

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

29. Periodic Review of species included in Appendices I and II

29.2 Selection of species for the Periodic Review ..... PC23 Doc. 29.2

and

29.3 Periodic Review of *Hedychium philippinense* ..... PC23 Doc. 29.3

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 1 with the following amendment:

- correct the typo in the first word of paragraph 5 b).

The Committee noted that Zimbabwe expressed an interest in undertaking a review for *Encephalartos concinnus* and *Encephalartos manikensis*.

22. Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

22.1 Implementation of Decision 17.234 ..... PC23 Doc. 22.1

and

22.2 International trade in rosewood timber species ..... PC23 Doc. 22.2

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 2 as follows:

Regarding suggestions for the interpretation of annotation #15, as provided in paragraph 5 of document PC23 Doc. 22.2

1. These recommendations regarding the interpretation of the term “non-commercial purposes” are provided with consideration of the conservation value of the annotation, as non-commercial transactions should not represent a pressure on wild populations in terms of the quantity of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* wood in trade.
2. The recommendations represent the majority view of the working group members.

Regarding Interpretation of the term “non-commercial”

3. It is recommended that the following transactions be considered “non-commercial”:
  - i) the cross-border movement of musical instruments for purposes including, but not limited to, personal use, paid or unpaid performance, display, or competition (e.g. on a temporary exhibition), and when the instrument is returned to the country where the instrument is normally held.

Regarding i) it is recommended to explore further options with respect to display when the instrument returns to the country of export (e.g., for tradeshows)

- ii) the cross-border movement of an item (such as a musical instrument), for the purpose of being repaired is considered as a non-commercial transaction, in view of the fact that the item will remain under the ownership of the same person and that such transport will not lead to the sale of the item. The return to the seller or manufacturer of a product under warranty after sale service should also be considered as a non-commercial transaction.
- iii) the cross-border movement of a shipment containing multiple items sent for one of the above purposes (e.g. a shipment of musical instruments being jointly sent for the purpose of being repaired), provided that the individual portion of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species present in each item weighs less than 10 kg and would therefore, if traveling separately, qualify for the exemption;
- iv) the loan of specimens for exhibition in museums, competition or performance purposes.

Regarding interpretation of the term "10 kg per shipment"

- 4. For shipments for non-commercial purposes, it is suggested that this 10 kg weight limit be interpreted as referring to the weight of the portions of the items in the shipment made of wood of the species concerned. In other words, the 10 kg limit is to be assessed against the weight of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* portions contained in the items of the shipment, rather than against the total weight of the shipment.

Regarding interpretation of paragraph b) of annotation #15 in the case of orchestras, music ensembles and similar groups which travel with all instruments in the form of a "consolidated shipment"

- 5. The cross-border movement of musical instruments in a container, together with or prior to the travelling of the orchestra, is considered as a "consolidated shipment". In such cases, the total weight of wood of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species in the instruments constituting the "consolidated shipment" is likely to exceed 10 kg. Such "consolidated shipment" should nonetheless not require a CITES document, considering that the individual portion of wood of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species present in each instrument weighs less than 10 kg and that the related instrument would therefore, if travelling separately, qualify for the exemption. However, if the weight of wood of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species subject to annotation #15 present in any individual instrument exceeds 10 kg, this specific instrument would require a CITES document.

Regarding identification of specimens at species or genus level on CITES permits and certificates

- 6. Specimens should, as far as possible, be identified at species level (e.g. *Dalbergia melanoxydon*) on CITES permits and certificates. However, in the absence of such information and in exceptional cases, it was suggested that specimens may be identified on CITES permits and certificates at genus level (*Dalbergia* spp.), in particular in the case of worked items such as musical instruments or in the case of pre-Convention specimens. It was nonetheless advised that, when the specimen is identified at the genus level, it should be indicated on such documents that the specimens concerned do not contain wood of the species *Dalbergia nigra* when this is actually the case.
- 7. It is recommended that the Standing Committee discuss further the need to indicate on CITES documents when the specimens do not contain wood of the species *Dalbergia nigra* when this is actually the case.

Regarding marking requirements:

- 8. Any existing number, or other marks of identification, should be indicated on the corresponding CITES permit or certificate with a view to facilitating identification of the instrument linked to the permit or certificate.

