

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



Seventy-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Panama City (Panama), 13 November 2022

Interpretation and implementation matters

General compliance and enforcement

Compliance matters

Application of Article XIII: Reports of the Secretariat

EXPEDITED APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIII FOR WEST AFRICAN ROSEWOOD  
*PTEROCARPUS ERINACEUS* FOR ALL RANGE STATES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. After consideration of documents SC74 Doc. 28.2.4 [on Article XIII/Nigeria] and SC74 Doc. 35.1.2 [Senegal's document] at its 74th meeting (SC74, Lyon, March 2022), the Standing Committee adopted the following recommendations.

1. *The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to:*

- a) *open an Article XIII procedure for Pterocarpus erinaceus for all range States based on the exceptional circumstances due to pervasive documented illegal trade;*
  - b) *issue a Notification directly after the end of this meeting requesting the range States to submit within 30 days a justification that the Article XIII procedure is not applicable to them, by either providing their non-detriment finding and legal acquisition finding, or by requesting the Secretariat to publish a voluntary zero export quota;*
  - c) *after having received and analyzed the responses from the range States, in consultation with the Chairs of the Standing Committee and of the Plants Committee, issue a Notification informing Parties that a suspension is set in place for all commercial trade in Pterocarpus erinaceus for those Parties that did not reply or did not provide a satisfying justification.*
2. *The Committee called upon the Plants Committee to expedite its Review of Significant Trade of Pterocarpus erinaceus in order for the Committee to receive a progress report from the Plants Committee at SC75.*
  3. *In anticipation of the Notification mentioned in paragraph 1. c), the Committee requested importing Parties to reject all export permits concerning Pterocarpus erinaceus, based on concerns related to the sustainability and legality of the specimens and exercising due diligence having regard to Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on Compliance and enforcement, and requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification to the Parties to this effect.*

4. *The Committee requested that all CITES permits and certificates for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* be verified by the Secretariat prior to acceptance by importing Parties.*
5. *In the light of the recommendations in the Outcome Document of the CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species, the Committee encouraged range States for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* to:*
  - a) *explore opportunities to initiate targeted regional operations with support from the UNODC/WCO Container Control Programme;*
  - b) *undertake risk assessments to develop risk profiles specific to *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and to reach out to the WCO for support where needed;*
  - c) *capacitate and provide training to frontline officers responsible for physical inspections regarding timber identification, aiming to have at least one officer available with expert knowledge concerning timber and access to equipment to facilitate such work, seeking support from the Secretariat where required.*
6. *Further, the Committee recalled the recommendations adopted at CoP18 in Annex 2 of document CoP18 Doc. 34 based on the West and Central Africa Threat Assessment Report, and encouraged Parties to pursue the implementation of these recommendations as relevant to them, also specifically in the context of combatting illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*.*

Implementation of SC74 recommendation, paragraph 1. a) to c) – Outcomes of the expedited application of Article XIII for West African rosewood *Pterocarpus erinaceus* for all range States

3. On 28 March 2022, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties [No. 2022/021](#) inviting the 16 range States<sup>1</sup> of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* to submit to the Secretariat within 30 days (i.e., by 27 April 2022), a written justification that the expedited compliance procedure pursuant to Article XIII was not applicable to them, by either providing their non-detriment finding (NDF) and legal acquisition finding (LAF) or by requesting the Secretariat to publish a voluntary zero export quota for commercial trade in specimens of this species.
4. Eleven range States of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* responded to the Notification within the deadline: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Nigeria was already subject to a recommendation to suspend commercial trade in this species communicated via Notification to the Parties No. 2018/084 and did not respond (more information on the management of trade in specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* is available in document SC75 Doc. 7.2.5). The Central African Republic, Chad and Togo did not respond; and Guinea responded after the deadline.
5. The responses received from the range States are detailed below:
  - a) Cameroon requested an annual export quota of **7,500 tons** of non-specified specimens and provided some information about the legality of the timber;
  - b) The Gambia requested an annual export/re-export quota of **50,000 m3** and had previously submitted a draft NDF document to the Secretariat for comments;
  - c) Guinea-Bissau requested an export quota of **30,000 m3** but has not submitted an NDF nor any evidence of a LAF;
  - d) Mali requested to be allowed to export **163,758 m3** as the outstanding quantity under annual export quotas corresponding to the years 2020 and 2021, and submitted an NDF and a LAF, neither of which was considered to provide a satisfying justification in the view of the Secretariat, after consultation with the Chairs of the Standing Committee and of the Plants Committee;
  - e) The other range States that responded (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone) have submitted voluntary zero-export quotas. In addition, Burkina Faso has requested to be allowed to export a stockpile of confiscated timber with a volume of **3,525 m3**.

