

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



Twenty-second meeting of the Plants Committee
Tbilisi (Georgia), 19-23 October 2015

Species trade and conservation

Trees

Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and Malagasy palissanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.) (Decision 16.152)

MADAGASCAR
(Agenda items 17.3.1 and 17.3.2)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Co-chairs: Madagascar and Regional Representative of Africa (Ms. Khayota);
- PC member: Alternative Representative of Europe ((Mr. P. Carmo);
- PC nomenclature specialist (Mr. N. McGough)
- Parties: Belgium, European Union, France, Germany, Guatemala, Netherlands, Senegal, Spain, Sweden; Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and
- IGOs and NGOs: ITC, IUCN, Environment Investigation Agency, FTS Botanics, ITTO, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, WWF

Mandate

1. Advise on an appropriate format and provide guidance to enable Madagascar to report on progress at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17); and
2. Review Madagascar's report on the implementation of the action plan.

Recommendations:

1. With regard to reporting to the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties the Plants Committee

a) when preparing the report:

- i) indicates the various stages of implementation, detailing what has been achieved to date, and what remains to be completed, with clear timelines for the latter

ii) highlights limitations and problems encountered in implementing the Action Plan; and

iii) highlight work done on any species facing a high risk of disappearing, which might warrant inclusion in Appendix I.

iv) reviews the formats of other similar reports such as those that may be available from the CITES Secretariat

2. With regard to implementing the Action Plan the Plants Committee

a) commends the progress Madagascar has made in implementing the scientific elements of the Action Plan and acknowledges the support given by the CITES Secretariat to achieve this but notes that some matters are outstanding;

b) expresses its commitment to continue working with Madagascar; but expresses strong concern that no information has as yet been provided on the status of implementation of other elements of the Action Plan

c) recommends that Madagascar should conclude the process to become full member of ITTO, as soon as possible, in order to benefit from financial support in making NDF and for other areas of research related to timber trade;

d) encourages the Madagascar Management Authority to become fully involved in the implementation of the Action Plan;

e) notes the urgent need for technical assistance and capacity building for Madagascar;

f) acknowledges the need for funding to carry out the work to validate the ecological status of *Dalbergia spp* and *Diospyros spp* by the Specialist Group of Malagasy Plants;

g)) encourages Madagascar to help improve the circulation of reference material; the reference samples being exported to laboratories outside Madagascar do not fall under the annotation and therefore not subject to CITES control ; noting that Madagascar clarified the need to work in collaboration with a local Institution when doing research with material from Madagascar;

h) encourages Madagascar to make efforts to improve its internal processes to ensure that reference samples can be sent to appropriate institutions in a timely fashion to facilitate the development of identification techniques;

i) notes Madagascar expressed its concern with the lack of adequate methodologies for timber identification; and inadequate reference material/samples for study;

j) notes the need expressed for additional efforts in DNA work, in particular when sampling from finished products like furniture; in addition to ongoing DNA-based work on species identification, and observed that a variety of wood identification methods, in addition to DNA-based methods, may be applicable to Madagascar.

k) acknowledges the concerns expressed by Madagascar that identification methods need to be simple and user-friendly within the country

l) notes the concern expressed by ITTO at the delay in implementing the project "To establish a reference library of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros spp*". under the ITTO-CITES Program due to signing of Agreements; and notes Madagascar's stated commitment to fast-track the process;

m) expresses concern regarding the lack of data on amount of exports, seizures and stocks in the forests;

n) recommends the recruitment of independent expert/consultant to assist with the stockpiles assessment and audits in order to bring transparency and neutrality to the process;

o) recommends that Madagascar should make public results of the status and inventory of stockpiles, noting that part of the report has already been shared with the Secretariat.