

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

AFRICAN TREE SPECIES:
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 Decision 17.302 on *African tree species* as follows:

17.302 Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall form a working group on African tree species with the following terms of reference, as well as any other terms it deems appropriate:

- a) *The working group will work primarily via electronic means;*
- b) *The working group will seek to facilitate the circulation and exchange of experiences among the range States, importing countries and other stakeholders on the sustainable use and management of CITES-listed African tree species;*
- c) *The working group will seek to identify gaps and weaknesses in the capacity of range States of African tree species to effectively implement CITES for these species;*
- d) *The working group will examine how the processes currently used by countries to develop annual export quotas compare with the processes recommended under CITES and develop recommendations for reconciling them;*
- e) *The working group will explore the conversion factors used for different commodities (e.g., logs, sawn wood, bark) and develop recommendations for improving such processes;*
- f) *The working group will seek to identify other African tree species that may benefit from inclusion in the CITES Appendices;*
- g) *The working group will bring any issues related to implementation and enforcement of CITES listings for African tree species to the attention of the Plants Committee; and*
- h) *The working group will report its findings and recommendations to the Plants Committee.*

Implementation of Decision 17.302

3. To implement this Decision, the Plants Committee established an intersessional working group on African tree species at its 23rd meeting (PC23, Geneva, July 2017). It agreed that the intersessional working group had to identify a limited number of key topics related to the implementation of CITES listings for African tree species, which it should bring to the attention of the Plants Committee at its next meeting. This should involve consultation with the Parties through a questionnaire seeking information addressing the topics identified in paragraphs b) to f) of Decision 17.302. The membership of the intersessional working group was decided as follows: the Plants Committee representatives of Africa (Ms. Koumba Pambo and Mr. Mahamane) and the alternate representative of Africa (Ms. Khayota) (co-chairs); the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo); Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Madagascar, Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America; and UNEP-WCMC; International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), IUCN; Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency, EUROMED, Forest Based Solutions, Forest Research and Management Institute, FTS Botanics, International Wood Products Association, INDENA, Special Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) [see document [PC23 Com. 9 \(Rev. by Sec.\)](#)].
4. The Secretariat notes that, to its knowledge, the intersessional working group has not yet identified the African tree species and relevant range States that it is concerned with.

Questionnaire results

5. The questionnaire was prepared by the intersessional working group, in consultation with the Secretariat (see Annex 1), and was sent out to the Parties with [Notification No. 2018/023](#) of 2 March 2018. Parties were invited to complete the questionnaire, and their CITES Management Authorities were encouraged to consult all relevant national authorities to obtain the required information. Parties were further encouraged to engage, where possible, with research institutes and independent researchers, national and international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that as much relevant information as possible was provided.
6. The Secretariat received 11 responses to the Notification: three from range States of African tree species (Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar and Senegal), and eight from non-range and consumer Parties (Austria, European Union, Germany, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America). The replies are summarized in paragraphs 7 to 18 below. The full responses are attached in Annex 2 to this document in the language and format in which they were received.

CITES African tree species status, harvest and management

7. Madagascar and Côte d'Ivoire reported that recent information exists on the status of CITES-listed tree species in their countries (*Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. in Madagascar, *Pericopsis elata* and *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Côte d'Ivoire). All three range States reported that their CITES-listed tree populations are in decline.
8. Madagascar confirmed that management plans are in place for *Prunus africana*, *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp., which are reviewed every five years. Senegal refers to its forest code for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, which is reviewed every twenty years. All three range States report that no legal exploitation was taking place.

Conversion factors used for different commodities; processes currently used by countries to develop annual export quotas and how they compare with the processes recommended under CITES [Questions B.6, B.7, B.8, B.11, B.12, B.13 and D.2]:

9. All three range States have centres of expertise on timber species in their countries, but only in Madagascar are these involved in establishing (harvest and export) quotas. Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal confirm the existence of monitoring and traceability systems.
10. Madagascar confirms to be familiar with the guidelines for the management of nationally established export quotas [Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Management of nationally established export quotas*].

11. There does not seem to exist systematic and scientifically valid processes for defining conversion factors for different commodities in trade, such as logs, sawn wood or bark. Non-range States report to either establish them on a case-by-case basis, to not use any conversion factors due to lack of major import volumes, or to rely on those established by range States. The range States did not provide information regarding their use of conversion factors.

