

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

Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.) and ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.)

REPORT OF MADAGASCAR

1. This document has been submitted by Madagascar.*

Introduction

2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 18.96 as follows:

18.96 Directed to Madagascar

Madagascar shall:

- a) *continue to identify the main commercially valuable species in the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar, in cooperation with the Secretariat and relevant partners, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;*
- b) *continue to make progress in the development of non-detriment findings for commercially valuable species in the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros*, including implementation of appropriate monitoring mechanisms;*
- c) *for those species identified under paragraph a) establish, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, a precautionary export quota based upon a scientifically robust non-detriment finding;*
- d) *continue the production of identification materials for timber and timber products from species of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar;*
- e) *for those species identified under paragraph a), strengthen control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and export at the national level, including seizures, investigations,*

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

arrests, prosecutions, and sanctions, regardless of the title and level of responsibility of the offenders;

- f) subject to available funding, secure the stockpiles (including undeclared and hidden stocks) of timber of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. in Madagascar, and submit regular updates on audited inventories thereof, and a use plan based on transparency and independent oversight mechanisms, for consideration, approval and further guidance from the Standing Committee;*
- g) share with the Secretariat a proposed budget, to seek assistance from Parties and technical and financial partners for the implementation of this Decision; and*
- h) provide reports on progress with the implementation of Decision 18.96 to the 25th and 26th meetings of the Plants Committee and the 73rd and 74th meetings of the Standing Committee;*

3. The present document reports on progress made with the implementation of Decision 18.96 directed to Madagascar. An update of this document will be provided before the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Background

4. At its 16th meeting (CoP16, Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties agreed to the inclusion in Appendix II of the Malagasy populations of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* with an annotation specifying that the listing covers "logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets" (annotation #5).
5. At the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), new Decisions were adopted (i.e., Decisions 17.203 to 17.208) which included most of the measures of the Action Plan and provided more specific guidance to Madagascar, the Parties, the Standing Committee, the Plants Committee and the CITES Secretariat.
6. At the two meetings of the Standing Committee (SC 69, Geneva, November 2017; and SC 70, Sochi, October 2018), Madagascar submitted reports on the implementation of Decision 17.204 regarding information on enforcement measures against forestry infractions identified as well as the management of stockpiles of precious woods and their use plan. Several versions of a draft use plan for stockpiles were presented. The version proposed at SC 70 (Sochi, 2018), entitled "Stockpile verification mechanism and business plan" was approved regarding steps 1 and 2 of Phase 1 of the business plan. The other points needed to be strengthened and reviewed. At the end of the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, Madagascar requested the support of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to review the document, undertake the steps accepted by the Standing Committee and the preparation of the update of the other points not validated yet, including the use plan based on transparency and independent control mechanisms.
7. In 2019, after the presidential election, a new government was formed. The new vision regarding the environment is to make Madagascar green again. Strong measures aimed at launching a major reforestation campaign began in 2019 with a national reforestation plan; the aim is to restore 400,000 ha of forests by 2030 and conserve natural forests.
8. At the 71st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC71, Geneva, August 2019), Madagascar confirmed that the authorities did not intend to sell the stockpiles of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. unless they could control the risk of any sales increasing illegal logging, and had sufficient administrative capacity to ensure forest controls (document SC71 SR – paragraph 14). A note was issued suspending logging, exploitation and exports of these precious woods as well as the harvest of timber from natural forests.
9. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties reviewed the Decisions made at CoP17 and adopted Decisions 18.94 to 18.99 on *Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods* (*Dalbergia* spp.) and *ebonies* (*Diospyros* spp.). At the request of Madagascar, the Standing Committee established an Intersessional Advisory Group (IAG) to assist and advise Madagascar on the implementation of all measures regarding *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. The IAG was to provide advice, assistance and ideas in order to identify the practical approaches adapted to the context of Madagascar. It met on three occasions: on 15 July 2020 to discuss the scientific aspects of Decision 18.96 [paragraphs a) to d)], and on 8 October 2020 and 18 October 2021 to discuss governance aspects [paragraphs e) to g)] of that Decision. At the third meeting of the IAG (October 2021), the Minister of the Environment stated that the Government no longer intended to export the 'officially controlled' stockpiles, and that only domestic use was considered. These

stockpiles would be used to produce handicrafts, works of art of other items with a view to selling them later to international tourists. In this regard, the Minister clarified that the requirements of annotation #15 would be met.

