

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



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 THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 17.203 to 17.208 on *Malagasy ebonies* (*Diospyros* spp.) and *palisanders and rosewoods* (*Dalbergia* spp.). These Decisions are shown in the Annex to this document.

Implementation of Decision 17.208

3. The Secretariat would like to draw attention to the discussions that the Standing Committee held at its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017) concerning the trade from Madagascar in CITES-listed ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.), and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.), based on reports submitted by the Secretariat and Madagascar (see documents [SC69 Doc. 49.1 \(Rev. 1\)](#) and [SC69 Doc. 49.2](#)). The outcomes of these discussions impact the implementation of Decision 17.204, paragraphs a) to d) by Madagascar, and are therefore of relevance to the Plants Committee's mandate in Decision 17.206.
4. At SC69, the Standing Committee agreed the following recommendations:

Concerning Decision 17.204, paragraph e)

- a) *The Standing Committee noted the progress that Madagascar has made in strengthening control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and export, and recommends that these efforts be continued and expanded, as observed in paragraphs 19 and 20 of document [SC69 Doc. 49.2](#);*
- b) *The Standing Committee invited countries that seized large consignments of CITES-listed rosewood and ebony originating in Madagascar to share information in support of investigations and prosecutions in Madagascar; and to request the assistance from ICCWC in undertaking these investigations;*

Concerning Decision 17.204, paragraph f)

- c) *The Standing Committee noted that, to date, there is no audited inventory of at least a third of the stockpiles of logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets of the species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* in Madagascar, and encourages Madagascar to undertake these inventories and audits in a transparent and controlled manner;*
- d) *The Standing Committee welcomed the use plan in Annex 4 of document SC69 Doc. 49.1 (Rev. 1), but considers that it cannot be approved at present, and requests the Secretariat to continue*

working with Madagascar and its partners to revise and finalize it, particularly with respect to the observations made in paragraphs 33 and 34 of document SC69 Doc. 49.2;

Conclusions

- e) *The Standing Committee therefore agreed to maintain the recommendation for Parties not to accept exports or re-exports for commercial purposes from Madagascar of specimens of *Diospyros* spp. (populations from Madagascar; annotation #5) and *Dalbergia* spp. (annotation #15) until Madagascar has complied with the provisions in Decision 17.204, paragraphs e) and f), by:*
 - i) *significantly strengthening control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and export at the national level, including seizures, investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and sanctions, including towards high-level offenders;*
 - ii) *submitting an audited inventory of at least a third of the confiscated and declared stockpiles of logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets of species of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar for consideration and approval of the Committee; and*
 - iii) *submitting a use plan that is revised as recommended in paragraph d), for consideration and approval of the Committee;*
 - f) *The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to report on progress made by Madagascar with the implementation of paragraphs e) and f) of Decision 17. 204 at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee;*
 - g) *The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to report on progress made by Parties and relevant partners in providing technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of Decisions 17.203 to 17.208 and the finalization and implementation of the use plan at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee;*
 - h) *The Standing Committee urged Parties and relevant partners to provide technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of Decisions 17.203 to 17.208 and the finalization and implementation of the use plan;*
 - i) *The Standing Committee invited transit and destination Parties to implement Decision 17.203 and follow guidance provided in Resolution Conf. 17.8, in particular paragraphs 2 and 8 therein, and to report progress to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee; and*
 - j) *The Standing Committee also urged Madagascar to make progress in developing a plan for how it will identify and take control of undeclared and hidden stocks of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diopsiros* spp. and invited Madagascar to provide information related to these efforts in its report to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting.*
5. The recommendation of the Standing Committee to extend the suspension of commercial trade from Madagascar of specimens of *Diospyros* spp. (populations from Madagascar; annotation #5) and *Dalbergia* spp. (annotation #15) until the country complies with the provisions in Decision 17.204, paragraphs e) and f), was communicated in [Notification to the Parties No. 2018/007](#) of 15 January 2018. In the Secretariat's view, the eventual lifting of this trade suspension will significantly enhance the importance of effectively identifying the main commercially valuable species of Malagasy *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp., establishing export quotas and making non-detriment findings for trade in these species, and developing identification materials to improve monitoring and controls. These are the activities mentioned in paragraphs a) to d) of Decision 17.204, and those that the Plants Committee is directed to assist Madagascar with.
6. As requested by the Standing Committee, the Secretariat has continued to work with Madagascar and its partners to revise and finalize Madagascar's rosewood "business" or "use" plan [shown in Annex 4 of document [SC69 Doc.49.1 \(Rev. 1\)](#)], in particularly with respect to the observations made by the Secretariat in paragraphs 33 and 34 of its document SC69 Doc. 49.2.
7. In this context, the Secretariat has been invited to take part in a technical workshop in Antananarivo in June 2018 to review and discuss the implementation of the use plan. The Secretariat will provide an oral update at the present meeting of any results of the workshop that may be of relevance to the Plants Committee.

