

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 and 24-27 July 2017

Species specific matters

ROSEWOOD TIMBER SPECIES:  
IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION 17.234  
(agenda item 22)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-chairs: the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno) and the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo);

Members: the representatives of Africa (Mr. Mahame) and of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin);

Parties: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: American Herbal Products Association, Center for International Environmental Law, Chambre Syndicale de la Façture Instrumentale (CSFI), Confederation of European Music Industries, Environmental Investigation Agency, Forest Based Solutions, LLC, Global Eye, International Society of Violins and Bow Makers, International Wood Products Association, League of American Orchestras, Martin Guitar, Overseas Traders, Species Survival Network, Taylor Guitars, TRAFFIC, and World Resources Institute.

Mandate

1. Identify the key issues of concern with regard to CITES implementation for rosewood species;
2. Give special consideration to non-CITES listed species of the genus *Pterocarpus* and *Guibourtia*, which occur in international trade and yet are currently not regulated;
2. Based on experience with trade in rosewood species, review document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) and the draft decisions contained in its annexes, and formulate recommendations concerning rosewood species, which may include drafting additional decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

## Recommendations

### **1. Identify the key issues of concern with regard to CITES implementation for rosewood species**

The working group considered the experiences on the implementation of CoP17 rosewood listings, identified under paragraph 9 of document PC23 Doc. 22.1, and drew the following recommendations.

1.1 Regarding paragraph 9.1 (document PC23 Doc. 22.1) on identification of rosewood species, Parties are invited to:

- a) Facilitate access to all the tools, methodologies, and materials developed related to the identification of timber species of rosewoods, and take into account the examples and initiatives developed by Parties and the wider CITES community, including but not limited to:
  - i) The techniques identified under the Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN).
  - ii) The use of chemical markers for the identification of rosewood species, like dalnigrin (for *Dalbergia nigra*).
  - iii) Identification technologies such as Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) and Directed Analysis in Real Time Mass Spectrometry (DART); the former used by Brazil and Guatemala, and the latter used by the United States of America.
  - iv) DNA-barcoding techniques, as those used by the Republic of Korea.
  - v) Anatomic identification initiatives, as that of the laboratory for forensic identification of timber, of the National University of San Carlos of Guatemala.
- b) Develop a directory of experts on identification of rosewood species, and make it available in the CITES website; taking into account similar directories of experts managed by the GTTN. This could be done through a Notification to the Parties, which could also call for the compilation of identification initiatives used and developed by Parties and relevant stakeholders.
- c) Take into account the recommendations of the working group on timber identification established at the present meeting.

1.2 Regarding paragraph 9.2 (document PC23 Doc. 22.1) on non-detriment findings, the working group developed two sets of recommendations:

- a) Related to financing non-detriment findings (NDF) processes, Parties are invited to:
  - i) develop project proposals related to the generation of information needed to develop NDFs for rosewood species, in order for them to be financed by the resources allocated by the European Union, and to be managed through the CITES Tree Species Programme (the terms of reference for this are yet to be published under CITES website).
  - ii) actively seek for financing opportunities under regional and sub-regional initiatives.
- b) Recommendations on formulating non-detriment findings, Parties are invited to take into account the following guidance, including but not limited to:
  - i) CITES Non-detriment Findings Guidance for Perennial Plants (and its future edition):
  - ii) Outcomes of the timber working groups of the "International Expert Workshop on CITES NDF" (2008; Cancun, México).
  - iii) Other NDF guidance relevant to timber species published under CITES website.
  - iv) Establish a feedback process between CITES Authorities and stakeholders along the value chain of rosewood timber species (including local communities, producers, importers, etc.).

- v) Collaborate with other organizations and institutions to develop guidance and protocols for NDF, including but not limited to the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Resources Institute (WRI).
- vi) Map all the harvesting schemes for rosewood timber species within range States (whether wild, plantations, or other), and taking into account a progressive approach, develop specific NDF protocols for each of them.

1.3 Regarding paragraphs 9.3 and 9.4 (document PC23 Doc. 22.1) on enforcement and management, respectively, the working group recommends to convey these aspects for consideration of the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee, stressing the need to discuss at length aspects related to traceability and the implementation and interpretation of annotations related to rosewood species listed under the Appendices.

