

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

Regional matters

Regional reports

AFRICA

1. This document has been submitted by the regional representatives of Africa (Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo)*.
2. General informations:
 - a) Regional representatives:

Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo (Gabon), Professor Ali Mahamane (Niger)

Alternate members:

Beatrice Khayota (Kenya), Kirsti Nghidinwa (Namibia)
 - b) Number of Parties in the Region: 53
 - c) Number of Parties responding to the communication:

9 (South Africa, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Madagascar, Mauritania, Namibia and Tunisia)
3. Communication with other Parties in the sub-region and region since PC22 in October 2015

The request for the national reports of the Parties of the region was emailed to all Parties on 13 April 2017, with an information submission deadline of 10 May 2017.
4. Overview of major developments in respect to
 - a) Review of Significant Trade

Cameroon

– Response of Cameroon to the request of the WCMC regarding *Prunus africana*, a species selected for the Review of Significant Trade.

* 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.

- Organization of a national workshop presenting the results of the exploitation inventories carried out in the Mount Cameroon *Prunus* Allocation Unit (PAU).
- Suspension of Bubinga exports as of 2 January 2017 pending the making of a non-detriment finding (NDF).
- Suspension of the harvest of *Prunus africana* in the Northwest Region during the year 2017.

Côte d'Ivoire

- Padauk, kosso or “bois de vène” (*Pterocarpus* spp.)

Since 2013, by means of Decree No. 2013-508 of 25 July 2013, which bans the exploitation, felling, transport, trade and export of *Pterocarpus* spp., commonly known as padauk, kosso or “bois de vène”, Côte d'Ivoire has committed to combat the exploitation of this taxon on its territory. This ban was further confirmed by the country's support for the inclusion of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in CITES Appendix II during CoP17.

Tunisia

Tunisia has included Cyclamens (*Cyclamen* spp.) and Orchids (*Orchis* spp.) in the list of rare and endangered wild fauna and flora by means of a ministerial decree. Species included in the aforementioned list fall under the protection of Law No. 88-20 of 13 April 1988, which amends the Forestry Code. Article 209 of this law prohibits the destruction, cutting, mutilation, harvest, collection, removal, loading, transport, donation, offering for sale or purchase of rare or threatened plant species as well as their fruit, either whole or in pieces with the goal of protecting the national biological heritage and safeguarding protected wild flora.

- b) Periodic Review
- c) Non-detriment findings

Cameroon

- Update of the non-detriment finding (NDF) on Assamela (*Pericopsis elata*) for 2016 using the mathematical and programmatic module developed for the operation of the database.
- Reduction of the export quota for Assamela from 14,500 m³ to 10,045 m³ of lumber.
- Development of the NDF on Bubinga for 2017 currently in progress.

Gabon

Following the inclusion of *Guibourtia tesmannii*, *G. pellegriniana* and *G. demeusei* in CITES Appendix II at CoP17, the Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN), the CITES Scientific Authority of Gabon, set up a platform comprising the public administration, universities, research institutions, economic actors, and non-government and civil society organizations. The purpose of the platform is to collect the relevant data for the making of the non-detriment finding on these timber species in order to provide a basis for their sustainable management.

Madagascar

The FAO-FLEGT programme will support the establishment of standing timber stock evaluation methods. Madagascar will be assisted by international experts with previous experience in similar NDF-making projects. The research proposal on this project has already been drafted since March 2017, the date initially planned for the launch of the project. However, due to a delay for reasons beyond Madagascar's control the project will only start at the end of May 2017, when the international experts are scheduled to arrive in Madagascar. The goal is to establish a precautionary export quota based on scientifically reliable NDFs for the main species of commercially valuable ebony (*Diospyros* spp.), palisander and rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp.) exported from Madagascar.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

– *Prunus africana*

In February 2017, the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), the CITES Scientific Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, submitted the NDF for *Prunus africana* (Rosaceae) in the Walikale II and Ikumbi forest area, Wanianga sector, North Kivu Province, DRC. The current annual quota for dry bark is 232 tonnes.

