

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

MALAGASY *DIOSPYROS* SPP.) AND PALISANDERS AND *DALBERGIA* SPP.)

This document has been prepared by the in-session working group on Malagasy Diospyros spp. and Dalbergia spp., on the basis of document SC69 Doc. 49.2.

The Standing Committee established an in-session working group on Malagasy *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp. with the following mandate:

Within the mandate of the Standing Committee as provided in Decision 17.207

- a) clarify the understanding of the scope of the Standing Committee's current trade suspension;
- b) consider lifting or maintaining the current trade suspension; and
- c) consider additional recommendations on the provision of financial and technical support to Madagascar, the conditions for the sale of existing stockpiles and the localization and seizure of undeclared stockpiles

Conclusions of the Working Group

Canada, notes that consensus on conclusions and recommendations relating to the working group mandate was not reached by the working group.

Regarding part a):

The majority of the working group concludes that Decision 17.203 includes transit and destination Parties within the scope of the current commercial trade suspension in specimens of the species *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar.

Regarding part b):

The majority of the working group concludes that the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Secretariat as presented in SC69 Doc.49.2, paragraph 39, parts a) and c), indicate that Madagascar, while having made valuable progress towards fulfilling the requirements of paragraphs e) and f) of Decision 17.204, has not yet met those requirements.

Madagascar proposed a revision to paragraph 39 of SC69 Doc. 49.2 (Conclusions and Recommendations), proposing (*inter alia*) a lifting of the current commercial trade suspension of trade in specimens of *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp. from Madagascar, but maintaining a national embargo until the requirements have been met.

Regarding part c):

The working group concludes that:

Parties should be encouraged to provide additional financial and technical support to Madagascar, as directed in Decision 17.205.

An opportunity to support Madagascar's financial and technical challenges is presented in Doc.49.2 paragraph 38 in reference to CITES-listed rosewood and ebony consignments originating in Madagascar and confiscated outside that country. The Secretariat speculates, in paragraph 38 of document SC66 Doc. 46.2, that one-time auctions of such stockpiles could take place if the proceeds from such auctions could be placed into a secure and well managed trust fund.

The working group stressed that in the event of any such one-time auction of seized specimens of *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar, Annotation #5) and *Dalbergia* spp. (populations of Madagascar, Annotation #15) in destination or transit countries, the purchaser should seek to re-export such timber, paragraph 8 of Resolution Conf. 17.8 on Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species should be followed.

Working Group Recommendations:

The majority of the working group proposes changes to the conclusions proposed by the Secretariat in document SC69 Doc. 49.2, paragraph 39 (revised text is underscored):

Conclusions

e) therefore agrees to maintain the recommendation for Parties not to accept exports or re-exports for commercial purposes from Madagascar of specimens of *Diospyros* spp. (populations of Madagascar, Annotation #5) and *Dalbergia* spp. (annotation #15) until Madagascar has complied with the provisions in Decision 17.204, paragraphs e) and f), by:

significantly strengthening control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and export at the national level, including seizures, investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and sanctions, including towards high-level offenders; [no consensus]

ii) submitting an audited inventory of at least a third of the stockpiles of logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets of species of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar for consideration and approval of the Committee; and

iii) submitting a use plan that is revised as recommended in paragraph d), for consideration and approval of the Committee; and

f) requests the Secretariat to report on progress made by Madagascar with the implementation of paragraphs e) and f) of Decision at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee.

g) requests the Secretariat to report on progress made by Parties and relevant partners in providing technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of Decisions 17.203 to 17.208 and the finalization and implementation of the use plan at the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee; [no consensus]

h) urges Parties and relevant partners to provide technical and financial assistance to support the implementation of Decisions 17.203 to 17.208 and the finalization and implementation of the use plan. [consensus]

i) recommends that transit and destination Parties holding stockpiles of seized specimens of species of *Diospyros* spp. (populations from Madagascar; annotation #5) and *Dalbergia* spp. (populations from Madagascar; annotation #15) suspend commercial trade in these stockpiles until they have submitted to the Secretariat, for review, action plans to effectively manage their stockpiles, and these action plans have been examined by the Standing Committee at one of its meetings.[no consensus]

j) invites transit and destination Parties to implement Decision 17.203, and to report progress to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee. [no consensus]