10. In the context of the implementation of Decision 18.96, Madagascar submitted reports to the 25th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC25 Doc. 16.1, Geneva, July 2020 – online) and the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC 74 Doc 28-03-01). Madagascar was not able to attend the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee.
11. At its 74th meeting (SC74, Lyon, March 2022), the Standing Committee considered trade from Madagascar in CITES-listed ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.), based on reports submitted by the Secretariat and Madagascar. At the request of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat issued Notification No. 2022/031 of 12 May 2022 recommending to suspend commercial trade of specimens of *Diospyros* spp and *Dalbergia* spp from Madagascar.
12. Concerning the Decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties, Madagascar supports the recommendation by the Secretariat of grouping all the actions directed to Madagascar within the recommendations of the Standing Committee and not to renew the Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. For these reasons, Madagascar prepared a road map in order to break them down and proceed to implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee in stages.
13. Madagascar recommends that the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties take note of this document and of the progress mentioned.
14. Implementation of Decision 18.96 by Madagascar

Madagascar reassures CITES about the will of the Government of Madagascar to restructure the precious wood industry. In accordance with the current policy:

- The zero tolerance policy is upheld;
- there have not been any exports of precious woods from Madagascar since January 2019 with the confirmation of Instruction Note No. 3 of 29 January 2020, banning any logging, exploitation, movement or export of Malagasy ebonies, palisanders and rosewoods;
- measures of control and surveillance in borders and protected areas have been strengthened, particularly with the SMART system;
- satellite surveillance at sea by the CFIM, the Centre for Maritime Information Fusion.
- the close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice is maintained to ensure that individuals found guilty of illegal logging or trade of precious woods remain in prison;
- the State of Madagascar confirmed the illegality of the export of precious woods to Singapore, specifically 29,434 logs of *Dalbergia* spp (rosewood, CITES Appendix II) from Madagascar seized by the CITES Management Authority of Singapore in March 2014 and the shipment seized in Kenya of 34 containers with approximately 4,400 logs of rosewood (640 tonnes) with an estimated value of USD12.8 million from Madagascar.

With the change of government that took place in March 2022, Madagascar reconfirms its position on the will to restructure the industry.

15. *Paragraph a) of Decision 18.96 – continue to identify the main commercially valuable species in the genera Dalbergia and Diospyros from Madagascar, in cooperation with the Secretariat and relevant partners, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.*

Regarding paragraphs a), b), c) and d), Madagascar has implemented three research projects:

- G3D-EU Project: “Sustainable management of Malagasy precious woods of Dalbergia and Diospyros, scientific support for the implementation of the CITES Action Plan” (July 2018 – July 2023);

- PEER-USAID Project “Building a reference collection for Malagasy rosewood, palisander and ebony identification” (November 2018 - May 2021);
- FID2D-USAID Hay Tao Project: “Determination and implementation of best practice techniques for wood identification analysis: case study of Malagasy precious wood located within at-risk community based natural resource management sites” (February 2020 – September 2022);

These research projects complement one another; their main objectives can be summarized as follows:

- To create a reference collection of accurately identified Malagasy *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species;
- To clarify the taxonomic definition of Malagasy *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species so that the species can be reliably identified;
- To develop and disseminate reliable and easy-to-use identification methods for Malagasy *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* timber species;
- To reduce the extinction risk of the species by promoting *in situ* conservation in the four sampling sites and/or protected areas.
- To establish a conservatory for the genetic resources of Malagasy *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species;
- To train the main players of the precious wood sector in the identification of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* timber species.