Trade

12. The range States mentioned that the CITES-listed tree species with the highest export volumes are *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia louvelii*, *Dalbergia purpurascens*, *Dalbergia greveana*, *Diospyros perrieri*, and *Prunus africana* (this information seems contrary to responses provided on the legal exploitation of those species, as summarized in paragraph 8 above).
13. Import and consumer States provided more extensive lists of CITES-listed tree species being imported. Frequently mentioned were various *Dalbergia*, *Diospyros* and *Guibourtia* species, *Pericopsis elata*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Prunus africana* and *Cedrela odorata*.
14. In Madagascar, the private sector contributes to rendering wood harvests sustainable, for example through a platform that unites different institutions that are active in forest exploitation, with a view to professionalize the sector. Côte d'Ivoire has a registration system for wood harvests and export, and compensation/reforestation requirements for all harvests and exports by the private sector (even though a parallel, informal sector operates which is not covered by this system).

Non-CITES listed African tree species in international trade [Questions C.4, C.5, D.1 and D.4]:

15. Several Parties from both range and non-range and import States provided substantial lists of non-CITES listed African tree species in international trade. The genera that were repeatedly mentioned were: *Ceiba* spp., *Entandrophragma* spp., *Erythrophleum* spp., *Guibourtia* spp., *Khaya* spp., *Milicia* spp. and *Terminalia* spp.

Identification of needs, challenges, gaps, weaknesses in capacity building and other suggestions

16. For each of the following gaps and weaknesses, at least two out of the three responding range States confirmed to require capacity building: making non-detriment findings (NDFs); timber identification; inventory and field monitoring surveys; timber enforcement; setting annual harvest quotas; scientific research funding; experience sharing with other range States; and development of information systems.
17. Côte d'Ivoire identified species inventories and species identification as the most pressing gaps. Senegal pointed out a lack of support to put into place a management plan for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. Madagascar pointed out that lack of funds prevented the development of management plans for individual species.
18. Several challenges and suggestions were also pointed out by non-range States and consumer countries:

Challenges:

- a) Classification of commodities according to annotation #5¹, since raw wood was reportedly shipped only slightly processed, to avoid controls from annotation #5;
- b) Shortcomings of local management plans provided by range countries for NDFs to importing States;
- c) Identification of species, access to reference samples; availability of experts and cost of testing for identification.

Suggestions:

- d) To reduce confusion and problems about annual export quotas by adding provisions in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species* stating that, in the

¹ #5 Logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets

case of timber, annual export quotas may be established based on Annual Allowable Cuts instead of the year of harvest.

- e) As provided in Decision 17.250, organize an international workshop on the sustainable use and the control of international trade in *Prunus africana*. It is suggested that the workshop be organised in line with Decisions 17.250 to 17.252, and takes into account paragraphs 8 to 10 of document [PC22 Doc. 13](#), which highlight specific implementation challenges.
- f) Since discussions on annotation #15² have mainly focused on challenges in implementing the CITES listing of *Dalbergia* spp., there may be added value in discussing more specifically whether annotation #15 is relevant for the three *Guibourtia* species listed in Appendix II (*Guibourtia demeusei*, *G. pellegriniana* and *G. tessmannii*). It would be very useful to invite range States of these species to share information about products exported under CITES with a view to informing on-going discussions as to the potential need to review annotation #15 at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Colombo, 2019).
- g) Additional guidance for the Management Authorities of range States on legal acquisition findings may be desirable, as also envisaged in Decision 17.66, paragraph b, to ensure that Management Authorities in range States have access to sufficient information on the legality of products to be exported under CITES export permits.

Recommendations

19. The Plants Committee is invited to:

- a) consider the information provided in this document and its Annexes;
- b) ask the intersessional working group on African tree species to identify and report on a limited number of key topics related to the implementation of CITES listings for African tree species for consideration by the Plants Committee; and
- c) consider any recommendations concerning the future or further implementation of Decision 17.302 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (CoP18, Colombo, 2019).

² #15 All parts and derivatives are included, except:

- a) Leaves, flowers, pollen, fruits, and seeds;
- b) Non-commercial exports of a maximum total weight of 10 kg. per shipment;
- c) Parts and derivatives of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, which are covered by Annotation # 4;
- d) Parts and derivatives of *Dalbergia* spp. originating and exported from Mexico, which are covered by Annotation # 6.

African Tree Species Questionnaire

For all questions in this questionnaire, if you require additional space to provide a complete answer, please attach separate sheets of paper.

SECTION A. General information

A.1. Party

Please specify

A.2. Management authority contributing to this questionnaire

Please specify

A.3. Contact details

Please specify

A.4. Contact Person

Please specify name, email, job title, function

SECTION B. CITES African tree species status, management and trade

Status

B.1. Is your country a range State for CITES African Tree Species: Yes No

If 'Yes', please indicate below which species occur in your country.

Scientific name - trade name - common name

If 'No' (not a range country for CITES African Trees), please proceed to Section D.