**2. Give special consideration to non-CITES listed species of the genus *Pterocarpus* and *Guibourtia*, which occur in international trade and yet are currently not regulated.**

The working group recommends the assessment of non-listed rosewoods with respect to the criteria to amend Appendices I and II of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) including those of the genus *Pterocarpus* and *Guibourtia*, as well as species from the genus *Cassia*, *Millettia*, *Machaerium*, *Dicomia*, *Caesalpinia* and *Swartzia*. Specific recommendations on a study for this purpose are detailed in the paragraph *infra*, as well as under paragraph 3 below.

**3. Based on experience with trade in rosewood species, review document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) and the draft decisions contained in its annexes, and formulate recommendations concerning rosewood species, which may include drafting additional decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.**

The working group recommends the Plants Committee to adopt the following recommendations, which are based upon the draft decisions contained in document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1).

3.1 Request the Secretariat, subject to external funding, to:

- a) contract independent consultants with relevant expertise to undertake a study:
  - i) taking into consideration the already existing information, to compile available data and information, and to identify information gaps on the biology, population status, management, use and trade in rosewood timber species currently listed, as well as those that are not included in the Appendices to the Convention, in particular those species that are highly sought after for the timber trade, such as certain species of the genera *Cassia*, *Caesalpinia*, *Dicornia*, *Guibourtia*, *Machaerium*, *Millettia*, *Pterocarpus* and *Swartzia*;
  - ii) assessing the effects of international trade on wild populations of those rosewood timber species;
  - iii) assessing the potential benefits of the inclusion of non-listed timber species of rosewood in the Appendices to the Convention;
  - iv) assessing the enforcement and identification challenges that are posed by the listings of rosewood timber species that are presently included in the Appendices to the Convention, and the potential benefits of the inclusion of additional species in the Appendices to the Convention;
  - v) providing conclusions and recommendations regarding non-CITES listed rosewood timber species:
    - a. whether certain rosewood timber species or genera meet the criteria for inclusion in the Appendices;
    - b. whether the inclusion of these species would present an added value for their conservation;

- c. whether the inclusion of these species, including at genus level, would present an added value to address the enforcement and identification challenges that are posed by the listings of the rosewood timber species that are presently included in the Appendices to the Convention;
    - vi) providing conclusions and recommendations regarding CITES-listed rosewood timber species whether information necessary to formulate non-detriment findings is already available (such as inventories, management plans, harvest, conversion factors, yield tables).
  - b) issue a Notification seeking expressions of interest and contributions from Parties and relevant stakeholders, in particular exporting, re-exporting and importing countries, to provide the Secretariat and their consultants with information needed for the purposes of completing paragraph 3.1 a) and experts contacts regarding international trade in rosewood timber;
  - c) organize, where appropriate, international workshops, inviting cooperation with and participation by relevant range States, trading countries, international organizations, industry representatives and other experts, with a view to presenting and discussing the results and recommendations of the study as referred to under Paragraph 3.1 a) and, if available, the recommendations of the Plants Committee as referred to under 3.1 b);
  - d) make any workshop report available to the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC24) for its consideration.
- 3.2 Invite Parties involved in international trade in rosewood timber species (in collaboration with relevant stakeholders) to:
- a) provide the Secretariat and their consultants with information needed for the purposes of completing paragraph 3.1 a) of this document;
  - b) participate, where appropriate, in the international workshops as referred to under paragraph 3.1 b), and share their advice on the results and recommendations of the study as referred to under Paragraph 3.1 a);
  - c) liaise with governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to share information and encourage the provision of funds to support the work to be carried out by the consultants as referred to under paragraph 3.1 a) and enable the implementation of international workshops as referred to under paragraph 3.1 c).
- 3.3 Recommendations to the Plants Committee
- a) Consider at its 24th meeting (PC24) the outcomes of the study (or its progress) referred to under paragraph 3.1 a) and the workshop reports referred to under paragraph 3.1 d), and any other relevant information on international trade in rosewood timber;
  - b) provide, for consideration by the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18), its conclusions and recommendations.