

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



Seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Rosa Khutor, Sochi (Russian Federation), 1-5 October 2018

Species specific matters

ROSEWOOD TIMBER SPECIES [LEGUMINOSEAE (FABACEAE)]:  
REPORT OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee.\*

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 17.234, on *Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]* as follows:

**17.234 Directed to the Plants Committee**

*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 in the implementation of Decision 17.234

3. The Chair of the Plants Committee reported progress in the implementation of Decision 17.234 to the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva 2017; see document [SC69 Doc. 56](#)). The Plants Committee requested guidance from the Standing Committee in order for the Plants Committee (and the Secretariat) to move forward in the implementation of a study outlined under paragraph 5 of the document, and to ensure significant progress in the implementation of Decision 17.234 in advance of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, Sri Lanka 2019).
4. Some Parties expressed agreement with the recommendations contained in the Plants Committees' document, noting that the proposed study should give priority to the rosewood species currently listed in the Appendices. However, the Secretariat pointed out that the Plants Committee's recommendation for the Secretariat to raise external funds for undertaking this study was not in compliance with the Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP17), noting that such activities can only be instructed by the Conference of the Parties. In response, the Standing Committee encouraged Parties to initiate a study considering the aspects in

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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.*

paragraph 5 of document SC69 Doc. 56, and share the results with interested Parties at the Plants Committee (see SC69 SR).

5. At its 24th meeting (PC24, Geneva 2018), the Plants Committee considered document PC24 Doc. 19.1 by the Chair of the Plants Committee. The document reported on the recommendations of the Standing Committee, and *inter alia* invited the Plants Committee to request Parties to share updates regarding the initiation of the study, and considering the progress achieved in the implementation of Decision 17.234, develop draft decisions for the Plants Committee to submit for consideration at CoP18.
6. The Plants Committee established an in-session working group with a mandate to: review document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1) on *International trade in rosewood timber species [LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae)]* and the draft decisions in its Annex; the results of deliberations at PC23; and feedback received at this present meeting; and, based on this review, draft a revised decision that focuses on CITES-listed rosewood species.
7. The Plants Committee adopted the recommendations drafted by its in-session working group, and which contain the following draft decisions, shown in document [PC24 Com. 7](#):

#### **18.AA Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall:

- a) Subject to external funding, contract a consultancy to undertake the following study:
  - i) 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 timber species as a first priority; and as a second priority, rosewood timber species that are not included in the CITES Appendices, in particular those species that are highly sought after for the timber trade, such as certain species of the genera *Cassia*, *Caesalpinia*, *Dicornia*, *Guibourtia*, *Machaerium*, *Millettia*, *Pterocarpus* and *Swartzia*;
  - ii) Assess the effects of international trade on wild populations of the species concerned;
  - iii) Assess the conservation implications of any exemptions in the annotations to the listings; and
  - iv) Take into account the relevant work on timber identification to be carried out under Decision 18.XX on timber identification.
- 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 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) Provide the final study to the Plants Committee, and outcomes of the workshop if held; and
- f) Seek external funding to support the study, and the workshop as appropriate.

#### **18.BB Directed to Parties**

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) Respond to the Notification described in part b) of Decision 18.AA in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders; and

- b) Support the work of the consultancy, and the workshop as appropriate, including seeking external funding from stakeholders and others.

**18.CC *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;
  - b) Consider the final study, and outcomes of the workshop if held, and make recommendations on how to enhance implementation for CITES-listed rosewood timber species with a particular focus on non-detriment findings including with respect to capacity building; and make further recommendations regarding non-listed rosewood timber species; and
  - c) Make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.
8. The Plants Committee agreed to submit the draft decisions (as shown in paragraph 7) for consideration by the Standing Committee in order to invite it to consider additions of elements to the study related to enforcement and implementation, and bring a draft decision to CoP18 accordingly:

Recommendations

9. Taking into consideration the progress achieved by the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decision 17.234, the Standing Committee is invited to:
- a) consider the draft decisions included under paragraph 7 above, and possible additional elements for the study relating to enforcement and implementation; and
  - b) request the Chair of the Plants Committee to submit a draft decision to CoP18 accordingly.