If there is uncertainty regarding which species occur in your country, indicate 'unknown'

Unknown

B.2. Does recent information exist about the status of the CITES tree species in your country?

Yes No

If 'Yes', please provide a link, reference or additional information.

Please specify

B.3. Based on the best available information, did the populations of the African tree species listed above for your country over the last 5 years:

- increase Please specify species concerned
- remain stable Please specify species concerned
- decline Please specify species concerned
- data deficient Please specify species concerned

Please indicate on what source of information your answer is based (e.g. indicate the reference and the date of reference).

Harvest and management

B.4. Do specific management plans for these species exist in your country?

- Yes No

If 'Yes', please provide a link, reference or additional information

Please specify for each species concerned

How often is this plan reviewed?

Frequency of review of management plan per species

B.5. What is the harvestable size of trees and how was it established?

Species	Harvestable size	Basis for establishing harvest size	Commodity type
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Add species

Please provide a link, reference or additional information used in determining the harvestable size

Please specify for each species concerned

B.6. Please provide information concerning the basis for setting a description of how you currently set your annual harvest and export quotas for timber species, including any differences between harvest quotas and export quotas? Are they set annually, twice per year or other (please specify)?

In addition to the description, please indicate also which agencies or other stakeholders are involved in setting the quotas
If you do not set quotas, then the answer is 'No use of quotas'

B.7. How often are these quotas reviewed?

Please specify the frequency of the quotas revision

B.8 Are there centres of expertise on timber species (e.g. universities, scientific research institutes) present in your country?

Yes No Unknown

If so, please provide details

Are they involved in the determination of export quotas?

Yes No Unknown

B.9. Are monitoring programmes and/or traceability systems in place? Yes No

If 'Yes', please provide a link, reference or additional information

B.10. If you could suggest improvements or concerns to your setting of harvest and export quotas, what would they be?

B.11. Please describe for each species the current conversion factors that you use for different commodities (for example, logs, sawn wood, bark)?

B.12. If you could suggest improvements for improving your conversion factor process, what would they be?

B.13. Are you familiar with the Guidelines for Guidelines for management of nationally established export quotas (Annex to Resolution Conf. 14.7 (Rev. CoP15)?

Yes No

Trade

B.14. What are the five CITES African tree species exported in the highest volumes from your country (provide scientific name):

- 1. _____ (highest) 2. _____ 3. _____
- 4. _____ 5. _____

B.15. Which CITES African tree species are also used domestically?

Please specify which species (provide scientific name) and types of commodities used domestically

B.16. What are the different timber commodities (for example, logs, sawn wood, bark, ...) exported from your country?

B.17. What is the involvement of the national private sector in ensuring the sustainability of the production and the trade of tree CITES-listed species?

B.18. Do mechanisms exist between the different stakeholders (resource owners, private sector in export and import country) to ensure the sustainability in the trade of these species?

If 'Yes', please specify

B.19. Are there any available datasets on timber species in trade in your country ?

If 'Yes', please provide details

SECTION C. Identification of gaps and weakness in capacity building for African tree species

C.1. Please identify your five highest capacity building needs:

1. _____ (highest) 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____

C.2. Do you need assistance with:

- making non-detriment findings? Yes No
- timber identification? Yes No
- inventory and field monitoring surveys? Yes No
- timber enforcement? Yes No
- setting annual harvest quotas? Yes No
- scientific research funding? Yes No
- experience sharing with other range states? Yes No
- development of information systems? Yes No

C.3. Is your country involved in any relevant regional initiatives on trade in timber species?

If 'Yes', please provide details

Non-CITES-listed African Tree Species in international trade

C.4. Are there non-CITES listed African tree species exported from your country?

- Yes No

If 'Yes', please provide a list of the non-CITES listed tree species in trade and any available information concerning the principal commodities in trade (e.g., bark, essential oil, seeds, etc.)?

Scientific name [if possible] - trade name - common name - primary commodity

C.5. Describe any other implementation and enforcement issues that you have experienced with African tree species that were not covered by the questions above

SECTION D. For non-range countries and consumer countries

D.1. What are the five CITES-listed African tree species you import most frequently and in what commodity(ies)?

Scientific name - trade name - local name

D.2. If applicable, please describe the conversion factors that you use for different timber commodities (for example, logs, sawn wood, bark)?

Please include a link, reference or additional information

D.3. What are the issues/challenges that you encounter with the import of CITES-listed African tree species?

D.4. Does your country import non-CITES listed African Tree species? If so, please list the five top species and the commodities imported?

Scientific name [if possible] - trade name - common name - primary commodity

Thank you for your response to this questionnaire