

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

AFRICAN TREE SPECIES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), 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.*
3. In support of the implementation of Decision 17.302 and the tasks assigned to the working group, the Secretariat has produced in the Annex to this document a preliminary overview of African tree species listed in the Appendices (valid from 26 November 2019).

## Recommendations

4. The Plants Committee is invited to:
  - a) establish an intersessional working group on African tree species, with the terms of reference indicated in Decision 17.302; and
  - b) request the working group to take into consideration the preliminary overview of African tree species listed in the Appendices in the Annex to this document when conducting its work.

Preliminary overview of African tree species listed in the Appendices

1. For the purpose of this overview, the following definitions for “tree” have been used as reference:

- Tree (FAO, 2018):

*“A woody perennial with a single main stem, or in the case of coppice with several stems, having a more or less definite crown.*

*Explanatory note*

*1. Includes bamboos, palms, and other woody plants meeting the above criteria.”*

- Tree (IUCN GTSG, 2020):

*“Woody plant with usually a single stem growing to a height of at least two metres, or if multi-stemmed, then at least one vertical stem five centimetres in diameter at breast height.*

*Some plant species have variable lifeforms, but all species that are recorded as naturally growing as a tree somewhere have been included, with the reference cited.”*

2. On the basis of these definitions, the Secretariat has identified within the Appendices those listings that represent or cover African tree species (table below). There is a total of 205 African tree species listed in the Appendices (columns B and C). African tree species listings adopted or revised at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Geneva 2019) are **highlighted in green**; and further aspects relevant to the implementation of the Convention for these taxa are summarized in column D.

A. Family	B. Appendix II* *There are no listings of African tree species in Appendices I or III	C. African tree species* *CITES Checklist	D. Ongoing CITES processes
CUPRESSACEAE Alerce, cypresses	<i>Widdringtonia whytei</i>	1	Tree species endemic to Malawi, listed at CoP18 (Geneva, 2019).
EBENACEAE Ebonies	<i>Diospyros</i> spp. #5 (Populations of Madagascar)	85	<p>The higher taxonomic listing only applies species of the genus <i>Diospyros</i> native to Madagascar, which according to the <i>CITES Checklist</i> database total 85 species.</p> <p>Madagascar is currently undergoing a recommendation to suspend trade for this genus, as per <a href="#">Notification No. 2018/007</a>. For further updates on this, see agenda items PC25 Doc. 16.1 and PC25 Doc. 16.2 on <i>Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods (Dalbergia spp.) and ebonies (Diospyros spp.)</i>.</p>
LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae) Afromosia, cristobal, palisander, rosewood, sandalwood	<i>Dalbergia</i> spp. #15 (except for the species listed in Appendix I)	112	<p><u><i>Dalbergia</i> spp.</u></p> <p>To date, there is no standard nomenclature reference for this higher taxonomic listing, and therefore the estimated number of African tree species covered under this genus is based on the total currently reflected in the <i>CITES Checklist</i>.</p> <p>Decisions 18.307 to 18.308 on the <i>Production of a CITES Checklist for Dalbergia spp.</i> aim to address this.</p> <p>At CoP18, annotation #15 was amended to exclude from CITES' controls all musical instruments and other small handicrafts. Decisions 18.321 to 18.322 on <i>Annotation #15</i> aim to assess the effects of these new exemptions and conservation implications thereof.</p> <p>The revised annotation #15 has also introduced new terms to the Appendices (e.g. on instruments and shipments), which are now included in the Interpretation section of the Appendices.</p> <p>Regarding country-specific matters for <i>Dalbergia</i> spp., Madagascar is currently undergoing a recommendation to suspend trade for this genus, as per <a href="#">Notification No. 2018/007</a>. For further updates on this, see agenda items PC25 Doc. 16.1 and PC25 Doc. 16.2 on <i>Malagasy palisanders and rosewoods (Dalbergia spp.) and ebonies (Diospyros spp.)</i>.</p>

#5 Logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets.

#15 All parts and derivatives, except:

- Leaves, flowers, pollen, fruits, and seeds;
- Finished products to a maximum weight of wood of the listed species of up to 10 kg per shipment;
- Finished musical instruments, finished musical instrument parts and finished musical instrument accessories;
- Parts and derivatives of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, which are covered by Annotation # 4; and
- Parts and derivatives of *Dalbergia* spp. originating and exported from Mexico, which are covered by Annotation # 6.

