



Regional workshop for range States of African rosewood (*P. erinaceus*): Draft report

2 to 6 September 2024, Douala, Cameroon

Documentation available at: <https://cites.org/eng/node/139090>

Introduction

- Objective: Catalyse at the regional level the implementation of the recommendations under the CITES expedited application of Article XIII and the review of significant trade processes.
- The workshop was attended by **63 participants**, from:
 - 18 Parties in total:
 - 15 range States of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*; and,
 - 3 range States of other African tree species.
 - 8 international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations as observers.



A focus on capacity building for NDF and LAF

- The workshop focused on building capacities for non-detriment findings (NDF) and legal acquisition findings (LAF) and traceability for specimens of *P. erinaceus* and other African tree species.
- It also provided:
 - An opportunity to have a practical understanding of customs procedures applied in Cameroon and enforcement aspects of CITES, including through the visit to the Port of Douala.
 - An overview of funding opportunities for projects under the CITES Tree Species Project (CTSP).

Main insights: NDF-component

- Parties acquired a better understanding of NDF through the new CITES NDF Guidance (2024).
- Particular focus was made on Module 10 on NDFs for CITES tree species, noting that it recapitulates known principles of forestry that apply to all CITES tree species.
- Emphasis was made that forest inventories should be at the core of any NDF process for a CITES-tree species.
- Scientific Authorities are encouraged to opt for a precautionary principle, including recommending cautious quotas and including conditions to positive NDF to ensure long-term monitoring of populations under harvest.



Main insights: NDF-component (cont.)

- Range States of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* wishing to resume legal and sustainable trade can learn from the progress made by **Mali, Ghana and Sierra Leone** in having NDFs and quotas accepted by the Plants Committee.
- CITES NDFs can also serve as a means to advance the knowledge on the conservation and population status of *P. erinaceus* at the national level and global levels.

Main insights: LAF & traceability components

- Parties acquired a better understanding on LAF and traceability considerations through the principles and recommendations of the Rapid Guide on the Making of LAFs.
- LAF must be preceded by an NDF. Both are required to issue a CITES permit.
- The LAF process requires a strong institutional infrastructure and coordination amongst key stakeholders, with the Management Authority as lead of the process.
- Traceability and chain of custody control are means to achieve LAFs.
- LAF and traceability must be implemented on a case-by-case basis, for each shipment, and taking into account national procedures.

Main insights: LAF & traceability components

- **Mali** is a good example on significant progress made on the LAF for *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, and range States are encouraged to learn from its experience.
- With regards to traceability, **Ghana, Mali, Sierra Leone and Cameroon** are good examples of the range of approaches that are implemented at a national level to establish traceability systems in support of the LAF process.

Enforcement

- Parties acquired a better understanding on the enforcement-related provisions of the Convention and the available tools and resources to implement them.
- The visit to the Port of Douala provided an excellent opportunity for participants to see the process that Cameroon follows to monitor the export and re-export of CITES listed tree species, and clearances procedures applicable (MINFOF and Customs).



CITES Tree Species Project: opportunities

- The Secretariat has taken note of the main challenges Parties expressed on NDF, LAF and other CITES provisions for trees.
- Potential support to address them could be made available under the CTSP.
- Participants received information on the upcoming funding opportunity under CTSP and the next steps, including project selection and project management workshop.
- Parties were encouraged to submit concept notes/proposals.

Next steps

- The Secretariat will finalise a workshop report, which will be considered at the next meeting of the Standing Committee (SC78, Geneva 2025).
- Range States of *P. erinaceus* are encouraged to continue to make progress in the implementation of ongoing Art. XIII and RST recommendations.
- Additional details and reflections on the workshop, as well as challenges and opportunities will be incorporated to the report, on the basis of the results of the survey.

Merci! Thank you!

