look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as *Dalbergia sisso*.

Directed to the Secretariat

20.AA *The Secretariat shall*

- a) *issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to provide information to the Secretariat relating to:*
 - i) *the CITES listed tree species in international trade to be prioritized for the development of timber identification material, taking into consideration the prioritization done during the previous intersessional period for African tree species, Neotropical tree species and Rosewood tree species contained in documents [PC26 SR](#), [PC27 Doc 31](#), [PC27 Doc. 27](#), PC27 SR;*
 - ii) *priorities for frontline enforcement as it relates to timber identification, including:*
 - a. *existing diagnostic keys or taxon-specific CITES identification materials for priority species that can be shared with the Secretariat for publication on the CITES website; and*
 - b. *key gaps relating to identification material to be addressed.*
 - iii) *available timber identification techniques and tools used by Parties, the standards applicable to the techniques and tools and the usefulness of these tools,*
 - iv) *minimum information contained in wood sample collection forms or documents for wood samples to be recognized; and all possible fields that are captured in a wood sample collections;*
 - v) *publicly accessible wood sample databases that can be included on the CITES website; and where feasible, information on the process by which other Parties might submit a request to access database that are restricted; and*
 - vi) *best practices and experiences in the development and use of wood identification technologies to build expertise in wood identification;*
- b) *make information shared by Parties relating to materials, techniques, tools and database on timber identification available on the CITES website; and*

- c) *collate this information for the consideration of the Plants Committee at its 28th meeting and Standing Committee, as appropriate.*

Directed to the Plants Committee, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders (new text underlined, deleted text in strikethrough)

- 19.147 (Rev.)** The Plants Committee shall, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and building on information on existing initiatives and processes, information contained in document PC27 Doc. 18.2 and its Annexes and the responses to the Notification issued by the Secretariat in terms of Decision 20.AA, and progress to date:
- a) ~~develop a plan to prioritize the CITES-listed tree species for which identification materials, reference databases and tools should be developed; to focus global efforts on developing and sharing identification reference databases and tools, including sampling campaigns for vouchered reference samples;~~
 - b) advice on possible mechanisms to address the shortage of vouchered reference samples;
 - b) ~~prioritize the development of identification material for *Dalbergia* species, taking into consideration progress made in document PC25 Doc. 34 and document CoP19 Doc. 84.1, and giving attention to frontline identification materials to assist differentiating look-alike species that may not be of conservation concern, such as *Dalbergia sissoo*;~~
 - c) consider the develop a list of available techniques and tools, and evaluate their standards and usefulness to species-specific identification and enforcement for priority CITES-listed tree species and their look-alikes;
 - d) ~~determine gaps in current knowledge sources for CITES timber identification, on their availability and usefulness, and consider challenges and resourcing required to make these tools more widely available to CITES Parties;~~
 - e) ~~develop standardized information templates and other tools that could be used by Parties to facilitate sharing information on the content and status of wood sample collections, and exchange with research institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other authorities;~~
 - f) ~~determine methods to stimulate global, regional and national exchange of best practices in wood identification technologies between Parties, including lessons learned on how Parties have built their timber identification capacity and expertise;~~
 - gd) consider the outcomes of the review of the utility and practicality of the online repository conducted by the Secretariat and make recommendations on its further development to inform implementation of Decision 19.145;
 - h) ~~consider the relevant outcomes of the online Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species presented in the Annex to the Addendum to document SC74 Doc. 33.2; and~~
 - ie) update the Standing Committee, as appropriate, on progress made, and report its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 210th meeting.

Directed to the Standing Committee

- 19.148 (Rev.)** The Standing Committee shall consider any report by the Plants Committee relating to the implementation of Decision 19.147 (Rev.) and convey, as appropriate, any recommendations it may have to the Conference of the Parties.