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<sup>1</sup> Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

6. The Secretariat then carried out a detailed analysis of the responses received from the range States, in consultation with the Chairs of the Standing Committee and of the Plants Committee. They evaluated the NDFs submitted having regard to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) on *Non-detriment findings* as well as the preliminary outcomes of the Review of Significant Trade for this species (see detailed analysis in document SC75 Doc. 8). They also assessed the legal acquisition findings (LAF) having regard to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP18) on *Legal acquisition findings* and took note of the requests to publish voluntary export quotas. The results of the analyses and the details of the status of each range State can be found in the table included in Annex 1 to the present document. Parties interested in discussing further the detailed assessment of their individual cases should reach out to the Secretariat for bilateral discussions at the present meeting.
7. On 8 June 2022, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties [No. 2022/045](#) to inform Parties on progress to implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee. A voluntary zero-export quota for commercial trade in specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* has been published on the CITES website for the following Parties at their request: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The expedited compliance procedure pursuant to Article XIII is not applicable to these Parties for the period of the duration of the zero-export quota published by the Secretariat. The Secretariat has taken note of the request from Guinea to publish a zero-export quota but for the sake of clarity and consistency has refrained from publishing it at this stage for the reasons set out in paragraph 10 below.
8. Notification No. 2022/045 states that the expedited compliance procedure pursuant to Article XIII is therefore applicable to Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Togo and that a suspension of commercial trade of specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from those States became applicable from 28 March 2022 (date of Notification to the Parties No. 2022/021). This recommendation remains in effect until the concerned Parties:
  - a) make scientifically based non-detriment findings for trade in the species in their countries to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) and based on the outcomes of the Review of Significant Trade process for this species; and
  - b) provide evidence of adequate legal acquisition findings to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP18).
9. With regards to shipments of specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* that left the port of the country of export or re-export with valid permits before the publication of Notification to the Parties No. 2022/021 on 28 March 2022, the Secretariat clarified in Notification No. 2022/045 that it is at the discretion of the importing Party to decide if the trade is in accordance with the Convention and to accept or reject the shipment, and recalled the general duties incumbent upon Parties to exercise due diligence in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*.
10. In the same Notification, the Secretariat recalled that the recommendation to suspend trade is also applicable to stockpiles of confiscated specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. Parties wishing to export such stockpiles despite the recommendation to suspend trade may consider requesting a specific authorization of the Standing Committee through the Secretariat. In addition, the Notification states that the expedited procedure does not apply to the pre-Convention stock of specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Guinea which is the subject of a separate decision, as set out in Notification to the Parties [No. 2022/023](#).

#### Requests received from a concerned Party

11. At the request of Sierra Leone, the Secretariat published Notification to the Parties No. [2022/046](#) of 8 June 2022. In this Notification, Sierra Leone requested technical and financial assistance to conduct a scientific assessment to make an NDF for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, as well as support for the creation of sustainable forestry solutions. In response to this request, Switzerland offered to provide financial assistance to Sierra Leone for the preparation of the NDF. The Secretariat requested additional information from the Management Authority of Sierra Leone on the current status of the development of the NDF to agree a roadmap for its completion with the Swiss funding. In addition, Sierra Leone requested the Secretariat, the Standing Committee and the Plants Committee to consider its request to accept all rejected export permits that were issued for this species prior to Notification No. 2022/021. Sierra Leone submitted a letter, dated 15 September 2022, to the Secretariat requesting the Standing Committee to consider their request to export consignments of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* that were awaiting shipment as of 6 April 2022 (letter attached as Annex 2 to the present document).

