

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

Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Species specific matters

ROSEWOOD TIMBER SPECIES [LEGUMINOSAE (FABACEAE)]

1. This document has been submitted by 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.*

Implementation of Decision 17.234

3. The Plants Committee considered Decision 17.234 at its 23rd meeting (PC23, Geneva, July 2017) (see document [PC23 Doc. 22.1](#)), and brought forward the outcomes of these deliberations for consideration of the Standing Committee at its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017) (see document [SC69 Doc. 56](#)). In the latter document, the Plants Committee requested guidance from the Standing Committee, with the purpose of moving forward in the implementation of a study on CITES-listed and non-listed species of rosewood, and ensuring significant progress in the implementation of Decision 17.234 in advance of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Standing Committee advised that the mandate to commission a study would need to be provided by the Conference of the Parties.
4. At its 24th meeting (PC24, Geneva, July 2018), the Plants Committee considered document [PC24 Doc. 19.1](#), established a working group, and adopted the recommendations, including a set of draft decisions (see [PC24 Com. 7](#)). The Plants Committee agreed to submit these draft decisions to the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee, inviting it to consider additional elements relating to enforcement and implementation.

* *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.*

5. At its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018), the Standing Committee considered document [SC70 Doc. 53](#) submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee. The Standing Committee requested the Plants Committee to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting the following draft decisions:

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 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) 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 paragraph 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.

18. DD Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider any report prepared in response to Decision 18.AA and identify any implementation and enforcement issues associated with the international trade in rosewood species, particularly those already listed in the Appendices, and develop recommendations for more effective implementation of the Convention for rosewood species. Considerations should include recommended revisions to annotations, identification of terms in annotations that require further clarification, identification of challenges to effective implementation, etc.

Recommendations

- 6. The Conference of the Parties is invited to delete Decision 17.234, and replace it with the draft decisions outlined in paragraph 5 above.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat welcomes the proposed draft decisions on *Rosewood timber species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]*, which properly reflect the lengthy work and agreements by the Plants Committee at its 23rd and 24th meetings, as well as further advice from the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting. A tentative budget for the implementation of the proposed draft decisions has been included by the Secretariat in the Annex 2 to the present document.
- B. With the intention to align the proposed draft decisions with other recommendations the Plants and Standing Committees have submitted for consideration at the present meeting, the Secretariat wishes to propose revisions to the proposed draft decisions on the basis of the following:
 - a) Draft decision 18.AA mentions CITES-listed and non-CITES listed “rosewood timber species”. In the past, Parties have acknowledged that this is a common commercial name that encompasses hundreds of species within *circa* nine genera of tree species in trade [see document CoP17 Doc. 62 (Rev. 1)], which together represent an artificial (paraphyletic) group. Yet this common understanding remains to be formalized through a reference list useful for CITES purposes. This, however, is not to be confused with the much-needed development of a *Dalbergia* checklist, for which there is a proposed mandate in Annex 2 of document CoP18 Doc. 99 on *Standard nomenclature*. On the other hand, the Secretariat advises against restricting the implementation of the study exclusively to a consultancy, since it can be undertaken through a variety of means;
 - b) Through document CoP18 Doc. 50, the Standing Committee proposes amendments to Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*, including replacing ‘timber’ in the title of the Resolution by ‘tree’, and subordinate changes throughout the text as appropriate. In line with this, and for consistency, the Secretariat considers similar changes are warranted in the text of the proposed decisions submitted by the Plants Committee; and
 - c) Through document CoP18 Doc. 101 on *Annotations*, the Standing Committee is proposing a revised mandate for its working group on annotations [currently under Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP17)], as well as a set of new annotation-related mandates. With a view to streamline all annotation-related activities, it is desirable to convey such considerations from the rosewood tree species draft decisions to the Standing Committee’s working group on annotations instead. This would imply then adjusting elements of the draft decisions, as reflected below.

- C. The Secretariat further notes that the proposed decisions, if adopted, could contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of rosewood tree species undergoing CITES compliance processes, such as the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species.
- D. Likewise, and if adopted, the work proposed in the draft decisions could benefit the implementation of future amendments to CITES rosewood tree-listings in the Appendices, such as those to be discussed at the present meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- E. The Secretariat also draws the Parties' attention to document CoP18 Doc. 16 which, *inter alia*, provides updates on the projects developed under the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP), and which are expected to contribute to the implementation of the study being proposed in the draft decisions.
- F. Taking into account the above, the Secretariat proposes amendments to the draft decisions proposed by the Plants Committee (paragraph 5 of the document), including a proposed *chapeau* and other editorial changes. These amendments are included in Annex 1.
- G. Considering the above, the Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties:
 - a) adopt the amended draft decisions on rosewood tree species, as per Annex 1 of the document; and
 - b) subject to the above, agree that Decision 17.234 should be deleted.

**Decisions on rosewood tree species, as amended by the Secretariat
(New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~)**

Rosewood tree species [Leguminosae (Fabaceae)]

18.AA Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external resources funding, ~~contract a consultancy to~~ undertake the following study:
 - i) provide or confirm 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~~timber species as a first priority; and as a second priority, non-CITES listed rosewood ~~tree~~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*;~~
 - iii) assess the effects of international trade on wild populations of the species concerned; and
 - ~~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) submit~~provide~~ the final study for consideration by the Plants Committee, and as well as the ~~and~~ outcomes of the workshop if held; and
- f) seek external ~~funding~~resources 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 paragraph 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~~resources from relevant 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 referred to under Decision 18.AA;
- 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~~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 ~~timber~~ tree species; and
- c) make recommendations to the Standing Committee and the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties as appropriate.

18.DD Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall consider any report prepared in response to Decision 18.AA 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 ~~C~~considerations related to ~~should include recommended~~ revisions to annotations, and identification of terms in annotations that require further clarification, and convey them for consideration by the working group on annotations. ~~identification of challenges to effective implementation, etcetera.~~

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding.

The Secretariat, at the request of the Chair of the Plants Committee, provides a tentative budget for the implementation of the proposed draft decisions on rosewood tree species.

The study referred to under draft decision 18.AA, a) may cost around USD 350,000 to 400,000, as it may need to cover hundreds of tree species from *circa* nine different genera.

A dedicated international workshop on CITES-listed and non-CITES listed rosewood tree species, proposed in draft decision 18.AA, d), would be a large meeting, involving over 50 participants of which perhaps half would need to be supported, and would imply travel across continents. Meetings of that size and nature carry an approximate cost of between 100,000 to 200,000 USD.

The Secretariat also notes that the workshop proposed under draft decision 18.AA, d), could be partially covered or addressed through the workshop envisioned in the draft decisions on *Non-detriment findings* in document CoP18 Doc. 45.