

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

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chairs: the representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo) and the nomenclature specialist (Mr. McGough);

Parties: Belgium, Canada, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, France, Germany, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Center for International Environmental Law, Environmental Investigation Agency USA, Global Eye, International Wood Products Association, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund and ForestBased Solutions Llc.

Mandate

In accordance with paragraphs 1) g) and i) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), and for the species/country combinations selected following the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17), at the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC23), the in-session working group shall:

- a) review the responses received from range States contained in Annex 1 of document PC24 Doc. 13.2 (and any additional information presented in plenary) and the report in Annex 2 of document PC24 Doc. 13.2 and, if appropriate, revise the preliminary categorizations proposed by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) for the species/range State concerned, providing a justification for such re-categorization;
- b) formulate recommendations directed to the range States retained in the review process, using the principles outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33; and
- c) formulate separate recommendations directed to the Standing Committee for problems identified in the course of the review that are not directly related to the implementation of Article IV paragraph 2(a), 3 or 6(a), following the principles outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17).

Recommendations

Concerning **agenda item 13.2**, and in accordance with paragraph 1) g) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17), for the 8 species/country combinations retained in the review after the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee, the working group **recommends** the following.

That the following species-country combinations are categorised as '**action is needed**'.

Species	Country	Justification
<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	Nicaragua	See Table 1 in PC24 Doc. 13.2 Annex 2
<i>Dalbergia retusa</i>	Panama	See Table 1 in PC24 Doc. 13.2 Annex 2
<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	See Table 1 in PC24 Doc. 13.2 Annex 2
<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	Republic of Congo	See Table 1 in PC24 Doc. 13.2 Annex 2

The working group proposes that the **recommendations** directed to range States in **Annex 1** to this report be adopted with respect to the species/country combinations identified above for which 'action is needed'.

The working group **recommends** that the following species/country combinations are categorised as '**less concern**'.

Species	Country	Justification
<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Lao PDR	See Table 1 in PC24 Doc. 13.2 Annex 2. Changed from action is needed to less concern on the basis of existing Article XIII compliance process for this species from Lao PDR.
<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Cambodia	See Table 1 in PC24 Doc. 13.2 Annex 2
<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Viet Nam	See Table 1 in PC24 Doc. 13.2 Annex 2
<i>Pericopsis elata</i>	Cameroon	See Table 1 in PC24 Doc. 13.2 Annex 2

Additional recommendations concerning agenda item 13.2

The working group made the following additional recommendations and observations:

1. Concerning *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*/ Lao People's Democratic Republic

Invite the Secretariat to work with Lao People's Democratic Republic and potential donors to facilitate capacity building and workshops on making NDFs for forest species.

Invite interested Parties to work with Lao People's Democratic Republic to facilitate capacity building and workshops on making NDFs for forest species.

Request the Secretariat, when communicating with Lao People's Democratic Republic, to suggest existing examples of NDF guidance and reference material that they may find useful.

Note that Lao People's Democratic Republic is completing a suite of comprehensive actions under Article XIII compliance process in the Standing Committee.

2. Concerning *Pericopsis elata* / Cameroon

Invite the Secretariat to bring the issue of missing annual reports for 2010 and 2012 (and reports for flora from 2009 to 2012) to the attention of the Standing Committee.

3. Concerning *Dalbergia retusa* / Panama

Invite the Secretariat to bring the issue of missing annual reports (2015 and 2016) to the attention of the Standing Committee.

4. Concerning *Pericopsis elata* / Democratic Republic of the Congo

Note that Democratic Republic of the Congo is completing a suite of comprehensive actions under Article XIII compliance process in the Standing Committee.

Invite the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee the concerns about exports of wood products that have been superficially transformed in order to circumvent CITES controls.

Note that this species is being considered as part of a project, under the CITES Tree Species Program, supporting the NDF for a number of tree species.

5. General comments

The ICCWC tool kit may be helpful to Parties in the review of significant trade to identify areas of priority.

RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED TO RANGE STATES RETAINED
IN THE REVIEW PROCESS – AGENDA ITEM 13.2

The following recommendations, directed to the range States retained in the review process, are based on the principles outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17) and the guidance on the formulation of recommendations contained in Annex 5 to document CoP17 Doc. 33.

1. *Dalbergia retusa*/ Nicaragua

The Management Authority of Nicaragua shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short Term Action</u> Provide information on the location and extent of the areas under harvest management for export. Submit management plans including any available information on inventories and monitoring systems currently in place.</p>	Within 30 Days	Supporting information for an adequate NDF
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u> Develop an analysis of the status of the population at the national level, based on existing national forest inventories and forest inventories under development, and plans for a monitoring process.</p>	Within 2 Years	Improve the knowledge and management of the species population at the National scale
<p>Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>		

2. *Dalbergia retusa*/ Panama

The Management Authority of Panama shall report to the Secretariat on the implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short Term Action</u> Establish an interim zero export quota, and inform the CITES Secretariat of this quota so that it can be included in the national export quota section on the CITES website. Before trade is resumed, the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee should be informed of the process under which the non-detriment finding was made, for their agreement.</p>	Within 30 Days	Precautionary action in the absence of a response of Panama and of annual trade reports from Panama for the last two years.

