

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



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 17 and 20-23 July 2020

Species specific matters

Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.234 to 18.237 on *Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]*, as follows:

**18.234 Directed to the Secretariat**

*The Secretariat shall:*

- a) *subject to external resources, undertake the following study:*
  - i) *provide or confirm, with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee, a reference list of genera that are commonly referred to as “rosewood tree species”, noting that at present the species from the following CITES and non-CITES listed genera have been assumed as such by the CITES community: Caesalpinia, Cassia, Dalbergia, Dicorynia, Guibourtia, Machaerium, Millettia, Pterocarpus and Swartzia;*
  - ii) *taking into consideration the existing information (including that developed under the ongoing CITES Tree Species Programme), and based on the available lists of species in trade, compile available data and information to address information gaps on the biology, population status, management, use and trade for CITES-listed rosewood tree species as a first priority; and as a second priority, non-CITES listed rosewood tree species, in particular those that are highly sought after for the timber trade;*
  - iii) *assess the effects of international trade on wild populations of the species concerned; and*
  - iv) *take into account the relevant work on timber identification to be carried out under Decisions 18.140 to 18.143 on Identification of timber and other wood products;*
- b) *issue a Notification seeking input from Parties, in particular exporting, re-exporting and importing countries, and relevant stakeholders to provide information to the Secretariat to share with the consultant for the purposes of completing the study outlined under paragraph a) above;*
- c) *report on progress regarding the study to the Plants Committee;*

- d) *taking into consideration the advice of the Plants Committee, and subject to external funding, organize an international workshop, inviting relevant range States, trading countries, relevant organizations, industry representatives and other experts, with a view to presenting and discussing the results, and develop recommendations;*
- e) *submit the final study for consideration by the Plants Committee, as well as the outcomes of the workshop if held; and*
- f) *seek external resources to support the study, and the workshop as appropriate.*

**18.235 Directed to Parties**

*Parties are encouraged to:*

- a) *respond to the Notification described in paragraph b) of Decision 18.234 in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders; and*
- b) *support the work of the consultancy, and the workshop as appropriate, including seeking external resources from relevant stakeholders.*

**18.236 Directed to the Plants Committee**

*The Plants Committee shall:*

- a) *consider the progress reported by the Secretariat and make recommendations regarding the study and the need for the international workshop referred to under Decision 18.234;*
- b) *consider the final study, and outcomes of the workshop if held, and make recommendations on how to enhance implementation for CITES-listed rosewood tree species with a particular focus on non-detriment findings including with respect to capacity building; and make further recommendations regarding non-CITES listed rosewood tree species; and*
- c) *make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.*

**18.237 Directed to the Standing Committee**

*The Standing Committee shall consider any report prepared in response to Decision 18.236 and identify any implementation and enforcement issues associated with the international trade in rosewood tree species, particularly those already listed in the Appendices, and develop recommendations for more effective implementation of the Convention for rosewood tree species. The Standing Committee shall furthermore take into account considerations related to revisions to annotations, and identification of terms in annotations that require further clarification and convey them for consideration by the working group on annotations.*

Progress in the implementation of Decision 18.234 and 18.235

3. The Secretariat estimates the cost of the implementation of Decision 18.234 is USD 550,000, to be allocated as follows: USD 350,000 for the study in paragraph a) of the Decision; and USD 200,000 for the international workshop in paragraph d) of the Decision. At the time of writing, these external funds remained to be identified (see [Notification to the Parties No. 2020/032](#) on *Status of funding for the implementation of valid Decisions after CoP18*). The Secretariat will continue its efforts to mobilize the necessary resources to undertake the study and the international workshop.
4. Regarding paragraph a) ii) of Decision 18.234, the CITES Tree Species Programme allocated funding to build capacities for implementing the Convention for trade in rosewood species listed in the Appendices. This is accomplished through nine projects in 13 rosewood range States in: Africa (six range States); Asia (three range States); and Central and South America (four range States). For further information on these, please refer to document PC25 Doc. 8 and its Annex 6.

