



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2017/047

Geneva, 27 June 2017

CONCERNING:

MADAGASCAR

Recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens
of the species *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar

1. At its 67th meeting (Johannesburg, 2016), the Standing Committee considered ebonies (*Diospyros* spp.) and rosewoods and palisanders (*Dalbergia* spp.) from Madagascar based on reports submitted by the Secretariat and Madagascar. At that meeting, the Standing Committee agreed:
 - to maintain the current commercial trade suspension in specimens of the species *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar;
 - to request Madagascar to provide by 31 December 2016 a report on the implementation of paragraph 32 a) sub-paragraphs i), ii) and iii) [of document SC67 Doc. 19.1];
 - to request the Secretariat to circulate Madagascar's report, along with its recommendations, to the Standing Committee; and
 - to decide via postal procedure on the suspension of commercial trade, with the exception of the Nile crocodile.
2. In accordance with the Standing Committee's request, Madagascar submitted its report by 31 December 2016.
3. The Standing Committee reviewed Madagascar's report and the Secretariat's recommendations based upon it and by postal procedure, on 11 June 2017, decided to:
 - a) maintain the current recommendation to suspend commercial trade of specimens of the species *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar that are included in the CITES Appendices with annotation #15 and #5 respectively, until Madagascar has complied with the provisions in Decision 17.204, paragraphs e) and f), by:
 - i) significantly strengthening control and enforcement measures against illegal logging and export at the national level including seizures, investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and sanctions; and
 - ii) submitting an audited inventory of at least a third of the stockpiles of logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets of species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar, and a use plan for consideration, approval and further guidance from the Standing Committee.
 - b) acknowledge that finished products of *Dalbergia* spp. that were produced, packaged, ready for retail trade and duly registered and authorized for export in Madagascar prior to 2 January 2017 are not covered by the recommendation to suspend trade. Consequently, exports of those registered specimens can take place in accordance with the relevant special provisions of the Convention related to trade in pre-convention specimens.

- c) request the Secretariat to undertake a mission to Madagascar to assess progress with the implementation of Decision 17.204 and the Standing Committee recommendations, and report to its 69th meeting (SC69). The Standing Committee encourages Madagascar to extend an invitation to the Secretariat to undertake such a mission well in advance of 28 September 2017, which is the deadline for the submission of a working document to SC69.
4. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2016/019 of 15 March 2016.