Implementation of SC74 recommendation, paragraph 2 – Intersessional decision-making of the Plants Committee: Review of Significant Trade (RST) of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*

12. In accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee at SC74, on 6 April 2022 the Plants Committee began a procedure for intersessional decision-making under Rule 19 of its Rules of Procedure in relation to this matter. The Secretariat notes that this recommendation is covered by the RST process where a progress report from the Secretariat is available as document SC75 Doc. 8.

Implementation of SC74 recommendation, paragraph 3 – Due diligence from importing Parties

13. In August 2022, Senegal informed the Secretariat that it had seized, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18) on *Compliance and enforcement*, 124 containers (approximately 2,480 m3) of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Mali and destined for China. Following this seizure, at the request of Senegal, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. [2022/63](#) of 30 August 2022. Parties subject to the expedited compliance procedure (Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Togo) were invited to take all necessary measures to implement the decisions of the Standing Committee. This includes the suspension (as of 8 June 2022, date of Notification No. 2022/045) of imports, exports and re-exports of specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* until these Parties make scientifically based non-detriment findings for trade in the species in their countries to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, and provide evidence of adequate legal acquisition findings to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee. Following this Notification, the Secretariat had several exchanges with Mali, Senegal and China to clarify the recommendations of the Standing Committee (see the letter sent to Mali in October 2022 attached as Annex 3 to the present document).

Implementation of SC74 recommendation, paragraph 4 – verification of CITES permits and certificates for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*

14. At the time of writing, the Secretariat has been copied on several exchanges between importing and exporting countries but has not received any CITES permits and certificates for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* for verification.

Implementation of SC74 recommendation, paragraph 5 a) to c) – combatting illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*

15. The provisions of SC74 recommendation, paragraph 5 a) to c), remain highly relevant and important. Range States for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* are therefore encouraged to actively pursue the implementation of activities as outlined in the recommendation. Matters addressed by the recommendation are also reinforced in the [Outcome document of the Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species](#). These matters are further also well reflected in the draft decisions on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa* and on the *Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species*, as presented and proposed in the documents prepared for CoP19. Actively pursuing the full implementation of the decisions on these agenda items that will be agreed at CoP19 will be of particular relevance and importance for Parties affected by illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. The Secretariat therefore recommends that the Committee in this context agree recommendation 7 as presented in paragraph 17 below.
16. Further, in support of the implementation of the SC74 recommendation, paragraph 5 a) to c), the outcomes of the Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species, and the implementation of Decision 18.93 on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa*, the Secretariat was at the time of writing in the process of finalizing an agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) / World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme (CCP). In accordance with this agreement, the UNODC/WCO CCP, in collaboration with the Secretariat, will deliver targeted capacity-building and practical training to Parties in West and Central Africa to strengthen their responses to wildlife crime. The capacity-building and practical training exercises will have a particular focus on wood identification, conducting physical inspections and addressing illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species. The Secretariat will provide a further update in this regard at the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee in 2023.

Recommendations

17. In light of the above, the Secretariat recommends that the Standing Committee update the recommendations adopted at SC74 as follows:

1. The Committee instructs the Secretariat to publish a Notification to the Parties to replace Notification No. 2022/045 of 8 June 2022, recommending that the Parties maintain the suspension of commercial trade in specimens of the species *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Togo according to the expedited compliance procedure pursuant to Article XIII, until the following conditions are met:
  - a) The Party concerned makes scientifically based non-detriment findings for trade in the species in their countries to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) and based on the outcomes of the Review of Significant Trade process for this species; and
  - b) The Party provides evidence of adequate legal acquisition findings to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee, having regard to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP18).
2. The Committee notes that the Review of Significant Trade process for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and the resulting recommendations are covered in a separate document (SC75 Doc. 8);
3. The Committee requests that all CITES permits and certificates for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* be verified by the Secretariat prior to acceptance by importing Parties.
4. The Committee invites Parties to exercise due diligence [see Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP18)] and to not authorise the transit or import of any specimen if there is reason to believe that it is traded in contravention of the laws of any country involved in the transaction, or if there is reason to believe that the specimen accompanied by a CITES document may not have been traded in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.
5. The Committee requests Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Togo to report on progress made in the implementation of recommendations 1 a) and b) 90 days before its 77th meeting, in order for the Secretariat to convey this report and any recommendations it may have to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee.
6. The Standing Committee instructs the Secretariat to provide, subject to external funding and upon request, capacity-building and training specific to the making of Non-Detriment Findings and Legal Acquisition Findings in accordance with the provisions of the Convention to Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.
7. The Standing Committee encourages Parties affected by illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, to actively pursue the full implementation of the decisions on *Wildlife crime enforcement support in West and Central Africa* and the *Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species* to be adopted at CoP19, as relevant to addressing illegal trade in *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and applicable to them in their role as source, transit or destination country.