5. In compliance with paragraph b) of Decision 18.234, the Secretariat published [Notification to the Parties No. 2020/023](#) of 11 March 2020 with a *Questionnaire on rosewood tree species* in the [Annex](#). In line with Decision 18.235, the Notification also encouraged Parties to support the Secretariat as appropriate in undertaking the study and organizing the international workshop, including by seeking external resources from relevant stakeholders.
6. The following Parties provided responses to Notification No. 2020/023: Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Denmark, El Salvador, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Slovakia, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. Regarding other relevant stakeholders, *Wood Geographic* also responded to the questionnaire.
7. In the following section, the Secretariat has summarized the main findings of the responses received, as per the elements of paragraph a) of Decision 18.234, and Decision 18-235. The full responses to the questionnaire, in the language and format as received, are in an information document.

Compilation and analysis of responses to Notification No. 2020/023

8. The main findings relevant to Decision 18.234, subparagraph a) i) are summarized below.
  - a) The following CITES-listed taxa were identified as traded (exported, re-exported or imported) under the common commercial name “rosewood”:

Family	Appendix I	Appendix II
LAURACEAE Laurels		<i>Aniba rosaeodora</i> . The species is listed with <a href="#">Annotation #12</a> .
LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae) Afromosia, cristobal, palisander, rosewood, sandalwood		<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.(except for the species listed in Appendix I). The taxa is listed with <a href="#">Annotation #15</a> .
	<i>Dalbergia nigra</i>	
		<i>Guibourtia demeusei</i> . The species is listed with <a href="#">Annotation #15</a> .
		<i>Guibourtia pellegriniana</i> . The species is listed with <a href="#">Annotation #15</a> .
		<i>Guibourtia tessmannii</i> . The species is listed with <a href="#">Annotation #15</a> .
		<i>Paubrasilia echinata</i> . The species is listed with <a href="#">Annotation #10</a> .
		<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>
		<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> . The species is listed with <a href="#">Annotation #7</a> .

- b) Regarding the genus-level listing of *Dalbergia* spp. in Appendix II, 33 species were identified that are traded under the name “rosewood”:

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1) <i>Dalbergia abbreviata</i>       | 13) <i>Dalbergia frutascens</i>       |
| 2) <i>Dalbergia abrahamii</i>        | 14) <i>Dalbergia glomerata</i>        |
| 3) <i>Dalbergia arbutifolia</i>      | 15) <i>Dalbergia granadillo</i>       |
| 4) <i>Dalbergia assamica</i>         | 16) <i>Dalbergia greveana</i>         |
| 5) <i>Dalbergia bariensis</i>        | 17) <i>Dalbergia kingiana</i>         |
| 6) <i>Dalbergia baronii</i>          | 18) <i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>        |
| 7) <i>Dalbergia calderonii</i>       | 19) <i>Dalbergia louvelii</i>         |
| 8) <i>Dalbergia cearensis</i>        | 20) <i>Dalbergia madagascariensis</i> |
| 9) <i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>  | 21) <i>Dalbergia maritima</i>         |
| 10) <i>Dalbergia congestiflora</i>   | 22) <i>Dalbergia melanoxydon</i>      |
| 11) <i>Dalbergia cubilquitzensis</i> | 23) <i>Dalbergia odorifera</i>        |
| 12) <i>Dalbergia decipularis</i>     | 24) <i>Dalbergia oliveri</i>          |

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 25) <i>Dalbergia palo-escrito</i> | 30) <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>      |
| 26) <i>Dalbergia pinnata</i>      | 31) <i>Dalbergia spruceana</i>   |
| 27) <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>       | 32) <i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i> |
| 28) <i>Dalbergia rimosa</i>       | 33) <i>Dalbergia tucurensis</i>  |
| 29) <i>Dalbergia sericea</i>      |                                  |