Regarding paragraph (a), the main results obtained were the following:

- The botanical prospection conducted throughout Madagascar resulted in the collection of over 4,000 specimens of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros*; this collection represents over 90% of the diversity of these species in Madagascar;
- A reference collection of wood was developed, the “Xylotheque of the University of Antananarivo”, which houses more than 4,580 specimens of branches and stems and their associated timber species, corresponding to 75 *Diospyros* species and 63 *Dalbergia* species. A GW code “Gasikara Wood” is assigned to each specimen;
- Each wood specimen is accompanied by its respective herbarium voucher with the same number thanks to the implementation of a standard collection protocol in the field. There are 2,600 herbarium specimens that include 1,387 *Dalbergia* species and 831 *Diospyros* species from 21 regions;
- The collection of herbarium specimens and wood samples of species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* is available at the DBEV herbarium and the Xylotheque of the University of Antananarivo. Identical parts of each herbarium specimen are deposited in the national and international herbaria of TAN-PBZT in Antananarivo, St Louis, Missouri, and the French National Museum of Natural History (MNHN) in Paris;
- The total number of *Dalbergia* species in Madagascar is 84, of which 62 produce rosewood and palisander with minimum exploitable diameters (MED);
- The number of *Diospyros* species identified is 250, of which 88 produce ebony with MED;
- The conservation status differs between species. Of 33 *Dalbergia* species assessed, 93% are classified as threatened. By contrast, 51% of *Diospyros* species are assessed as threatened.
- Young botanists specialized in the two genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* have been trained and are currently functional;
- About 40 hectares of forests have been restored with over 20,000 seedlings of more than 10 species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* in the sites of Ambohidray, Ampasindava, Tsitongambarika and Marolambo.
- The collection was developed by the Precious Woods of Madagascar Consortium. This reference collection of Malagasy *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species enables the development in the short term of

the wood anatomy identification tool automated by a portable device known as a XyloTron to establish a reference database of precious woods.

- Practical identification tools are available and operational in the field; they are mainly based on the morphometry of leaflets (LucID software);
- The results of the consortium make it possible to improve decision making aimed at sustainable management of forests, traceability and the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs).

16. *Paragraph b) of Decision 18.96 - continue to make progress in the development of non-detriment findings for commercially valuable species in the genera Dalbergia and Diospyros, including implementation of appropriate monitoring mechanisms.*

Madagascar chose three main criteria that were key in the choice of candidate species for the NDF:

- i) Species occurring in forests outside protected areas;
- ii) Species whose timber is in demand in the domestic and international market;
- iii) Species whose identification and domestication are feasible.

These criteria were presented, discussed and accepted during the meetings of the Intersessional Advisory Group;

After applying these criteria and analysing the available data, three species of Dalbergia met the necessary conditions to be eligible for the NDF:

- i) *Dalbergia chlorocarpa* (VU);
- ii) *Dalbergia trichocarpa* (LC);
- iii) *Dalbergia normandii* (EN)

These candidate species should be inventoried in their respective potential production areas so that a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the resources can be made.

Under the CITES Tree Species Programme, Madagascar received capacity-building support in forest management and exploitation inventories and the making of NDFs. As a result, the Scientific and Management Authorities of Madagascar currently have competent human resources for making inventories aimed at producing the NDF.

17. *Paragraph c) of Decision 18.96 – for those species identified under paragraph a), establish, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, a precautionary export quota based upon a scientifically robust non-detriment finding.*

Now that the candidate species have been identified, Madagascar requests assistance to be able to continue the process:

- i) Management and exploitation inventories;
- ii) Management plan,
- iii) NDF,
- iv) Export quota.