Clarify the current ban, what inventories have taken place, current controls on harvest, monitoring systems and reporting mechanisms.		
<p><u>Long-term Actions</u></p> <p>Review and, as appropriate, revise management systems in place, including how population levels are calculated and sustainable off- take assessed, taking into account levels and frequency of harvest, annual growth rates for the species, and the location of harvest. Critically review monitoring measures, the reporting and assessment of same, assess their effectiveness and amend as appropriate.</p> <p>Overall, the review should aim to ensure an effective NDF process with clearly defined harvest management measures (e.g., minimum rotation periods, minimum DBH, good harvesting techniques, impact of harvest) with a locally- appropriate and effective monitoring system.</p> <p>Undertake monitoring of the impact of harvest and implement harvest and export restrictions based on monitoring results.</p>	Within 18 Months	<p>Improve the knowledge and management of the species population at the National scale and support an adequate NDF</p> <p>Ensure harvest is sustainable to support an adequate NDF</p>
Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.		To assist in the evaluation of whether the NDF has improved as a result of the Review of Significant Trade Process

3. *Pericopis elata*/ Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Management Authority of the Democratic Republic of the Congo shall report to the Secretariat on implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Action</u></p> <p>Review and revise, if appropriate, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee, the export quota for the species and communicate the quota to the Secretariat.</p> <p>Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make</p>	6 Months	<p>To ensure the quota is set at a level that is sustainable</p> <p>Precautionary action</p>

<p>use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p> <p>Outline how conversion rates (of volumes of processed products into round wood equivalent volumes), based on sound scientific studies, are calculated and provide associated information.</p> <p>Supply information on the level and management (including cross border controls) of artisanal harvest, and its consideration in the NDF.</p>		<p>Ensure data are accurate and science-based</p> <p>Support adequate NDF</p>
<p>Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>		<p>To assist in the evaluation of whether the NDF has improved as a result of the Review of Significant Trade Process</p>

4. *Pericopis elata*/ Republic of Congo

The Management Authority of the Republic of Congo shall report to the Secretariat on implementation of the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
<p><u>Short-term Action</u></p> <p>Establish a conservative export quota in consultation with the CITES Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee and inform the CITES Secretariat of this quota so that it can be included in the national export quota section on the CITES website.</p> <p>Before making any increases to this quota, the planned changes should be communicated by the range State to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification of how the change is conservative, based on estimates of sustainable off-take that make use of available scientific information, for their agreement.</p>	<p>30 Days</p>	<p>Precautionary action</p> <p>Precautionary action</p>
<p><u>Long-term Action</u></p> <p>Develop and implement coordinated national and/or local management plans (that include harvest management considerations) with clear monitoring requirements: management is adaptive (regular review of harvest records, of impact of harvesting, adjustment of harvesting instructions as necessary), harvest restrictions based on monitoring results.</p>	<p>2 Years</p>	<p>Improve the knowledge and management of the species population at the National scale and support an adequate NDF</p>

<p>Overall, the review should aim to ensure an effective NDF process with clearly defined harvest management measures (e.g., minimum rotation periods, minimum DBH, good harvesting techniques, impact of harvest) with a locally- appropriate and effective monitoring system.</p> <p>Undertake monitoring of the impact of harvest and implement harvest and export restrictions based on monitoring results.</p>		<p>Ensure harvest is sustainable to support an adequate NDF</p>
<p>Upon completion of other recommendations, provide the scientific basis by which it has established that exports are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are compliant with Article IV, paragraphs 2(a), 3 and 6(a) of the Convention. Particular focus should be given to how the actions the range State has taken, or will take, address the concerns/problems identified in the Review of Significant Trade process.</p>		<p>To assist in the evaluation of whether the NDF has improved as a result of the Review of Significant Trade Process</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTED TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE – AGENDA ITEM 13.2

The following recommendations, directed to the Standing Committee, concern problems identified in the course of the review that are not directly related to the implementation of Article IV paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), following the principles outlined in Annex 3 of the Resolution.

1. *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*/ Cambodia

The Standing Committee shall consider tasking Cambodia with the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
Inform the Secretariat of actions it is taking to address illegal trade from and through the country	Within 30 Days	Address illegal trade concerns
In co-operation with the Secretariat review these control measures and inspection procedures to detect and intercept illegal trade and fraudulent permitting and as advised by the Secretariat, upgrade and refine such measures (eg. Reference to ICCWC Tool Kit).	Within 60 Days	Address illegal trade concerns
To reinforce the national export ban, put in place a voluntary zero export quota and inform the Secretariat of this quota so that it can be included in the national export quota section on the CITES website	Within 30 Days	Reinforcement of national export ban
Any change to the zero quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification, for their agreement.		Precautionary action

2. *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*/ Viet Nam

The Standing Committee shall consider tasking Vietnam with the following:

Recommended Action	Time-frame for implementation	Justification for choice of recommended action
Inform the Secretariat of actions it is taking to address illegal trade from and through the country	Within 30 Days	Address illegal trade concerns
In co-operation with the Secretariat review these control measures and inspections procedures to detect and intercept illegal trade and fraudulent permitting and as advised by the Secretariat, upgrade and refine such measures.	Within 60 Days	Address illegal trade concerns
To reinforce the national controls put in place a zero export quota and inform the Secretariat of this quota so that it can be included in the national export quota section on the CITES website	Within 30 Days	Reinforce national controls and explain discrepancies in trade data
Any change to the zero quota should be communicated to the Secretariat and Chair of the Plants Committee along with a justification, for their agreement.		Precautionary action