Regarding suggestions for amending annotation #15, as provided in paragraph 7 of document PC23 Doc.22.2

- 9. The working group recommended that further research and studies may be warranted to get a better understanding of species, products and volumes in trade, as well as regarding the impact of international trade on the conservation status of these species. It was further recommended that any future studies should ensure no duplication of study as directed by other relevant Decisions of the Conference of the Parties, and carefully consider the timeline for the study.
- 10. Working group members provided their initial ideas regarding #15 and potential amendments. The ideas below do not represent consensus ideas but rather the ideas expressed by individual working group members.

- i) A study as proposed above is needed before changes are proposed to the annotation
- ii) A harmonized interpretation of the current annotation needs to be adopted
- iii) Delete the term non-commercial to simplify implementation
- iv) Exempt finished products such as musical instruments
- v) Exempt finished products with a small volume of the species contained within
- vi) Formally specify that the annotation also applies to re-export and that the 10 kg applies to the quantity of *Dalbergia/Guibourtia* species in each item shipped
- vii) Be cautious when considering removal of 'non-commercial' until the implications with respect to conservation impact are better understood
- viii) Possible amendments to the annotation should take into consideration guidance on the use of annotations in Resolution Conf. 11.21 (Rev. CoP17)
- ix) Learn from the experience of Thailand with respect to #6
- x) Consider having a new separate annotation for *Dalbergia* spp.

The Committee recommended that the above recommendations be submitted for consideration by the Standing Committee, in particular the Standing Committee working group on annotations.

The Committee noted that the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) and the acting representative of North America (Ms. Camarena Osorno) should be included as members of the working group.

### 31. Standard nomenclature

31.1 Report of the specialist on botanical nomenclature ..... PC23 Doc. 31.1

and

31.2 Change of taxonomic nomenclature of *Caesalpinia echinata* and its potential implications for trade data and control ..... PC23 Doc. 31.2

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 3 with the following amendments:

- correct the name of the representative of Africa: Mr. Mahamane;
- include Malta as member of the working group; and
- in paragraph 10, last line, insert “in” between “are included” and “the *Checklist of CITES Species*”.

### 27. East African sandalwood (*Osyris lanceolata*) ..... PC23 Doc. 27

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 4 and agreed that the workplan be annexed to document PC23 Com. 4.

### 19. Definition of the term 'artificially propagated'

19.1 Report of the Secretariat ..... PC23 Doc. 19.1

and

19.2 Report on production systems for tree species, plantations and definition of the term 'artificially propagated' ..... PC23 Doc. 19.2

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 6 with the following amendments:

- include the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) as member of the intersessional working group;
- include “Resolution Conf. 16.10” at the end of paragraph c) of the mandate;
- include a new subparagraph e) in the mandate: “explore a definition of plantation”, with paragraph e) becoming paragraph f); and
- include in paragraph 6, after “a possible new source code”: “, keeping in mind non-detriment findings and legal acquisition requirements”.

18. Timber identification

18.1 Implementation of Decisions 17.166 to 17.169..... PC23 Doc. 18.1

and

18.2 Adaptation of the macroscopical timber identification tool  
CITESwoodID to CoP17 timber listings..... PC23 Doc. 18.2

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 7 with the following amendments:

- include Canada as a co-Chair of the working group and the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) and the acting representative of Europe (Ms. Moser) as a members of the working group;
- “Concerning to agenda item 18.1” should read “Concerning agenda item 18.1” on page 1 and “Concerning agenda item 18.2” on page 2;
- in paragraph 1 c), delete “n” in “sent” to read “webpage set up by the Secretariat”;
- add at the end of paragraph 1 g): “that require new checklists and that other nomenclature issues be referred to the Plants Committee for consideration”;
- delete paragraph 1 i); and
- paragraph 2 should read: “The working group notes that the CITESwoodID can be used as a tool for enforcement officers after they are trained to utilize it, and in training workshops. The working group further notes that an updated version of the CITESwoodID, which will be published in November 2017, will be made available on the CITES website, along with other identification tools.”

32. Annotations for Appendix II orchids ..... PC23 Doc. 32

The Committee adopted the workplan of the intersessional working group on Appendix-II orchids’ annotations in document PC23 Com. 8.

11. Non-detriment findings

11.2 Guidance on making non-detriment findings for plants .....PC23 Doc. 11.2

The Committee invited Germany to report to the Plants Committee at its 24th meeting on progress with its 9-Steps-NDF-Guidance for plants.

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

21.1 Report of Madagascar on implementation of  
Decision 17.204, paragraphs a) to d)..... PC23 Doc. 21.1

The Committee noted document PC23 Doc. 21.1 and requested the Secretariat to continue to support Madagascar, notably by liaising with Parties that have asked Madagascar to share samples from its reference collections and with Singapore for samples of the shipment seized by this country.