Recommendations

8. The Plants Committee is invited to:

- a) review the report of the Secretariat in the present document, and the report by Madagascar in document PC24. Doc. 18.1;
- b) assist Madagascar in the identification of technical resources in support of its implementation of Decision 17.204, paragraphs a) to d);
- c) as appropriate, provide recommendations to Madagascar, the Standing Committee and other bodies and organisations concerning: the determination of commercially valuable species of *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* occurring in Madagascar, the establishment of non-detriment findings and export quotas for trade in these species, and the production of relevant identification materials; and
- d) ensure support for the preparation of a standard reference for the names of species of the genera *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* occurring in Madagascar, to be adopted, if appropriate, at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**Decision adopted at CoP17 concerning
Malagasy ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and palisanders and rosewoods (*Dalbergia* spp.)**

Directed to source, transit and destinations Parties for Malagasy Diospyros spp. and Dalbergia spp.

17.203 Source, transit and destination Parties for specimens of species of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* occurring in Madagascar are urged to:

- a) enforce all the measures that are recommended by the CITES Standing Committee concerning commercial trade in specimens of these species from Madagascar, including suspensions of such trade;
- b) develop action plans to effectively manage timber stockpiles of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar; and
- c) provide written reports describing progress made with implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of this Decision to the Standing Committee.

Directed to Madagascar

17.204 Madagascar shall:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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);
- d) continue the production of identification materials for identifying timber and timber products of species of the genera *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar;
- e) for those species identified under paragraph a), significantly strengthen control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and export at the national level including seizures, investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and sanctions;
- f) submit regular updates on audited inventories of at least a third of the stockpiles of species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar, and a use plan for consideration, approval and further guidance from the Standing Committee; and
- g) provide written reports on progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) to d) of this Decision to each meeting of the Plants Committee; on progress with the implementation of paragraphs e) and f) of this Decision to the Standing Committee; and on progress with the implementation of this Decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

Directed to Parties

17.205 Parties and relevant partners indicated in Decision 17.204 paragraph a) are invited to:

- a) provide technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of Decisions 17.203 to 17.208;
- b) provide technical and financial assistance in support of conducting audited inventories of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar; and
- c) provide reports to the Standing Committee, including information received from relevant partner organizations, concerning progress with the implementation of paragraphs a) and b) of this Decision.

Directed to the Plants Committee

17.206 The Plants Committee shall:

- a) review and assess reports from Madagascar on its implementation of Decision 17.204 paragraphs a) to d), and from the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 17.208, and provide recommendations to Madagascar and the Standing Committee and other bodies as appropriate;
- b) continue supporting the preparation of a standard reference for the names of species of the genera *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* occurring in Madagascar, to be adopted, if appropriate, at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- c) assist Madagascar in the identification of technical resources in support of the implementation of Decision 17.204 paragraphs a) to d), and if needed, make recommendations to Madagascar, Standing Committee and other relevant organizations.

Directed to the Standing Committee

17.207 The Standing Committee shall review and assess reports from Madagascar on the implementation of Decision 17.204 paragraph e) and f), and from the Secretariat on the implementation of Decision 17.208, and make recommendations, which may include appropriate compliance measures and an assessment as to whether the conditions for a partial sale of audited stocks are in place, in accordance with the criteria established in Decision 17.204, paragraphs e) and f).

Directed to the Secretariat

17.208 The Secretariat shall:

- a) assist Madagascar, relevant Parties, and the Standing and Plants Committees in the implementation of Decisions 17.203 to 17.207;
- b) subject to available funding, assist with relevant capacity-building activities in Madagascar and transit and destination countries concerned by the trade in specimens of *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp. from Madagascar, including through international capacity building workshops; and
- c) provide written reports on progress with the implementation of this Decision to the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee, as appropriate.