c) Regarding non-CITES listed species that are traded under the name “rosewood”, a total of 17 taxa were mentioned:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1) <i>Acosmium</i> spp.                                       | 9) <i>Lonchocarpum</i> spp.        |
| 2) <i>Albizia odoratissima</i>                                | 10) <i>Machaerium scleroxylon</i>  |
| 3) <i>Anadenanthera colubrina</i>                             | 11) <i>Millettia laurentii</i>     |
| 4) <i>Guibourtia coleosperma</i>                              | 12) <i>Myroxilon balsamum</i>      |
| 5) <i>Guibourtia conjugata</i>                                | 13) <i>Pterocarpus chrysothrix</i> |
| 6) <i>Guibourtia ehie</i>                                     | 14) <i>Pterocarpus macrocarpus</i> |
| 7) <i>Guibourtia</i> spp. (species not listed in Appendix II) | 15) <i>Swartzia benthamiana</i>    |
| 8) <i>Jacaranda</i> spp.                                      | 16) <i>Tabebuia rosae</i>          |
|   | 17) <i>Terminalia alta</i>         |

d) Regarding the specimens that are traded under the common name “rosewood”, the overwhelming majority are related to wood products: carvings; furniture; jewellery; logs; musical instruments and accessories thereof (guitar, pianos, bagpipes, flute and flute parts, drums, etc., mostly for species of *Dalbergia* and *Guibourtia*); sawn wood; transformed wood; veneer sheets; and woodchips.

e) Only for two species that are traded under the common name “rosewood” (*Dalbergia nigra* and *Pterocarpus santalinus*), non-timber specimens were also reported in trade, respectively seeds and (non-specified) medicinal specimens.

9. The main findings relevant to Decision 18.234, subparagraph a) ii) are summarized below.

a) Regarding the conservation status of the “rosewood” species mentioned in their replies, the majority of the responding Parties pointed to the assessments in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) *Red List of Threatened Species*. With very few exceptions (e.g. *Dalbergia rimosa*), the species mentioned in the responses fall under the definition of “tree species” (FAO, 2018)<sup>1</sup>. In this sense, the outcomes of the ongoing Global Tree Assessment (GTA; an initiative coordinated by Botanical Gardens Conservation International and IUCN) could prove important in conducting the study called for under Decision 18.234. For further updates on the progress of the GTA initiative, please refer to: <https://www.bgci.org/our-work/projects-and-case-studies/global-tree-assessment/>.

b) In addition to the IUCN *Red List* and the GTA mentioned above, Parties provided updated sets of references and information on non-detriment findings (NDF) guidance and protocols, scientific articles and national red list assessments, which will also provide a complementary starting point for the study. The responses and information provided also touched upon compliance issues related to illegal trade. Likewise, reports and resources available from the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), such as the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), were often quoted as relevant resources for the purposes of the study.

10. The main findings relevant to Decision 18.234, subparagraph a) iii) are summarized below.

a) Regarding the effects of international trade on wild populations of CITES-listed rosewood species, the following species (all listed in Appendix II) were consistently reported as **highly to moderately** affected

<sup>1</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2018. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020. Terms and Definitions*. FRA 2020. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/i8661EN/i8661en.pdf>

by international trade, mostly due to suspected unsustainable levels of trade, or possible indications of illegal trade:

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) <i>Dalbergia bariensis</i>       | 11) <i>Dalbergia retusa</i>         |
| 2) <i>Dalbergia baronii</i>         | 12) <i>Dalbergia sericea</i>        |
| 3) <i>Dalbergia calderonii</i>      | 13) <i>Dalbergia spruceana</i>      |
| 4) <i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i> | 14) <i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i>    |
| 5) <i>Dalbergia congestiflora</i>   | 15) <i>Dalbergia tucurensis</i>     |
| 6) <i>Dalbergia glomerata</i>       | 16) <i>Guibourtia demeusei</i>      |
| 7) <i>Dalbergia granadillo</i>      | 17) <i>Guibourtia pellegriniana</i> |
| 8) <i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>       | 18) <i>Guibourtia tessmannii</i>    |
| 9) <i>Dalbergia malanoxylon</i>     | 19) <i>Paubrasilia echinata</i>     |
| 10) <i>Dalbergia oliveri</i>        | 20) <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>    |

The Secretariat notes that the CITES-listed rosewoods above could be considered amongst the first-priority candidates to address information gaps as per Decision 18.234, subparagraph a) ii).