18. *Paragraph d) of Decision 18.96– continue the production of identification materials for timber products from species of the genera Dalbergia and Diospyros from Madagascar.*

Three wood identification laboratories have been strengthened thanks to the acquisition of new state-of-the-art equipment:

- i) The *Laboratoire d'Anatomie des Plantes*, (DBEV), which works on the characteristics of cells and tissues for species identification;
- ii) The *Laboratoire de Biologie Moléculaire pour les Plantes* (DBEV), which works on DNA for identification purposes;
- iii) The *Laboratoire des Sciences du Bois* (ESSA-Forêts), which works on Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS);

These three laboratories, which are at the University of Antananarivo, are currently functional.

- As a result, a database compiling the information produced by each laboratory is available and contains: anatomical sections, DNA sequences and NIR spectral signatures of the samples collected;
- The wood atlas based on the anatomical characters of 43 *Dalbergia* and 31 *Diospyros* species is available;
- Thanks to cooperation with the company Agritixx from Malaysia, a practical macroscopic identification tool using a smartphone and a magnifier has been developed for the *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species of Menabe and Mamabaie, the two largest rosewood, palisander and ebony producing regions, and is available;
- From a molecular approach, 28 *Dalbergia* species and 11 *Diospyros* species can be reliably distinguished with two molecular barcode markers (ITS and rbcL);
- In 27 samples of 9 *Dalbergia* species and 4 *Diospyros* species, the characteristics of extractives are very different after NIRS analysis.
- A practical macroscopic identification tool using a smartphone and a magnifier is available. It can currently be used in the field for 40 *Dalbergia* species.
- The characteristics of extractives clearly differ between species. The NIRS can chemically differentiate the wood and improve NIRS predictive models of these properties.
- Ten young researchers specialized in these various areas related to precious woods have received training. They will eventually replace current researchers on Malagasy *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species when needed.

19. *Paragraph e) of Decision 18.96 – for those species identified under paragraph a), strengthen control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and export at the national level, including seizures, investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and sanctions, regardless of the title and level of responsibility of the offenders.*

The Government – Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, MEDD – is committed to establishing the sovereignty of the State on the management of the environment and implementing the zero tolerance policy regarding forestry infractions through forest and environmental law enforcement.

The programme of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development to combat trafficking of natural resources is to:

- End rosewood trafficking and restructure the wood industry by temporarily halting the logging and export of precious woods until the industry is totally restructured, completing the inventories and sequestering and securing the stockpiles of cut rosewood (e.g., seized, declared, still hidden) in safe places in accordance with the requirements of CITES, and establishing a transparent mechanism for the management of the stockpile of cut wood (e.g., calls for proposals, pre-emptive right of Malagasy artisans)
- Fight against the trafficking of fauna and flora through, among other things, cooperation with the French Civil Service (*Service Civique*), a volunteer programme; awareness raising and involvement of fishers in the monitoring and protection of marine resources (e.g., seahorses); development of a memorandum of cooperation with the ministries in charge of public order and security to support forestry officials (i.e., creation of outposts), giving priority to the management of cases awaiting a court decision.

19.1 Measures to fight the illegal exploitation of forests

The Ministry, through its Regional Directorates (22 regions), has strengthened controls at regional level against the illegal exploitation of forests.

In 2020

1,200 controls and patrols, 377 reports of offences, 215 reports of seizure, 185 reports of sequestration, 74 settlement fines known as *transactions*, 342 cases handed over to the court of first instance and 280 conclusions recorded at a national level (81% of cases were processed)

- 70 forest judicial police officers equipped to conduct controls: 3 per region (66 officers for 22 regions) and 4 at a central level (funded by the State)
- 61 forest judicial police officers from the south of the island trained in Antsirabe on 12-13 November 2020 in the framework of the programme entitled *Renforcement Institutionnel vers le Développement de la Résilience Agricole* (RINDRA; Strengthening of institutions for the development of agricultural resilience)