21.2 Report of the Secretariat on implementation of Decision 17.208..... No document

The Committee noted the oral update provided by the Secretariat.

14. Cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity ..... PC23 Doc. 14

The Committee agreed to include in its work programme the following tasks:

- a) update Annex 1 to document CoP17 Doc. 14.6 (Rev. 1) (the latest version is currently updated up to 2016). This might include re-issuing a Notification with a questionnaire, similar to that of Notification 2016/046.
- b) update the information called for in Decision 17.54, and in particular taking into account the recent outcomes of the amendments to the Appendices adopted at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Committee requested that the Secretariat send the updated report identified in Decision 17.53 and communicate ongoing progress of CITES to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in a timely manner, by official means, to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

15. Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species

15.2 Species selected following CoP16 ..... PC23 Doc. 15.2

and

15.3 Selection of species for trade reviews following CoP17 ..... PC23 Doc. 15.3

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 5 with the following amendments:

- include the representative of Asia (Mr. Lee) as a member of the working group; and
- replace paragraph 1 on page 3 under “Additional recommendations concerning agenda item 15.2” by: “The working group notes that while there is no recent legal CITES reported trade in wild specimens of *Dendrobium chrysotoxum* and *Dendrobium moschatum* from Lao People’s Democratic Republic, field-based studies have indicated continued large-scale unreported international trade in *Dendrobium* species from that country, including *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*. This is at odds with the sudden reported shift in trade from wild-sourced specimens to artificially-propagated specimens, noting that these species are difficult to cultivate. The working group recommends that this issue be referred to the Standing Committee, noting the ongoing Standing Committee’s processes for this country.”
- modify the long-term action for *Prunus africana*/Cameroon and *Prunus africana*/Democratic Republic of the Congo by replacing “regional” by “subregional”;
- for 6(a) *Pterocarpus santalinus*/India, delete the title “Short-term action”, delete the first bullet under short-term action, and remove the time-frame of 3 months;
- delete 6(b) Recommendation to the Standing Committee for *Pterocarpus santalinus*/India;

24. African tree species ..... PC23 Doc. 24

The Committee noted that the intersessional working group on African tree species would have the representative of Africa (Mr. Mahamane) as another co-Chair.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in document PC23 Com. 9.

22. Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

22.1 Implementation of Decision 17.234 ..... PC23 Doc. 22.1

and

22.2 International trade in rosewood timber species ..... PC23 Doc. 22.2

The Committee noted that the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Belletón Chacón and Ms. Rauber Coradin) should be included as member of the working group.

The Committee adopted the recommendations in paragraph 1 of document PC23 Com. 10 as follows:

The Plants Committee recommended that Parties be encouraged 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 University of Copenhagen, Denmark; and
  - 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 a similar directory of experts under development by GTTN and the World Resources Institute. 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;
- d) Related to financing non-detriment findings (NDF) processes:
  - 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); and
  - ii) actively seek for financing opportunities under regional and sub-regional initiatives;
- e) Related to the formulating non-detriment findings, to take into account the following guidance, including but not limited to:
  - i) CITES Non-detriment Findings Guidance for Perennial Plants (and its future adaptation for timber);
  - 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;
  - 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; and
- f) Provide information on whether certain rosewood timber species or genera meet the criteria for inclusion in the Appendices; whether the inclusion of these species would present an added value for their conservation; and 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.

Regarding paragraphs 9.3 and 9.4 (document PC23 Doc. 22.1) on enforcement and management, respectively, the Plants Committee recommended 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.

With regards paragraphs 2 and 3 of document PC23 Com. 10, the Plants Committee agreed to submit these elements for consideration by the Standing Committee.

Adoption of executive summary PC23 Sum. 3

The Committee adopted executive summary PC23 Sum. 3 with the following amendment:

- under Adoption of executive summary PC23 Sum. 2, include “for the working group on annotation #15 on page 5, delete the word “intersessional”,” and “for the working group on non-CITES listed rosewood species on page 6, delete the word “intersessional”,”

36. Time and venue of the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee..... No document

The Committee noted that the Secretariat had provisionally booked a venue to hold back-to-back meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees (their 30th and 24th meetings respectively) from 16 July to 27 July 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

37. Closing remarks..... No document

The Chair thanked the Committee members, and in particular Party observers, IGO and NGO observers, the interpreters and the Secretariat, and closed the meeting.