

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



Sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 27 November -1 December 2017

Species specific matters

ROSEWOOD TIMBER SPECIES [LEGUMINOSAE (FABACEAE)] :  
IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION 17.234: FOLLOW UP ON PC23 OUTCOMES

1. This document has been submitted by by the Chair of the Plants Committee.\*
2. Based on the recommendations of document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) on “International trade in rosewood timber species” by the European Union and Mexico, the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Co17; Johannesburg, 2016) adopted Decision 17.234 on “Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)], which reads:

*“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.”*

Progress achieved by PC23

3. At the 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC23; 22 and 24-27 July, 2017, Geneva), the Regional Representative of Europe (Mr. Carmo) and the Alternate Regional Representative of North America (Ms. Camarena) presented document [PC23 Doc. 22.1](#) on “Implementation of Decision 17.234”. The document describes at length:
  - a) CoP17 outcomes related to rosewood species;
  - b) The current status of rosewood listings in CITES Appendices;
  - c) The progress achieved related to their implementation; and
  - d) Recommendations to the Plants Committee related to the implementation of Decision 17.234.
4. Based on the recommendations of the document above, the Plants Committee established a working group chaired by the acting representative of North America and the representative of Europe, with the mandate to:

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\* *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.*

- a) Identify the key issues of concern with regard to CITES implementation for rosewood species;
  - b) Give special consideration to non-CITES listed species of the genus *Pterocarpus* and *Guibourtia*, which occur in international trade and yet are currently not regulated; and
  - c) Based on experience with trade in rosewood species, review document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) and the draft decisions contained in its annexes, and formulate recommendations concerning rosewood species, which may include drafting additional decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.
5. Based on the discussions during the working group, the Plants Committee adopted the recommendations contained in the rosewood working group as described in [PC23 Sum.4 \(Rev. 1\)](#). In addition to recommendations to the Parties aimed to facilitate the implementation of rosewood listings related to identification and NDF aspects, the Plants Committee agreed to submit paragraphs 2 and 3 of the working group report ([PC23 Com. 10 \(Rev. by Sec.\)](#)) for consideration at this meeting of the Standing Committee (SC69) which read:

<b>Excerpt from PC23 Com. 10 (Rev. by Sec.): Aspects for revision by SC69</b>
<p><b>2. Give special consideration to non-CITES listed species of the genus <i>Pterocarpus</i> and <i>Guibourtia</i>, which occur in international trade and yet are currently not regulated.</b></p> <p>The working group recommends the assessment of non-listed rosewoods with respect to the criteria to amend Appendices I and II of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) including those of the genus <i>Pterocarpus</i> and <i>Guibourtia</i>, as well as species from the genus <i>Cassia</i>, <i>Millettia</i>, <i>Machaerium</i>, <i>Dicomia</i>, <i>Caesalpinia</i> and <i>Swartzia</i>. Specific recommendations on a study for this purpose are detailed in the paragraph infra, as well as under paragraph 3 below.</p> <p><b>3. Based on experience with trade in rosewood species, review document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) and the draft decisions contained in its annexes, and formulate recommendations concerning rosewood species, which may include drafting additional decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.</b></p> <p>The working group recommends the Plants Committee to adopt the following recommendations, which are based upon the draft decisions contained in document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1).</p> <p>3.1. Request the Secretariat, subject to external funding, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) contract independent consultants with relevant expertise to undertake a study: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. taking into consideration the already existing information, to compile available data and information, and to identify information gaps on the biology, population status, management, use and trade in rosewood timber species currently listed, as well as those that are not included in the Appendices to the Convention, in particular those species that are highly sought after for the timber trade, such as certain species of the genera <i>Cassia</i>, <i>Caesalpinia</i>, <i>Dicornia</i>, <i>Guibourtia</i>, <i>Machaerium</i>, <i>Millettia</i>, <i>Pterocarpus</i> and <i>Swartzia</i>;</li> <li>ii. assessing the effects of international trade on wild populations of those rosewood timber species;</li> <li>iii. assessing the potential benefits of the inclusion of non-listed timber species of rosewood in the Appendices to the Convention;</li> <li>iv. assessing the enforcement and identification challenges that are posed by the listings of rosewood timber species that are presently included in the Appendices to the Convention, and the potential benefits of the inclusion of additional species in the Appendices to the Convention;</li> <li>v. providing conclusions and recommendations regarding non-CITES listed rosewood timber species: a. whether certain rosewood timber species or genera meet the criteria for inclusion in the Appendices; b. whether the inclusion of these species would present an added value for their conservation; c. 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;</li> <li>vi. providing conclusions and recommendations regarding CITES-listed rosewood timber species whether information necessary to formulate non-detriment findings is already available (such as inventories, management plans, harvest, conversion factors, yield tables).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

