

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

Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

REPORT OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee.*

Background

2. Upon review of document CoP17 Doc. 62 on *International trade in rosewood timber species [LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae)]* (Annex 1), the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decision 17.234:

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) *review at its regular meetings between the 17th and 18th meetings of the Conference of the Parties, document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) on International trade in Rosewood Timber Species [LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae)] and the draft decisions in its Annex; and*
 - b) *based on the proposals in this document, as well as experiences with trade in CITES-listed rosewood species, formulate recommendations concerning timber rosewood species for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. At its 23rd meeting (PC23; Geneva, 2017), the Plants Committee considered document PC23 Doc. 22.1 on *Implementation of Decision 17.234*. The Committee agreed to convey the enforcement and management aspects outlined in the document to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting. The Committee formed an in-session working group with a mandate to address elements of the recommendations proposed in PC23 Doc. 22.1. Based on the working group's recommendations, the Plants Committee recommended that Parties be encouraged to [PC23 Sum. 4 (Rev. 1)]:
 - 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);

* *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.*

- 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 23rd 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.
4. The Plants Committee further agreed to submit recommendations for consideration by the Standing Committee (SC69, Geneva 2017) regarding the commissioning of a study, subject to external funding, on rosewood species’ (including non-CITES-listed species) biology, population status, management and trade-related aspects; and the development of workshops on the international trade in rosewood species. At SC69, the Chair of the Plants Committee presented document SC69 Doc. 56, seeking Standing Committees guidance in order for the Plants Committee (and the Secretariat) to move forward in the implementation of the study outlined under paragraph 5 of SC69 Doc. 56 and to ensure significant progress in the

implementation of said recommendations in advance of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18). Some Parties expressed their agreement with the recommendations contained in the document, noting that the study proposed should give priority to the rosewood species currently listed in the Appendices. The Secretariat advised that the recommendation for the Secretariat to raise external funds for the study can only be instructed by the Conference of the Parties. The Standing Committee encouraged Parties to initiate a study considering the aspects outlined in paragraph 5 of document SC69 Doc. 56 and share the results with interested Parties and the Plants Committee.

5. At SC69, the Chair of the Plants Committee conveyed the enforcement and management aspects to the Standing Committee as outlined under paragraph 6 of SC69 Doc. 56. The aspects related to interpretation and implementation of annotation #15 were conveyed to the Standing Committee at SC69 by the Chair of the Plants Committee and the Secretariat in SC69 Doc.69.3. The Standing Committee noted issues raised in paragraph 6 of document SC69 Doc. 56 and requested the Secretariat to review those issues in collaboration with the Chair of the Plants Committee and bring any issue related to implementation and enforcement back to the Standing Committee.
6. With regard to SC 69 Doc. 69.3 on Interpretation of annotation #15, the Standing Committee established an in-session working group. The Standing Committee adopted the working group recommendations and agreed to interim definitions for the intersessional period between the 1th^h and 18th meetings of the Conference of the Parties as specified in SC69 Sum. 10 (Rev. 1), including for interpretation of the term "non-commercial"; interpretation of the term "10 kg per shipment"; interpretation of the terms in 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"; and identification of specimens at species or genus level on CITES permits and certificates.

Recommendation to the Plants Committee

7. With respect to Paragraph 3 above, invite Parties to share with the Plants Committee at its present meeting information regarding progress on efforts made with respect to paragraph parts a) – f), and any other feedback.
8. With respect to Paragraph 4 above, invite Parties to share with the Plants Committee at its present meeting any update regarding initiation of a study.
9. In consideration of information shared, and with respect to Paragraph 4 above, invite and consider views on whether the Plants Committee should seek a mandate at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to carry out a study. Should the Plants Committee agree, consider formation of a small in-session drafting group to draft decision(s) for consideration by the Plants Committee to submit to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In light of the mandate under Decision 17.234, recommend that this small drafting group review document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) on *International trade in rosewood timber species [LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae)]* and the draft decisions in its Annex, results of deliberations at PC23, and feedback received at this present meeting as a basis for a revised decision.
10. Based on the proposals in document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) on *International trade in rosewood timber species [LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae)]* as well as experiences with trade in CITES-listed rosewood species, consider whether there are other recommendations to formulate concerning timber rosewood species for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.