This NDF, based on the inventories carried out in the Walikale II and Ikumbi forest area, increased the half-rotation period to 8 years in order to guarantee a good regeneration of the bark of *Prunus africana*. It follows the recommendation of the Scientific Review Group (SRG), which brings together the CITES Scientific Authorities of the European Union (EU) member States and closely monitors the sustainability of *Prunus africana* imports into the EU. The aforementioned recommendation was expressed in the correspondence dated 29 September 2015.

– *Pericopsis elata* (Afroformosia)

The NDF for *Pericopsis elata* (Afroformosia) was made in May 2014 and reviewed in 2015.

A first version of the *Pericopsis elata* export quota monitoring database for forest concessions in the DRC was drafted in early January 2016.

During the year 2016, the management inventory reports for 4 forest concessions were submitted to the Direction d'Inventaires et d'Aménagement Forestier (DIAF, the forest inventory and management body) and subsequently approved by the Validation Committee. Several missions to verify the management or exploitation inventories were carried out in 3 concessions by the DIAF, with the technical assistance of the AGEDUFOR Project.

The total export quota for *Pericopsis elata* in all forest concessions for the year 2016 was 56,201 m³ of roundwood equivalent (see details below).

For 2017, out of the 23 forest titles in the range of *P. elata* in the DRC, 8 management inventory reports have been submitted and/or approved up to date. Three forest management plans representing 6 forest titles have been submitted and/or approved.

On the basis of these management documents available at the DIAF, the 2017 quotas have been revised according to the annual possibilities for 12 forest concessions on which there were reliable data provided by the management inventory. Currently, the total quota for the year 2017 for all concessions is 41,108 m³ of roundwood equivalent.

– *Guibourtia demeusei* (Bubinga)

As *Guibourtia demeusei* is still relatively unaffected by trade in the DRC, the CITES authorities have decided not to set an export quota for 2017, pending the making of the relevant NDF by the Scientific Authority. The inventories for determining the potential of *Guibourtia demeusei* in the DRC are already planned. However, the DRC needs the financial and technical assistance of CITES and its partners to carry out these inventories, which will eventually lead to the development of the NDF and management plan for *Guibourtia demeusei*.

Namibia and South Africa

The final non-detriment findings (NDF) on South Africa's wild cycads were published in the National Gazette, No. 40021 of 27 May, 2016, Notice R575, under the provisions of the party's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No. 10 of 2004. The NDFs were conducted by South Africa's Scientific Authority. The document is accessible at http://us-cdn.creamermedia.co.za/assets/articles/attachments/61385_40021_gon575s.pdf

d) Capacity-building

Côte d'Ivoire

In 2015 and 2016, the country benefited from the capacity-building programme on CITES national legislation (on 4-5 April 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, and 13-14 February 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire).

The country also internally launched regional capacity-building initiatives for the players of the timber sector on the implementation of the new legislation in the Forestry Code.

e) Other

Cameroon

- November 2016: Signing of a circular letter from the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, the CITES Management Authority, to inform the national community about the inclusion of *Guibourtia* ssp. in CITES Appendix II and the implications of this decision;
- Creation of a functional database on *Assamela* within ANAFOR, the CITES Scientific Authority for flora of Cameroon;
- Closure of all activities carried out by Cameroon within the framework of the ITTO/CITES Regional Programme. All technical completion reports transmitted to the ITTO.

Gabon

Designation of the Direction Générale des Industries, du Commerce du bois et de la Valorisation des Produits Forestiers as the Management Authority for commercial timber species.