RESPONSES TO NOTIFICATION NO. 2022/021 – *PTEROCARPUS ERINACEUS*

Party *RST/Stage 2	Response (Y/N)	NDF submitted/ comments	LAF submitted/ comments	Zero Export Quota requested
Benin*	Yes	No	No	Yes
Burkina Faso*	Yes (Two letters, 20 April 2022 and 21 April 2022, different requests).	No	<i>In letter dated 20 April 2022, Burkina Faso requested advice on a special authorization of export of confiscated stockpiles (3525 m<sup>3</sup>) The request relating to stockpiles will not be dealt with under the current Article XIII process.</i>	Yes (letter dated 21 April 2022)
Cameroon	Yes	No	Negative LAF (LAF submitted but not in accordance with the guiding principles, practical steps and rapid guide for the verification of legal acquisition contained in Resolution Conf. 18.7 on <i>Legal acquisition findings</i> )	Requested a quota, but not zero (7,500 tons - specimens not specified). <b>Recommendation to suspend trade</b>
Central African Republic	No	-	-	<b>Recommendation to suspend trade</b>
Chad	No	-	-	<b>Recommendation to suspend trade</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	Yes	No	No	Yes

Party *RST/Stage 2	Response (Y/N)	NDF submitted/ comments	LAF submitted/ comments	Zero Export Quota requested
Gambia (the)*	Yes	No	No	Requested an export/re-export quota of 50,000 m <sup>3</sup> . <b>Recommendation to suspend trade</b>
Ghana*	Yes	No	No	Zero export quota requested
Guinea	Yes (submitted late)		-	Yes (outside the deadline).
Guinea Bissau*	Yes	No	No	Requested an export quota of 30,000 m <sup>3</sup> ("essencia"). <b>Recommendation to suspend trade</b>
Mali*	Yes	Yes, but the NDF submitted, in the view of the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairs of the Standing Committee and of the Plants Committee did not provide a satisfying justification as required by the Standing Committee.	Negative LAF (LAF submitted but not in accordance with the guiding principles, practical steps and rapid guide for the verification of legal acquisition contained in Resolution Conf. 18.7 on <i>Legal acquisition findings</i> )	Requested a quota, but not zero (and for 2020 and 2021). <b>Recommendation to suspend trade</b> <i>According to Resolution Conf 14.7 (Rev CoP15), the export quota for the species Pterocarpus erinaceus is of 201,176 m<sup>3</sup> for 2020. From 1 January 2020 to 27 May 2020 (date of the export suspension), Mali only exported 37,418 m<sup>3</sup> of that quota. Mali is requesting to make up for the export of the remaining 163,758 m<sup>3</sup> in 2022.</i>
Niger	Yes	No	No	Yes
Nigeria	No	No	No	Trade suspension in effect since 2019
Senegal	Yes	No	No	Yes
Sierra Leone*	Yes	No	No	Yes (however, high-level authorities requested clarification regarding exports pre-Notification)

<b>Party *RST/Stage 2</b>	<b>Response (Y/N)</b>	<b>NDF submitted/ comments</b>	<b>LAF submitted/ comments</b>	<b>Zero Export Quota requested</b>
				No. 2022/021 and consignments awaiting shipment as of 6 April 2022)
Togo	No	-	-	<b>Recommendation to suspend trade</b>





**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE**  
*Office of the President*  
*State House*

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CITES Secretariat  
Palais des Nations  
Avenue de la Paix 8-14  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
**SWITZERLAND**

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

For the attention of the Chair, CITES Standing Committee,

Dear Madam Ivonne Higuero,

**OUTCOME OF THE EXPEDITED APPLICATION OF ARTICLE  
XIII FOR WEST AFRICAN ROSEWOOD *PTEROCARPUS*  
*ERINACEUS* FOR SIERRA LEONE**

As you may be aware, Sierra Leone has exhibited genuine commitment to the compliance procedure for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* based on document SC74 Sum.13-11/13/2022 by responding to the different communications from the CITES Secretariat via Notification to the Parties.