- b) issue a Notification seeking expressions of interest and contributions from Parties and relevant stakeholders, in particular exporting, re-exporting and importing countries, to provide the Secretariat and their consultants with information needed for the purposes of completing paragraph 3.1 a) and experts contacts regarding international trade in rosewood timber;
  - c) organize, where appropriate, international workshops, inviting cooperation with and participation by relevant range States, trading countries, international organizations, industry representatives and other experts, with a view to presenting and discussing the results and recommendations of the study as referred to under Paragraph 3.1 a) and, if available, the recommendations of the Plants Committee as referred to under 3.1 b);
  - d) make any workshop report available to the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC24) for its consideration.
- 3.2. Invite Parties involved in international trade in rosewood timber species (in collaboration with relevant stakeholders) to:
- a) provide the Secretariat and their consultants with information needed for the purposes of completing paragraph 3.1 a) of this document;
  - b) participate, where appropriate, in the international workshops as referred to under paragraph 3.1 b), and share their advice on the results and recommendations of the study as referred to under Paragraph 3.1 a);
  - c) liaise with governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to share information and encourage the provision of funds to support the work to be carried out by the consultants as referred to under paragraph 3.1 a) and enable the implementation of international workshops as referred to under paragraph 3.1 c).
- 3.3. Recommendations to the Plants Committee
- a) Consider at its 24th meeting (PC24) the outcomes of the study (or its progress) referred to under paragraph 3.1 a) and the workshop reports referred to under paragraph 3.1 d), and any other relevant information on international trade in rosewood timber;
  - b) provide, for consideration by the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18), its conclusions and recommendations.

6. The Plants Committee also agreed to convey enforcement and management aspects related to interpretation and implementation of annotation #15 described in paragraphs 9.3 and 9.4 of [PC23 Doc. 22.1](#) for consideration of this meeting of the Standing Committee (SC69). Paragraph 9.3, parts b) and c) specify a need for clarification on the definition of “non-commercial”, a uniform understanding of the “10 kg exemption” and how it should be calculated, and how to simplify movement of musical instruments and the issue of consolidated shipments for travelling orchestras. These aspects are addressed in the document on the interpretation of Annotation #15. The outstanding aspects to convey to SC69 include:

- The interpretation of pre-Convention specimens with regards to rosewood harvested from plantations (Part a of paragraph 9.3); and
- The reservations entered by India and Indonesia brought some extra “confusion” into the implementation of CITES to rosewood species. Special clarification is needed about the Indian authorities’ policy on the harvest of *Dalbergia latifolia* from different sources (“W” versus “A”) and also about the documents being issued for export purposes, as some products are being exported with CITES comparable documents (as supposed when a country enters a reservation) but others are being exported with regular CITES export permits (Part d of paragraph 9.3).
- Due to the inclusion of the whole genus *Dalbergia* into the CITES Appendices (together with *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and the three *Guibourtia* species) some Parties felt that there was a remarkable increase in trade requests for timber/wood products, in particular applications for import/(re) export permits and certificates. Some Parties have introduced procedures to simplify the issuance of multiple-use pre-Convention certificates for businesses exporting significant quantities of pre-Convention rosewood (where the pre-CITES status of specimens can be verified in advance); however, those procedures should be standardized between all the Parties; one Party, based on national regulations, is registering all pre-convention stockpiles. Based on the experiences and the questions received by CITES authorities concerning the implementation of these listings, some Parties developed question and answer documents regarding this issue, like the [United States of America](#) and the [European Union](#) (Part d of paragraph 9.3).

- A major challenge at a short term will be the evaluation of the conservation benefit and implementation viability of annotations for the CITES-listed rosewood species. This includes ensuring that the annotations effectively cover the relevant commodities in trade, that the annotations can be readily understood and are consistently implemented by the Parties, and evaluating how CITES can effectively respond to changes in production patterns and species preferences that appear to be aimed to circumvent CITES controls (Part a) of paragraph 9.4):.

#### Recommendations to the Standing Committee

7. Take note of the progress achieved by the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decision 17.234.
8. Clarify the aspects outlined in paragraph 6 above; and
9. Provide guidance in order for the Plants Committee (and the Secretariat) to:
  - a) Move forward in the implementation of recommendations under paragraphs 2 to 3 of [PC23 Com. 10 \(Rev. by Sec.\)](#);
  - b) Ensure significant progress in the implementation of said recommendations in advance of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18; Sri Lanka).