

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Species specific matters

ROSEWOOD TREE SPECIES [LEGUMINOSAE (FABACEAE)]:
REPORT OF THE PLANTS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been submitted by the Plants Committee.*
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.234 to 18.237 on *Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]*, as follows:

18.234 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) *subject to external resources, undertake the following study:*
 - i) *provide or confirm, with the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee, a reference list of genera that are commonly referred to as “rosewood tree species”, noting that at present the species from the following CITES and non-CITES listed genera have been assumed as such by the CITES community: Caesalpinia, Cassia, Dalbergia, Dicorynia, Guibourtia, Machaerium, Millettia, Pterocarpus and Swartzia;*
 - ii) *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 tree species as a first priority; and as a second priority, non-CITES listed rosewood tree species, in particular those that are highly sought after for the timber trade;*
 - iii) *assess the effects of international trade on wild populations of the species concerned; and*
 - iv) *take into account the relevant work on timber identification to be carried out under Decisions 18.140 to 18.143 on Identification of timber and other wood products;*

* *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.*

- 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 paragraph 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) *submit the final study for consideration by the Plants Committee, as well as the outcomes of the workshop if held; and*
- f) *seek external resources to support the study, and the workshop as appropriate.*

18.235 Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) *respond to the Notification described in paragraph b) of Decision 18.234 in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders; and*
- b) *support the work of the consultancy, and the workshop as appropriate, including seeking external resources from relevant stakeholders.*

18.236 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 referred to under Decision 18.234;*
- b) *consider the final study, and outcomes of the workshop if held, and make recommendations on how to enhance implementation for CITES-listed rosewood tree species with a particular focus on non-detriment findings including with respect to capacity building; and make further recommendations regarding non-CITES listed rosewood tree species; and*
- c) *make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.*

18.237 Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider any report prepared in response to Decision 18.236 and identify any implementation and enforcement issues associated with the international trade in rosewood tree species, particularly those already listed in the Appendices, and develop recommendations for more effective implementation of the Convention for rosewood tree species. The Standing Committee shall furthermore take into account considerations related to revisions to annotations, and identification of terms in annotations that require further clarification and convey them for consideration by the working group on annotations.

3. At its 25th meeting (PC25, online, June 2021), the Plants Committee considered documents PC25 Doc. 26.1 by the Secretariat, PC25 Doc. 26.2 by the European Union in consultation with its Member States, and PC25 Doc. 26.3 by the co-chairs of the working group on rosewood tree species. They outline the progress achieved in the implementation of Decisions 18.234 to 18.237.
4. The Plants Committee took note of documents PC25 Doc. 26.1, Doc. 26.2 and Doc. 26.3 and agreed to submit the draft decisions contained in the Annex to the present document to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to continue the work on rosewood tree species.

5. Regarding Decision 18.234, the Secretariat estimates the cost of its implementation at USD 550,000 to be allocated as follows: USD 350,000 for the study in paragraph a) of the Decision; and USD 200,000 for the international workshop in paragraph d) of the Decision. The Secretariat has secured part of the resources to support its implementation thanks to the generous contribution from Switzerland. While insufficient to ensure the full implementation of Decision 18.234, the available funds can support desk work in relation to paragraph a), by building upon the findings and recommendations contained in documents PC25 Doc. 26.1, PC25 Doc. 26.2 and PC25 Doc. 26.3, and specifically to expand on the reference list of genera that are commonly referred to as “rosewood tree species”, and information gaps relating to conservation, management and trade of rosewood tree species. At the time of writing, the Secretariat is drafting terms of reference for such a study and exploring partnerships for its conduct.
6. Further, regarding paragraphs b) to c) on Decision 18.234, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2020/023 on *Questionnaire on rosewood tree species* and summarized the main findings of the responses received in document PC25 Doc. 26.1 for consideration of the Plants Committee. The document also includes recommendations regarding the rosewood tree species that would have to be prioritized for discussion at the international workshop called for under paragraph d) of Decision 18.234.
7. Considering the external funds for the study and the international workshop mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 6 above that remain to be secured, the Plants Committee could not make progress in the implementation of Decision 18.236, paragraph b). Mindful of this, the draft decisions agreed by the Plants Committee and contained in the Annex to this document allow for these activities to be carried on once external resources are secured following CoP19.
8. Regarding Decision 18.237, the Plants Committee reminds that document SC74 Doc. 35.1.1 provides information on documented, widespread and pervasive illegal trade in the 16 known range States of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* range States that are in the review of significant trade.

Recommendations

9. In accordance with Decision 18.237, the Standing Committee is invited to:
 - a) consider the draft Decisions contained in the Annex to this document as agreed by the Plants Committee; and
 - b) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its 19th meeting.

Draft decisions as agreed by the Plants Committee

ROSEWOOD TREE SPECIES [LEGUMINOSAE (FABACEAE)]

19.AA Directed to the Secretariat

Subject to external resources, the Secretariat shall:

- a) in consultation with the Plants Committee, develop the objectives of the proposed study of rosewood tree species, taking into account findings and recommendations contained in documents PC25 Doc. 26.1, PC25 Doc. 26.2 and PC25 Doc. 26.3;
- b) commission a study on the conservation and trade rosewood-tree species identified, taking into account the priorities, findings and recommendations contained in documents PC25 Doc. 26.1, PC25 Doc. 26.2 and PC25 Doc. 26.3;
- c) report on the progress of the study to the Plants Committee;
- d) taking into account the above, 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; and
- e) submit the final study for consideration by the Plants Committee, as well as the outcomes of the workshop, if held.

19.BB Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall consider any progress reported by the Secretariat in relation to the implementation of Decision 19.AA, work with the Secretariat to develop the objectives of the study, and make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

19.CC Directed to the Parties

Parties are invited to collaborate with the Secretariat and the Plants Committee in the implementation of Decisions 19.AA and 19.BB, and support the work of the study and the international workshop, including seeking external resources from relevant organizations and stakeholders.

19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider any report relating to the implementation of Decision 19.AA to 19.CC;
- b) identify any implementation and enforcement issues associated with the international trade in rosewood tree species, particularly those identified as a priority by the Plants Committee; and
- c) make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.