In response to the Notification to the Parties N° 2022/021, a letter titled "Submission of Zero Export Quota for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*" was submitted on the 6 April 2022 by the CITES Management Authority. This was a justification that the expedited compliance procedure pursuant to Article XIII is not applicable to Sierra Leone. The letter requested the Standing Committee, Plants Committee and the CITES Secretariat to accept a **Zero Export Quota** for commercial trade in specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in accordance with Resolution Conf 14.7 (Rev. CoP15). The Zero Export Quota was chosen as the preferred option rather than the submission of a Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) and a Legal Acquisition Finding (LAF) for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Sierra Leone because it was very difficult to conduct such a scientifically based non-detriment finding that will be

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accepted as credible by the Standing and Plants Committees in advance of the 27 April 2022 deadline indicated in the Notification.

While we await the Notification on the analysis of the responses received from the range States, a letter titled "Request for technical assistance to conduct a science-based assessment in making a Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and the acceptance of issued export permits" dated 23 May 2022 from the CITES Management Authority was sent to the Secretariat. This was a request for the recommendation of two appropriate technical experts to enable us as a country conduct a joint-scientific based assessment in making a Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*.

The results of the analyses and the details of the status of each range State was communicated via Notification to the Parties N° 2022/045 titled "Outcomes of the expedited application of Article XIII for West African rosewood *Pterocarpus erinaceus* for all range States" dated 8 June 2022. Furthermore, in the Annex to the Notification to the Parties N° 2022/050 titled "Intersessional decision-making of the Plants Committee - Review of Significant Trade for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*" dated 29 June 2022, the Plants Committee agreed upon time-bound, feasible, measurable, proportionate, and transparent short- and long-term recommendations for Sierra Leone for the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a) and 3 for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. Fortunately, as indicated earlier, the short-term recommendation which calls for the establishment of a Zero Export Quota has been addressed and accepted by the CITES Secretariat and publication made on the national export quota section of the CITES website.

In relation to the long term recommendations, conducting Non-Detriment Findings for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Sierra Leone is expedient to define export quotas and comply with existing CITES resolutions. The CITES Scientific Authority, Sierra Leone supervised by the Ministry of the Environment, is leading the process, and is guided by the CITES Information Document Inf. 11.3 titled "CITES Scientific Authorities – Checklist to assist in making Non-Detriment Findings for Appendix II exports".

Regarding the request for technical assistance in developing the Non-Detriment Findings (NDF), the Secretariat provided us with the names of four experts, who were contacted to know if they are interested and available to assist Sierra Leone within the shortest possible time. Two of the international experts contacted have consented to submit proposals before the end of August 2022, which will be shared with the Secretariat for guidance in the final selection. This is to ensure that the process and outcomes are credible and meet international standards acceptable by the CITES Secretariat.

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Due to the exigency in providing the Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) and Legal Acquisition Finding (LAF) for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Sierra Leone, the Government of Sierra Leone, through the Sole Timber Export Agent, Leadway Trading Company has provided funds to the CITES Scientific Authority and Team to start the data collection in the field in anticipation of the international experts.

Based on the above, let me reiterate that the Government of Sierra Leone will remain fully committed to the compliance procedure for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* based on document SC74 Sum.13-11/13/2022 and will only engage in a properly regulated and legitimate timber trade. On this note, Government is desirous of having a meeting with the relevant authorities at the CITES Secretariat in Geneva as soon as practicable to further discuss ways of resolving this impasse as well as reiterate our commitment to strictly adhere to due processes as prescribed by the Secretariat in carrying out the timber trade.

In the meantime, Government is requesting for a special authorization of the Standing Committee through the CITES Secretariat to export consignments of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* that were awaiting shipment as of 6 April 2022 within the Western Area. I would like to remind you that there was a delay in the delivery of empty containers because the global shipping logistics had serious challenges worldwide with the global supply chain and Sierra Leone was no exception.