Madagascar

- 1) Creation of a consortium coordinated by the CITES Scientific Authority for the development of a global process enabling the identification of the main commercially valuable species of these genera exported from Madagascar.
- 2) Improvement of the list of the main species likely to be exported, that is, of minimum exploitable diameter (MED), and of the genetic database of Malagasy *Diospyros* species thanks to the following research projects on the 2 genera:
 - ITTO-CITES (TMT-SPD 022/15), near completion. “Establishment of a fully documented reference sample collection and identification for all CITES-listed *Dalbergia* species, and of a feasibility study for *Diospyros* and look-alike species”;
 - Phylogeny and genetics of the populations of *Diospyros* species of the Mascarene Islands “Conservation genomics of Malagasy *Dalbergia* precious woods: insights and implications for forensic species identification”.
- 3) Inclusion in the collection of herbarium specimens and reference wood samples composed of 22 species of *Dalbergia*, 21 of *Diospyros*, and 8 look-alike species from 5 regions of Madagascar: Anosy, Atsimo Andrefana, Boeny, Menabe and Sava. The collection of herbarium specimens and wood samples of species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* is available at the Plant Anatomy Laboratory (LABAP) of the University of Antananarivo.
- 4) Standard collection protocol prioritizing species of MED used, tested and mastered. The specimens were collected respecting the harvesting conditions of the specimens used to develop the various identification methods such as wood anatomy, molecular analysis and mass spectrometry. This protocol promotes and facilitates the sharing of study specimens between partner laboratories. Every sample, harvested from a unique georeferenced tree marked by a numbered label, is accompanied by a set of photographs and includes a series of voucher herbarium specimens for identification, leaves for morphometric analysis, leaves dried with silica gel and heartwood for molecular analysis, wood samples for anatomical analysis and heartwood for mass spectrometry and chemical analysis.

- 5) Production of identification materials for identifying timber and timber products of species of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar:
- Official publication by Springer of the first atlas based on the anatomical characteristics of the wood of 19 *Dalbergia* and 31 *Diospyros* species of Madagascar entitled “Stem anatomy of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species from Madagascar, with a special focus on wood identification”. <http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319511450>. This atlas will provide a basis for the subsequent anatomical identification of the different woods and their derivatives.
 - Completed taxonomic revision of 33 species of *Diospyros*. The related articles are in preparation and in press. The titles of the scientific articles are the following:
 - Schatz, G. E. & P.P. Lowry II. Synoptic revision of the *Diospyros* L. (Ebenaceae) Squamosa group in Madagascar (in prep.), with a description of 5 new species.
 - Schatz, G. E. & P. P. Lowry II. New Species of *Diospyros* L. (Ebenaceae) from the island of Nosy Mangabe in the Bay of Antongil region of Madagascar (in prep.), with 7 new species.
 - Mas, C., P.P. Lowry II & G.E. Shatz. Révision taxonomique des *Diospyros* L. (Ebenaceae) de la région malgache-comorienne. I. Le groupe Gracilipes. Boissiera (in press).
 - Creation of an identification catalogue for 20 species of *Dalbergia*, 20 species of *Diospyros*, and 10 look-alike species available at the LABAP, University of Antananarivo. Identification catalogue of 20 species of *Dalbergia* (of which 18 are of MED), 20 of *Diospyros* (of which 14 are of MED) and 10 look-alike species available at the LABAP, University of Antananarivo.

Mauritania

No international trade in plant species due to a suspension of trade.

Tunisia

Since November 2015 no trade involving CITES-listed plant species has been recorded.

- * Projects within the CITES framework

Côte d'Ivoire

- The country has signed a legislative calendar for the adoption of CITES national legislation with the general goal of ensuring the full implementation of CITES in a national law.
- The country also plans to revitalize its CITES Scientific Authority.
- * Level of issuance of CITES permits for the export of plant species during the intersessional period between CITES Plants Committee meetings.

Cameroon

Export of 5,022.452 m³ of *Assamela* and 686.77 tonnes of *Prunus africana*.

Gabon

174 CITES permits / certificates issued, of which 22 were cancelled for various reasons, for the export of *Guibourtia tessmannii* to 7 countries, specifically China, Italy, Japan, Taiwan, the United States, Viet Nam and Togo. The exported products are essentially planks, wood slabs and beams.

5. Activities of Regional Representatives

Participation of Professor Ali Mahamane (Niger), Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo (Gabon) and Beatrice Khayota (Kenya) in the online Working Group on annotations.

