

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

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

Species specific matters

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

REPORT OF MADAGASCAR

1. This document has been submitted by Madagascar\*.
2. The table below sums up Madagascar's progress and corresponds to the implementation of Decision 17.204 under points a, b, c, on Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.), palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.) since the timber of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. was listed as "populations of Madagascar" in Appendix II of CITES.

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\* 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.

#### 17.204: Directed to *Madagascar*:

- 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;

Date/Situation	Madagascar's progress	Comments
2018	Progress on the in-depth morphological analysis of available herbarium specimens on species in the genus <i>Dalbergia</i> Precious wood from Madagascar consortium (University of Antananarivo, ETH Zurich, MBG)	<p>The taxonomy currently available for Malagasy species of <i>Dalbergia</i> is far from adequate and thus needs to be fine-tuned and updated. Malagasy species can be distinguished from each other by the characteristics of their flowers and fruit. The availability of flowers, fruit and vegetative parts is thus necessary in order to identify the species. Recent works suggest that the leaf morphology, notoriously variable in the genus <i>Dalbergia</i>, can nevertheless be useful for differentiating the various species. Consequently, a large number of differences between the species were based on the incremental characteristics that sometimes reveal considerable variations and overlaps, which makes it even more complicated to achieve non-ambiguous identifications. Moreover, the current taxonomic treatment recognizes numerous infraspecific taxa (two species are divided into subspecies and six species are divided into varieties). The identification of species and their origin cannot be based on logs, and the reliable identification needs to be improved and validated.</p> <p>Species like these with a wide distribution are currently delimited. They vary morphologically in their geographic range and can be attributed to several different taxonomic entities. In conclusion, the nomenclature of Malagasy <i>Dalbergia</i> species constitutes an obstacle for the identification of trees in trade listed under CITES. Taxonomic clarification and review are required. In total, around half of the 48 species currently recognized appear well defined. However, other species will have to be subject to an in-depth study in order to reassess their limits. It will also be necessary to develop more practical identification tools, which can be used when no flowers or fruit are present (as is often the case).</p>
2018-2021	Palynology, anatomy and genetic diversity of some of the most exploited <i>Dalbergia</i> species	In order to bring together all the missing taxonomic elements, an in-depth study of the morphologies and the palynological, anatomic and genetic variations has just been undertaken as part of a doctoral thesis. The aim of this thesis is to (1) Collect and analyse the pollen of Malagasy <i>Dalbergia</i> species, based on herbarium specimens, to (2) Describe the anatomy of the vegetative organs (young stems, petioles, folioles) and to (3) Study the genetic variations of wide-ranging <i>Dalbergia</i> species. The herbarium species in the herbaria at TAN (Tsimbazaza), TEF (Ambatobe), and DBEV (Faculty of Sciences: Plant Biology

		and Ecology), P (MNHN) and Z (University of Zurich) will be analysed for this purpose. The laboratory work will be carried out in the palynology and anatomy laboratories at the University of Antananarivo.
2018-2022	Project: "Sustainable management of the Malagasy <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> precious woods, scientific support for the implementation of the CITES action plan" Funding: European Union	<p>The main objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of the CITES Scientific Authority-Flora in response to the scientific requirements for the establishment of an NDF. This covers in particular the taxonomic clarifications and the development of identification techniques and methods allowing for the implementation of the CITES regulations for Malagasy <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> species listed under Appendix II.</p> <p><i>The specific objectives are:</i></p> <p>1/ To clarify the taxonomic definition of Malagasy <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> species in order to allow for the reliable identification of species through the creation of a reference collection (leaves, fruit, flowers, timber);</p> <p>2/ To develop and disseminate reliable and easy-to-use identification methods for Malagasy <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> timber species designed to support CITES in the monitoring of trade;</p> <p>3/ To establish a conservatory for the genetic resources of Malagasy <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> species;</p> <p>4/ To train the main players in the precious wood sector in the identification of <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> timber species.</p>

Remarks: The taxonomic review of Malagasy *Dalbergia* species is fully based on the collections of samples in the field within the framework of projects that will be started at a later date by the European Union and EU-FAO FLEGT. This study will give priority to the identification and taxonomic delimitation of the main species of commercial value that are listed under CITES.

- b) 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;

May 2018 – July 2019	Project: "Support for the strengthening of forest governance and the implementation of the CITES Action Plan for Malagasy precious woods through the formulation of pilot non-detriment findings (NDFs) for <i>Dalbergia</i> species with a limited range" Funding: EU-FAO FLEGT programme	<p>The objective of this project is to carry out the relevant inventories for the formulation of pilot NDFs for three species of precious wood (<i>D. normandii</i>, <i>D. lemurica</i>, <i>D. suaresensis</i>) within a transparent and didactic framework, to start a collaborative national dynamic in order to contribute to the establishment of a sustainable policy for the exploitation of forests in Madagascar, more specifically in the KoloAla sites and category V and VI NPAs.</p> <p>Madagascar is supported by national experts in the execution of this project.</p> <p>An initial version of the NDFs (scientific aspects) will be completed for presentation to the Parties to CITES during a side-event, which will be organized by Madagascar during CoP18 (Sri Lanka, from 28 May to 3 June</p>
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		2019). The final version will be written after this presentation (in other words in June or July 2019), so as to take into account the reactions and suggestions for improvement that will have been collected during the side-event.
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- 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 non-detriment findings, and identify and agree on monitoring mechanisms that include appropriate technology (e.g. timber tracking);

July 2017	National capacity-building workshop on the implementation of the CITES Convention on species of precious wood listed under Appendix II Funding: WWF DMCO Madagascar	<p>The objective of this national workshop was to build the capacities for the application of the CITES legislation to Malagasy tree species and to help implement national legislation, decisions and resolutions regarding Malagasy tree species listed under the Appendices.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the training were (1) the strengthening or updating of the understanding of national legislative and regulatory frameworks and decisions and resolutions of the CITES Convention on tree species listed under Appendix II (2) the updating and presentation of scientific results on the methods of identifying <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> species (3) the building of the capacity of the agents involved in the control of the exploitation, transport, marketing and export of precious woods, and on the macroscopic and microscopic identification of some Malagasy woods commercialised with palisander, rosewood and ebony.</p> <p>Originating in 13 regions, the participants who received the capacity-building were: the administrative managers at the Regional Directorates of the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests [Directions Régionales du Ministère de l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêts, DREEF], control officers, the customs service, the National Police, the Gendarmerie, the operators' association, members of civil society and various technical and financial partners.</p>
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- d) continue the production of identification materials for identifying timber and timber products of species of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar;

March – December 2018	Project: "Creation of a guide for the macroscopic identification of timber of species of <i>Dalbergia</i> from Madagascar and similar species". Funding: Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO), Switzerland.	<p>The aim of this project is to establish a database and develop a technical manual for the identification of species, based on macroscopic characteristics of <i>Dalbergia</i> timber from Madagascar.</p> <p>The specimens of timber collected during two ITTO-CITES projects (SSFA/2014/MSS and TMT-SPD 022/15) will be used during this project.</p>
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