We humbly crave the indulgence of the Standing Committee, Plants Committee and the CITES Secretariat, to reconsider our request because the consignments are legally harvested *Pterocarpus erinaceus* pre- Notification to the Parties N° 2022/021. We would like to emphasise that this request is **ONLY** referring to the old consignments of 160,000m<sup>3</sup> at various depots within the Western Area.

Let me at this point draw your attention to the recent social unrest in the country on 10 August 2022 revolving around unbearable hardships, among others, and involving youth groups who have been working at various timber depots across the Western Area. As reiterated in various responses submitted by Sierra Leone, a break in the exportation of this species following the huge investment made by Companies is having negative impact on the livelihoods of those involved at different stages in the timber trade.

In concluding, the Government of Sierra Leone will continue to enforce measures already in place and devise further methods to help effectively combat the illegal trade. We will further sanitise the trade based on the outcomes of the mandated findings.

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While we look forward to hearing from you, please accept our assurances of the highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Jacob Jusu Saffa

Chief Minister

**CC:**

**The Minister of the Environment**

**Secretary to the President**

**The Ambassador & Permanent Representative- Geneva**

**The CITES Management Authority - Sierra Leone**

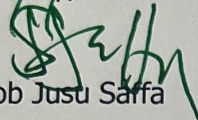
**The CEO- Leadway Trading Company SL Limited**

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While we look forward to hearing from you, please accept our assurances of the highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Jacob Jusu Saffa

Chief Minister

**CC:**

**The Minister of the Environment**

**Secretary to the President**

**The Ambassador & Permanent Representative- Geneva**

**The CITES Management Authority - Sierra Leone**

**The CEO- Leadway Trading Company SL Limited**

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N. réf.: SG/JC/2022/ML/03

V. réf.:

Son Excellence,  
Monsieur Modibo Koné,  
Ministre de l'Environnement, de  
l'Assainissement et du Développement  
durable du Mali  
Bamako, MALI

Genève, le 27 octobre 2022

**Objet : Procédure accélérée d'application de l'Article XIII concernant le bois de rose d'Afrique de l'Ouest *Pterocarpus erinaceus* pour tous les États de l'aire de répartition - Saisie d'un stock de bois par le Sénégal en provenance du Mali**

Monsieur le Ministre,

J'ai l'honneur de vous contacter suite à notre réunion en ligne du 25 octobre dernier avec mon équipe ainsi qu'aux informations communiquées dans vos courriers des 28 août et 4 octobre 2022. A ce titre, le Secrétariat tient à réitérer sa pleine collaboration quant à la résolution de ce dossier et vous prie de l'excuser de cette réponse tardive, due aux consultations rendues nécessaires.

La Secrétariat a identifié une question générale relative à la suspension du commerce et trois autres questions spécifiques concernant la saisie d'un stock de bois en transit par les autorités du Sénégal, des stocks cumulés pendant les années précédentes ainsi qu'une demande de publier un quota zéro pour 2022. Nous voudrions y apporter les commentaires suivants :

1. En ce qui concerne la question générale relative à la suspension des transactions commerciales actuellement en vigueur au regard du Mali et d'autres pays de l'aire de répartition pour l'espèce *Pterocarpus erinaceus*<sup>1</sup> :

Afin de permettre au Comité permanent de considérer la levée de cette recommandation lors de sa prochaine session (SC75, Panama, le 13 novembre 2022), nous vous invitons à faire parvenir au Secrétariat dans les meilleurs délais les éléments suivants :

- a) *avis de commerce non préjudiciable scientifiquement fondé, pour l'espèce, au niveau national, à la satisfaction du Secrétariat et de la présidence du Comité pour les plantes, en*

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<sup>1</sup> [Notification aux Parties No. 2022/045, 8 juin 2022](#)

*tenant compte de la résolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) et en s'appuyant sur les résultats du processus d'étude du commerce important pour cette espèce ; et*

- b) preuves d'acquisition légale adéquates à la satisfaction du Secrétariat et de la présidence du Comité permanent, en tenant compte de la résolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP18).*

2. En ce qui concerne la question sur la saisie d'un stock de *Pterocarpus erinaceus* par les autorités du Sénégal en août 2022 en provenance du Mali, le Secrétariat a relevé les informations suivantes :

Les autorités du Sénégal ont précisé au Secrétariat qu'elles avaient intercepté un stock de *Pterocarpus erinaceus* en provenance du Mali le 10 août 2022 sur la base de la Notification aux Parties No. 2022/045 du 8 juin 2022.