6. Regional cooperation

Namibia and South Africa

A study on the population ecology and extinction risk of *Pachypodium namaquanum* (Halfmens) is currently being undertaken in the range states. *P. namaquanum* is presently listed on CITES Appendix II. This small, succulent tree is endemic to Namibia and South Africa. It is part of an arid-adapted genus that comprises mostly Madagascan species. Like many Pachypodiums, it is sought after in the ornamental plant trade. Locally, *P. namaquanum* is an icon in the folklore of the indigenous people as well as in the ecotourism of the arid region where it occurs. Some peculiarities about this species have attracted the attention of science, such as the permanent, northward bend of the plant's shoot, as well as a number of features commonly regarded as primitive, which suggest that the species is possibly a lineage of considerable age. Illegal collection from the wild has been the most frequently cited threat. CITES permits for international export of artificially propagated material have been issued by South Africa. The study was initiated in response to ongoing concerns about the perceived decline of the species in the wild. It started in 2012 as a joint field survey by the range states to assess the status of the specie in the wild, and is currently continuing, since mid 2016, as an academic postgraduate study to build on the previous survey. One of the objectives of the study is to assess the role of wild collection in the perceived decline of the species.

7. Meetings and workshops

Cameroon

Cameroon organized and/or took part in several workshops with the aim of implementing the CITES Convention:

- July 2016, Kribi, Cameroon: Organization of a regional experience-sharing workshop in the framework of the ITTO-CITES Regional Programme bringing together all the Party States concerned (i.e., Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Cameroon);
- August 2016: Participation of a delegation from Cameroon in the regional preparatory meeting for CoP17;
- September 2016 – October 2016: Participation of a delegation from Cameroon in CoP17;
- Organization of a national workshop to present the results of the exploitation inventories carried out in the Mount Cameroon *Prunus* Allocation Unit (PAU);
- Participation in the online Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species established by the CITES Plants Committee;
- 27 December 2016: Consultation with all stakeholders involved in the management of Bubinga in Cameroon on the making of the NDF for this species following its inclusion in CITES Appendix II during the latest meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (South Africa);
- 25-28 April 2017: Organization of a joint CITES-Customs workshop in Cameroon on the legal aspects of the timber trade between Cameroon and China, the exchange of experiences, and the development of a network between the representatives of China, Cameroon and the Congo (Traffic, WWF, IUCN, MINFOF, DFID, GIZ);
- Circular letter addressed to the regional delegates from the *Prunus africana* harvest areas on the monitoring of the implementation of the management plans and the respect of operating standards.

Côte d'Ivoire

In the framework of the implementation of CITES, Côte d'Ivoire took part in several regional and international workshops, in particular those related to the preparation of CoP17. They are listed below:

- 15-17 March 2016, Nairobi, Kenya: Workshop on the synergies between the various biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs);

- 15-17 March 2016, Dakar, Senegal: Consensus-building workshop on the draft resolutions to be submitted to CoP17;
- 27-28 July 2016, Dakar, Senegal: Subregional workshop for the preparation of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP17);
- 8-12 August 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Mixed African regional meeting for the preparation of the 17th Conference of the Parties to CITES;
- 24 September-5 October 2016: Participation in CITES CoP17.

Gabon

Gabon took part in several regional and international workshops, in particular those related to the preparation of CoP17. They are listed below:

- 15-17 March 2016, Dakar, Senegal: Consensus-building workshop on the draft resolutions to be submitted to CoP17;
- 27-28 July 2016, Dakar, Senegal: Subregional workshop for the preparation of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP17);
- 8-12 August 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Mixed African regional meeting for the preparation of the 17th Conference of the Parties to CITES;
- 24 September-5 October 2016: Participation in CITES CoP17;
- 7-9 February 2017, La Antigua, Guatemala: International workshop on tree species in CITES.

Namibia and South Africa

A wildlife trade workshop for SADC (Southern African Development Community) countries was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, over the period 26-30 June 2016. It focused on CITES trade and implementation in the subregion. The agenda included items of PC and AC common interest, such as Use of databases for CITES implementation, Making of non-detriment findings, Annual reporting, and Priorities for future work.