In 2021

- 1,028 forest controls conducted, 217 reports of offences, 125 reports of seizure, 75 reports of sequestration and 172 conclusions drawn, 194 cases of offences handed over to the prosecutor's office in 2021;
- The number of cases settled before trial with fines known as *transactions* plummeted from 189 to 29 from 2019 to 2021. This decrease follows the ministry's decision to apply a zero tolerance policy towards trafficking and illegal exploitation of forest products;
- Surveillance measures are implemented in protected areas. Regarding control and surveillance of illegal activities in National Parks, Table 1 records the number of patrols conducted by *Agents de Parc* (National Park Guards), *Comités Locaux des Parcs* (Local Park Committees) and mixed brigades composed of officials of Malagasy National Parks, the Local Park Committees and judicial police officers between 2019 and 2021.

Patrol efforts in Malagasy protected areas

Year	Patrols by <i>Agents de Parc</i>		Patrols by <i>Comités Locaux des Parcs</i>		Patrols by mixed brigades	
	Number of patrols	Distance travelled (km)	Number of patrols	Distance travelled (km)	Number of patrols	Distance travelled (km)
2019	6,635	97,799	6,772	68,111	208	4,136
2020	8,111	148,402	5,912	89,317	473	7,761
2021	8,402	117,346	5,890	76,619	290	4,556

Table 1: Report by the Direction des Aires Protégées Ressources Naturelles Ecosystèmes, MEDD, 2021.

Control measures in the Rainforests of the Atsinanana

For the serial property (World Heritage Site) of Ala Atsinanana, patrols have been strengthened. Patrolling efforts by the *Agents du Parc*, les *Comités Locaux des Parcs* and mixed brigades from 2019 to November 2021 are shown in the table below.

	Patrols by <i>Agents de Parc</i>			Patrols by <i>Comités Locaux des Parcs</i>			Patrols by mixed brigades		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Number of patrols	1,462	1,343	1,674	1,097	608	774	42	61	46
Number of patrol days	3,995	3,642	4,243	2,758	1,595	1,812	116	150	109

Number of patrollers	328	297	258	616	467	472	46	138	58
Patrol man-days	9,585	8,463	10,563	8,772	6,151	7,052	228	919	294
Distance travelled (km)	22,878	22,667	26,889	10,657	6,220	6,888	759	972	744

Table 2: Report by Malagasy National Parks, 2021.

19.2 Operationalization of the Special Court to combat illegal trade of rosewood and ebony

Prosecutions are under way in 2022; the data contained in this summary table will be updated before CoP 19.

Year	Cases pending	Cases received	Cases to process	Cases processed	Decision	No. of individuals charged		
							Remained in custody	Bail
2018	00	05	05	05	RI/JI	51		
2019	00	09	09	09	RI/JI	60		5
2020	00	01	01	01	RI/JI	10		
2021	00	04	04	04	RI/JI	34	6	25
Total	00	19	19	19		155	6	30

Table 3: Summary of the cases handed over to the Special Court to combat illegal trade of rosewood and ebony (Dec. 2021)

20. Paragraph f) of Decision 18.96 - subject to available funding, secure the stockpiles (including undeclared and hidden stocks) of timber of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* in Madagascar, and submit regular updates on audited inventories thereof, and a use plan based on transparency and independent oversight mechanisms, for consideration, approval and further guidance from the Standing Committee.

Reminder

At the end of the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, Madagascar requested the support of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to review the document, undertake the steps accepted by the Standing Committee and the preparation of the update of the other points not validated yet, including the use plan based on transparency and independent control mechanisms. A funding agreement was signed between the ITTO and the Government of Madagascar. The implementation of this project was delayed since 2019 to a difficulty related to the procedure in Madagascar, the transfer of the funds and the COVID-19 pandemic. However, these difficulties have been solved and the project is being implemented in 2022. The three consultants were hired on 1 September 2022. They are:

