

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

MALAGASY EBONIES (*DIOSPYROS* SPP.) AND PALISANDERS  
AND ROSEWOODS (*DALBERGIA* SPP.)

Recommendations

**Regarding the business plan**

The Standing Committee:

- a) Recognizes that the revised Business Plan submitted by Madagascar in Annex 3 of document SC70 Doc. 27.5.2 presents substantial improvements. While the plan in its current form needs further strengthening and revision and thus cannot be approved at this stage, Madagascar is encouraged to implement steps 1 and 2 of phase 1 of the business plan and proceed with the inventory of declared stockpiles.
- b) Regarding the *Governance Structure of the Stockpile Audit Mechanism and Business Plan*, and in order to ensure transparency, and effective and independent oversight, recommends Madagascar to:
  - i) consider the function of an independent observer, to be funded from external sources;
  - ii) strengthen the oversight mechanism for both the financing of the plan and the allocation of revenues; and
  - iii) establish a monitoring system to assess possible impacts of any sales on illegal logging and timber trafficking, with the support of relevant partners.
- c) Regarding Phase 1, recommends that:
  - i) For Steps 1 and 2: Madagascar is encouraged to implement the inventory and secure the funding required with the support of external donors; and
  - ii) For Steps 3 and 4: Madagascar, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, should explore alternatives to the current proposed compensation schemes to take official control of the wood, in compliance with national legislation and relevant legal procedures in place, and ensure that there will be no financial benefit to those involved in illegal activity. The relevant sections of the use plan should be amended accordingly.
- d) Regarding Phase 2, recommends that:

Concerning the allocation of potential revenues, Madagascar is encouraged to explore alternatives regarding the allocation of these revenues in order to make them more conservation friendly. This could include establishing an independent trust fund (pending approval by the Ministry of Finance and Budget).

- e) Taking into consideration the above, Madagascar is encouraged to ensure that the new version of the business plan reflects the proposed comments and advice, and be edited for clarity and consistency, with support of partners and the Secretariat.

**Regarding the draft decision (Annex 4 of document SC70 Doc. 27.5.2)**

The Standing Committee recommends to adopt and bring forward for consideration at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the draft decisions included in Annex 4 of document SC70 Doc. 27.5.2, with the following amendments:

- Paragraph b) of Decision 18.AA, is to be replaced with the following language:

“as appropriate, collaborate with Madagascar in the implementation of the agreed part (inventories, i.e. steps 1 and 2 of Phase 1) of the use plan to manage timber stockpiles of specimens of these species from Madagascar”

- Paragraph f) of Decision 18.BB, is to be replaced with the following language:

“submit regular updates on audited inventories of at least a third of the stockpiles of species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar, [and after substantial progress has been achieved on paragraphs a) to e)]<sup>1</sup>, submit a modified use plan for consideration, approval and further guidance from the Standing Committee; and”

- Paragraph b) of Decision 18. EE, is to be amended as follows:

subject to external funding, assist with relevant capacity-building activities in Madagascar and transit and destination countries concerned by the trade in specimens of *Diospyros* spp. and *Dalbergia* spp. from Madagascar, including activities related to the implementation of the use plan to manage timber stockpiles of specimens of these species from Madagascar in Annex 3 of document SC70 Doc. 27.5.4 Decision 18.AA; and

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<sup>1</sup> The working group achieved no consensus on adding this element to the draft Decisions.