- b) The effects of international trade on wild populations of the following CITES-listed rosewood species were reported as **unknown** (all of them listed in Appendix II):

- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) <i>Dalbergia assamica</i>        | 4) <i>Dalbergia decipularis</i> |
| 2) <i>Dalbergia cearensis</i>       | 5) <i>Dalbergia maritima</i>    |
| 3) <i>Dalbergia cubilquitzensis</i> |                                 |

In line with a precautionary approach, the Secretariat notes that these CITES-listed rosewoods could also be considered amongst the first-priority candidates to address information gaps as per Decision 18.234, subparagraph a) ii).

- c) The following non-CITES listed rosewoods taxa were reported as **highly to moderately** affected by international trade:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1) <i>Guibourtia coleosperma</i>                              | 6) <i>Millettia laurentii</i>     |
| 2) <i>Guibourtia conjugata</i>                                | 7) <i>Myroxilon balsamum</i>      |
| 3) <i>Guibourtia ehie</i>                                     | 8) <i>Pterocarpus macrocarpus</i> |
| 4) <i>Guibourtia</i> spp. (species not-listed in Appendix II) | 9) <i>Swartzia benthamiana</i>    |
| 5) <i>Machaerium scleroxylon</i>                              | 10) <i>Tabebuia rosae</i>         |

The Secretariat notes that the non-CITES listed rosewoods above could be considered amongst the second-priority candidates to address information gaps as per Decision 18.234, subparagraph a) ii).

- d) The effects of international trade on wild populations of the following CITES-listed rosewood species were mostly reported as **low**. With the exception of *Dalbergia nigra* (listed in Appendix I), all the following species are listed in Appendix II:

- |                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) <i>Aniba roseodora</i>     | 5) <i>Dalbergia pinnata</i>      |
| 2) <i>Dalbergia louvelii</i>  | 6) <i>Dalbergia rimosa</i>       |
| 3) <i>Dalbergia nigra</i>     | 7) <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>       |
| 4) <i>Dalbergia odorifera</i> | 8) <i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> |

Regarding the list above, the effects of international trade on wild populations of *Dalbergia nigra* (Appendix I) were mostly reported as “low”, since the majority of the trade reported seems to be for pre-convention specimens. Regarding *Pterocarpus santalinus*, the “low risk” classification was mostly

justified by the occurrence of artificial propagation plantations (mostly in India). Regarding *Dalbergia sissoo*, the risks posed by international trade were reported as low, considering *inter alia*, that it is known to be artificially propagated in Bhutan and India, and has been classified as an invasive species in some countries (e.g. United States of America). For the remaining species identified as “low risk”, this classification was justified by responding Parties given the low to no records of international trade.

11. The main findings relevant to Decision 18.235 were as follows:

- a) Parties mentioned the value of a *CITES Checklist for Dalbergia spp.* (Decision 18.307), which should also be a useful basis for undertaking the study envisaged in Decision 18.234 (see also document PC25 Doc. 34).
- b) Additionally, responding Parties noted that the workshop called for in paragraph d) of Decision 18.234 could be held in conjunction with the proposed 2nd international expert workshop on guidance for making non-detriment findings (as per Decision 18.134, and further reported in document AC31 Doc. 14.1/PC25 Doc. 17 on *Non-detriment findings*).

#### Recommendations

12. The Plants Committee is invited to establish an intersessional working group on rosewood tree species to:

- a) consider the progress reported in document PC25 Doc. 26.1, including the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2020/032 in an information document, and the compilation and analysis of responses in paragraphs 8 to 11 above;
- b) provide recommendations in preparation for the study and the international workshop referred to under Decision 18.234, including merging the latter as a component of the *2nd international workshop on guidance for making NDFs*, as per Decision 18.134 on *Non-detriment findings*;
- c) should external resources become available for undertaking the study and organizing the international workshop, consider the final study and outcomes of the workshop as they become available, and draft recommendations as per paragraph b) of Decision 18.236; and
- d) report the outcomes of its work to the Plants Committee at its 26th meeting, including draft recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.