- a Malagasy expert in inventories, who will provide assistance on the choice of the appropriate marking system, the development of an inventory method, the assessment of the timber processing yield of the stockpiles of precious woods (*Diospyros* spp and *Dalbergia* spp) and the design of a database for the data obtained in the two pilot regions of Menabe and Boeny
- a Malagasy legal expert who provide assistance in the legal procedures regarding the inventory of the stockpiles of seized wood of *Diospyros* spp and *Dalbergia* spp in the two pilot regions
- a Malagasy consultant for the review of the use plan for stockpiles of seized precious woods of *Diospyros* spp and *Dalbergia* spp in Madagascar

Fieldwork will take place after the inventory methodology has been developed and a marking technology adapted to Madagascar has been chosen,

Technology for traceability

A meeting has taken place between the Malagasy inventory expert, the technical staff of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEED) and the PAGE programme of the GIZ, which developed the QR code system. This meeting allowed participants to learn about the progress made in this traceability

system developed in the MEDD. The system was already used when the ordinary wood stockpiled in the forests was removed. This system is partial because, to date, it can only be used to follow the transport permit. There will be discussions on the feasibility of developing this local tool to ensure traceability throughout the entire timber industry.

International partners specialized in tropical woods have also been approached. They provided contact details of companies that have developed and/or regularly use traceability systems in Cameroon and Gabon. Online meetings will be organized in the coming weeks.

Statistics of stockpiles of precious woods

Stockpiles	ESTIMATED VOLUME	UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
'Officially controlled' stockpiles or 'stockpiles of seized wood' comprising rosewood and ebony (included in the Business Plan)	3,200 m3	Inventorying and marking under the ITTO Project
Stockpiles of seized palisander (not included in the Business Plan)	1,606 m3	Inventorying and marking under the ITTO Project
Finished palisander products		Export in accordance with Notification 2018/007 of 15 January 2018
'Uncontrolled declared wood' stockpiles		Discuss the management of these stockpiles after inventorying and marking the 'officially controlled' stockpiles of rosewood and ebony and the stockpiles of seized palisander

Table 4: Summary of the stockpiles of palisander, rosewood and ebony

Conclusion

Despite the lack of resources available to the Government of Madagascar, the measures taken and implemented (e.g., satellite surveillance, ground controls, coordination of enforcement activities on a regional and local level) to control timber trafficking seem to be effective. There have been trafficking attempts but they were thwarted.

Madagascar remains committed to implementing the CITES action plan and following the recommendations issued by the Committees at their meetings. To do so, regarding the next steps, priority activities will be conducted for the next meeting of the Standing Committee, including the request for assistance from ICCWC to conduct investigations and for cooperation by countries that have seized significant shipments of specimens of rosewood, palisander and ebony from Madagascar asking them to share information that can support the investigations and prosecutions conducted in Madagascar;

Concerning the Decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties, Madagascar requests that all the actions directed to Madagascar be grouped in the recommendations of the Standing Committee and that the Decisions adopted by the Conference des Parties not be renewed. For these reasons, Madagascar prepared a road map in order to break them down and proceed to implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee in stages.

Decisions on Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)