A. Family	B. Appendix II* *There are no listings of African tree species in Appendices I or III	C. African tree species* *CITES Checklist	D. Ongoing CITES processes
	<b><i>Guibourtia demeusei</i></b> #15 <b><i>Guibourtia pellegriniana</i></b> #15 <b><i>Guibourtia tessmannii</i></b> #15	3	Same highlights as for <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. regarding annotation #15.
	<b><i>Pericopsis elata</i></b> #17	1	CoP18 amended this listing by including annotation #17, which introduces a new exemption and the term “transformed wood”; also defined in the Interpretation section of the Appendices.  Regarding country specific matters for <i>Pericopsis elata</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Côte d’Ivoire is part of the Review of Significant Trade for this species, since it was selected after CoP14. An ongoing recommendation to suspend trade for this species has been in effect since 7 September 2012 (see also <a href="#">Notification No. 2020/006</a>).</li> <li>○ Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are also part of the Review of Significant Trade for this species. The Secretariat provides updates on these cases under agenda item PC25 Doc. 15.3 on <i>Species selected following CoP17</i>.</li> </ul>
	<b><i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i></b>	1	Nigeria is subject to a recommendation to suspend trade for this species in accordance with Article XIII (Compliance and enforcement). In compliance with Decision 18.92, the Plants Committee will consider developing recommendations concerning the inclusion of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> from all range States in the Review of Significant Trade.
	<b><i>Pterocarpus tinctorius</i></b> #6	1	Rosewood species listed at CoP18 with annotation #6.
	<b><i>Senna meridionalis</i></b>	1	N/A.
MALVACEAE Includes baobabs	<b><i>Adansonia grandidieri</i></b> #16	1	CoP18 adopted revisions to annotation #16, as reflected in the footnote below.

#15 All parts and derivatives, except:  
a) Leaves, flowers, pollen, fruits, and seeds;  
b) Finished products to a maximum weight of wood of the listed species of up to 10 kg per shipment;  
c) Finished musical instruments, finished musical instrument parts and finished musical instrument accessories;  
d) Parts and derivatives of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, which are covered by Annotation # 4; and  
e) Parts and derivatives of *Dalbergia* spp. originating and exported from Mexico, which are covered by Annotation # 6.

#17 Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood and transformed wood.

#6 Logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets and plywood.

#16 Seeds, fruits and oils.

A. Family	B. Appendix II* <i>*There are no listings of African tree species in Appendices I or III</i>	C. African tree species* <i>*CITES Checklist</i>	D. Ongoing CITES processes
ROSACEAE African cherry, stinkwood	<b><i>Prunus africana</i></b> #4	1	Equatorial Guinea was selected under the Review of Significant Trade for this species after CoP11. Since 3 February 2009 an ongoing recommendation to suspend trade for this species remains in effect (see also <a href="#">Notification No. 2020/006</a> ).  Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were selected under the Review of Significant Trade for this species, and the Secretariat presents updates on these cases in document PC25 Doc. 15.2 on <i>Species selected following CoP16</i> .
SANTALACEAE Sandalwoods	<b><i>Osyris lanceolata</i></b> #2 (Populations of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania)	1	N/A.

3. For further updates on ongoing projects for African tree species under the CITES Tree species programme, please refer to document PC25 Doc. 8 on *Tree species programme*, as well as to <https://cites-tsp.org/es/>

#### References

FAO. 2018. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Terms and Definitions*. [www.fao.org/3/l8661EN/i8661en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/l8661EN/i8661en.pdf)

IUCN's Global Tree Specialist Group (IUCN GTSG). 2020. Available at: [https://tools.bgci.org/global\\_tree\\_search.php?action=about](https://tools.bgci.org/global_tree_search.php?action=about)

#4 All parts and derivatives, except:

- a) seeds (including seedpods of Orchidaceae), spores and pollen (including pollinia). The exemption does not apply to seeds from Cactaceae spp. exported from Mexico, and to seeds from *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* and *Dyopsis decaryi* exported from Madagascar;
- b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers;
- c) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants;
- d) fruits, and parts and derivatives thereof, of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genus *Vanilla* (Orchidaceae) and of the family Cactaceae;
- e) stems, flowers, and parts and derivatives thereof, of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genera *Opuntia* subgenus *Opuntia* and *Selenicereus* (Cactaceae); and
- f) finished products of *Aloe ferox* and *Euphorbia antisiphilitica* packaged and ready for retail trade.

#2 All parts and derivatives except:

- a) seeds and pollen; and
- b) finished products packaged and ready for retail trade.