

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 20, 21 and 23-26 July 2018

MALAGASY EBONIES, PALISANDERS AND ROSEWOODS

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair: the representative of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo);

Parties: Belgium, China, European Union, Madagascar, Mozambique, Norway, Portugal and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: Environmental Investigation Agency USA, Global Eye, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund, and ForestBased Solutions Llc.

Mandate

The in-session working group shall:

- a) review the report by Madagascar in document PC24 Doc. 18.1 and the report of the Secretariat in document PC24 Doc. 18.2;
- b) assist Madagascar in the identification of technical resources in support of its implementation of Decision 17.204 paragraphs a) to d); and,
- c) as appropriate, provide recommendations to Madagascar, the Standing Committee and other bodies and organizations concerning the determination of commercially valuable species of *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* occurring in Madagascar, the establishment of non-detriment findings and export quotas for trade in these species, and the production of relevant identification materials.

Recommendations

The Working Group recommends that the Plants Committee:

1. Acknowledge Madagascar's progress in implementing the inclusive process described in Dec. 17.204 a); encourage continued scientific work as per Dec. 17.204 a); and invite Madagascar to continue to update the Plants Committee on additional progress in this respect;
2. Invite Parties and other stakeholders to support Madagascar in its efforts, in line with the country's list of capacity-building priorities, including:
  - a) training of researchers/technicians (botanists) specialising in species identification;
  - b) raising awareness of stakeholders on CITES implementation;
  - c) non-detriment findings for additional species;

- d) timber traceability;
  - e) forest management planning for CITES-listed species; and
  - f) strengthening enforcement capacities all along the value chain.
3. Inform the Standing Committee that it will need to review aspects of the Decisions falling under its mandate.
  4. Endorse the following amendments to Decisions 17.204 to 17.206:

**17.204 Directed to Madagascar**

Madagascar shall:

- a) continue to ~~develop an inclusive process to~~ identify the main commercially valuable species in these genera from Madagascar, in cooperation with transit and destination Parties, the CITES Secretariat and relevant partners, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with trade in timber of rosewood, ebonies and palisanders;
- 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, and report on progress to future meetings of the Plants Committee;
- ~~b~~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;
- ~~c~~) ~~subject to the availability of funds, organize workshops in support of the implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of this Decision, and to strengthen the national capacity to formulate nondetriment findings, and identify and agree on monitoring mechanisms that include appropriate technology (e.g. timber tracking);~~
- d) continue the production of identification materials for identifying timber and timber products of species of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar;
- ~~d~~e) seek support to address capacity-building needs in line with the country's priority list of technical and scientific challenges;
- ~~e~~f) for those species identified under paragraph a), significantly strengthen control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and export at the national level including seizures, investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and sanctions;
- ~~f~~g) submit regular updates on audited inventories of at least a third of the stockpiles of species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar, and a use plan for consideration, approval and further guidance from the Standing Committee; and
- ~~g~~h) provide written reports on progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) to d) of this Decision to each meeting of the Plants Committee; on progress with the implementation of paragraphs e) and f) of this Decision to the Standing Committee; and on progress with the implementation of this Decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

**17.205 Directed to Parties**

Parties and relevant partners indicated in Decision 17.204 paragraph a) are invited to:

- a) provide technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of Decisions 17.203 to 17.208;
- b) provide technical and financial assistance in support of conducting audited inventories of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar; [Standing Committee advised to review] and

- c) provide reports to the Standing Committee, including information received from relevant partner organizations, concerning progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of this Decision.

**17.206 Directed to the Plants Committee**

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) review and assess reports from Madagascar on its implementation of Decision 17.204 paragraphs a) to ~~ed~~, and from the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 17.208, and provide recommendations to Madagascar and the Standing Committee and other bodies as appropriate;
- b) continue supporting the preparation of a standard reference for the names of species of the genera *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* occurring in Madagascar, ~~to be adopted, if appropriate, at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties~~; and
- c) assist Madagascar in the identification of technical resources in support of the implementation of Decision 17.204 paragraphs a) to ~~ed~~, and if needed, make recommendations to Madagascar, Standing Committee and other relevant organizations.