18.94	<i>Directed to source, transit and destination Parties for Malagasy Dalbergia spp. and Diospyros spp.</i>	<p>Source, transit and destination Parties for specimens of species of the genera <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> occurring in Madagascar are urged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) enforce all the measures that are recommended by the CITES Standing Committee concerning commercial trade in specimens of these species from Madagascar, including suspensions of such trade; b) effectively manage timber stockpiles of <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. and <i>Diospyros</i> spp. from Madagascar; and c) provide written reports describing progress made with implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of this Decision to the 73rd and 74th meetings of the Standing Committee.
18.95	<i>Directed to Parties and other relevant partners</i>	<p>Parties and relevant partners, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) enforce all measures that are recommended by the CITES Standing Committee concerning commercial trade in specimens of Malagasy <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. and <i>Diospyros</i> spp. from Madagascar; b) collaborate with Madagascar in the implementation of the agreed parts of the use plan to manage stockpiles of timber of these species from Madagascar; and c) provide technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of Decision 18.96.
18.96	<i>Directed to Madagascar</i>	<p>Madagascar shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue to identify the main commercially valuable species in the genera <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> from Madagascar, in cooperation with the Secretariat and relevant partners, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; b) continue to make progress in the development of non-detriment findings for commercially valuable species in the genera <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i>, including implementation of appropriate monitoring mechanisms; c) for those species identified under paragraph a) establish, in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat, a precautionary export quota based upon a scientifically robust non-detriment finding; d) continue the production of identification materials for timber and timber products from species of the genera <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> from Madagascar; e) for those species identified under paragraph a), strengthen control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and export at the national level, including seizures, investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and sanctions, regardless of the title and level of responsibility of the offenders; f) subject to available funding, secure the stockpiles (including undeclared and hidden stocks) of timber of <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i>

		<p>in Madagascar, and submit regular updates on audited inventories thereof, and a use plan based on transparency and independent oversight mechanisms, for consideration, approval and further guidance from the Standing Committee;</p> <p>g) share with the Secretariat a proposed budget, to seek assistance from Parties and technical and financial partners for the implementation of this Decision; and</p> <p>h) provide reports on progress with the implementation of Decision 18.96 to the 25th and 26th meetings of the Plants Committee and the 73rd and 74th meetings of the Standing Committee;</p>
18.97	<i>Directed to the Plants Committee</i>	<p>The Plants Committee shall, at its 25th and 26th meetings:</p> <p>a) review reports from Madagascar and the Secretariat as appropriate on the implementation of Decision 18.96, and provide recommendations to the Standing Committee and the Secretariat; and</p> <p>b) provide assistance to Madagascar with the implementation of Decision 18.96.</p>
18.98	<i>Directed to the Standing Committee</i>	<p>The Standing Committee shall, at its 73rd and 74th meetings:</p> <p>a) review reports from Madagascar and the Secretariat on the implementation of Decisions 18.96 and 18.97, and make recommendations to Madagascar, relevant Parties and the Secretariat as appropriate, and take measures in accordance with Resolution Conf. 14.3 (Rev. CoP18) on <i>CITES compliance procedures</i> if Madagascar fails to satisfactorily implement the actions directed to it in Decision 18.96.</p> <p>b) consider establishing a small intersessional advisory group of Parties to assist and advise Madagascar on the implementation of all measures regarding <i>Dalbergia</i> spp and <i>Diospyros</i> spp.</p>
18.99	<i>Directed to the Secretariat</i>	<p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) assist in the implementation of Decisions 18.94 to 18.97;</p> <p>b) subject to external funding, assist with relevant capacity-building activities in Madagascar and transit and destination countries concerned by the trade in specimens of <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. and <i>Diospyros</i> spp. from Madagascar;</p> <p>c) issue a Notification calling on potential destination countries, of shipments of illegal specimens of <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. and <i>Diospyros</i> spp. from Madagascar to take appropriate measures to ensure that such timber is not illegally transported or traded, including prohibiting entry, seizing such specimens upon arrival and apply appropriate sanctions against traffickers in accordance with the provisions of the Convention; and</p> <p>d) provide reports on progress with the implementation of this Decision to the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate.</p>

Control of forest products in the regions in 2021

Period	No. of forest control missions conducted	No. of reports of offences	No. of reports of seizure	No. of reports of sequestration	No. of conclusions	No. of cases handed over to the prosecutor's office	No. of cases settled before trial with a <i>transaction</i> fine
Quarter 1	278	54	34	25	40	49	14
Quarter 2	351	94	55	29	90	100	12
Quarter 3	323	50	30	15	32	35	3
Quarter 4	76	19	6	6	10	10	0
Total	1,028	217	125	75	172	194	29

Source: Monthly report of the *Direction Régionale de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable*, MEDD 2021