Le Secrétariat a été informé de 57 permis d'exportation délivrés par l'Organe de gestion du Mali au regard de ce stock de bois qui datent du 1 octobre 2021 et du 2 février 2022, ainsi que des 13 permis d'importation délivrés par l'Organe de gestion de la Chine qui datent du 15 et 18 août 2022. Le Secrétariat note que les permis d'importation communiqués ne sont ni signés ni tamponnés par l'Organe de gestion de la Chine.

Par ailleurs, les autorités du Mali ont rappelé qu'un embargo de la CEDEAO avait été prononcé le 9 janvier dernier suspendant toutes les transactions commerciales avec le Mali (à l'exception des produits de consommation essentiels). Cet embargo ayant été levé en juillet 2022.

La Notification No. 2022/045 précise notamment qu'en cas d'envois de spécimens de *Pterocarpus erinaceus* ayant quitté le port du pays d'exportation ou de réexportation avec des permis valables, avant la publication de la Notification aux Parties no 2022/021, soit avant le 28 mars 2022, c'est à la Partie importatrice de déterminer si le commerce est conforme à la Convention et d'accepter ou refuser l'envoi.

Au regard de certaines inconsistances de dates et des informations communiquées au Secrétariat, il semblerait que le stock de *Pterocarpus erinaceus* saisi par le Sénégal ait quitté les frontières du Mali après le 28 mars 2022 (soit après l'entrée en vigueur de la recommandation de suspension de commerce).

Dans le cas contraire, le Secrétariat invite les autorités du Mali à fournir dans les meilleurs délais, toute pièces justificatives qui seraient utiles à l'examen de ce dossier par le Comité Permanent lors de sa prochaine session, dont les informations qui démontrent que le stock de bois concerné a quitté les frontières du Mali avant le 28 mars 2022.

3. En ce qui concerne la demande d'autorisation du Mali d'exporter un stock de *Pterocarpus erinaceus* d'un volume de 163 758 m3 correspondant au solde des quotas d'exportation annuels des années 2020 et 2021 :

Le Secrétariat met en œuvre les décisions que la Conférence des Parties lui adresse ainsi que les recommandations du Comité permanent. A cet égard, nous vous invitons à soumettre votre demande au Comité Permanent étant donné que le Secrétariat ne sera pas en mesure de se prononcer sur cette question. Comme expliqué durant notre réunion du 25 octobre dernier, cette décision appartient exclusivement au Comité permanent qui se réunira lors de sa prochaine session (SC75, Panama, le 13 novembre 2022).

4. En ce qui concerne la demande du Mali de publier un quota d'exportation zéro volontaire au regard de l'espèce *Pterocarpus erinaceus* pour l'année 2022 :

Cette décision appartenant au Comité pour les Plantes, l'Unité scientifique du Secrétariat de la CITES reviendra vers vous avec de plus amples informations à cet égard dans les meilleurs délais.



Je profite de cette occasion pour vous adresser mes remerciements et me tiens à votre disposition pour une possible réunion à Genève entre les 1 et 4 novembre 2022, selon vos disponibilités. Si vous êtes d'accord, je vous remercie de bien vouloir contacter mon assistante Madame Virginia Rothenbuhler par email à l'adresse suivante : [virginia.rothenbuhler@cites.org](mailto:virginia.rothenbuhler@cites.org) afin d'organiser cette rencontre.

Dans l'attente, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Ministre, l'assurance de ma très haute considération.



Ivonne Higuero  
Secrétaire Générale de la CITES

Copie : Col. Major Amadou DIALLO, Directeur National Adjoint des Eaux et Forêts  
Col. Major Mamadou SYLLA, Chef de la Division Réglementation et Contrôle  
Modibo KONATE, Ingénieur des Eaux & Forêts, Direction Nationale des Eaux & Forêts  
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