

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2022/030

Geneva, 12 May 2022

CONCERNING:

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIII IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Recommendation to suspend commercial trade in live Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) and *Dalbergia* spp. and other recommendations

1. At its 74th meeting (SC74, Lyon, March 2022), pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention, the Standing Committee agreed a recommendation concerning the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) with respect to the management of exports of live Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*), as follows:
 - l) **Parties shall suspend all trade in live specimens of Asian elephants from Lao PDR until Lao PDR is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretariat that specimens to be traded with Source Code C comply with the definition of captive-bred specimens set out in Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) on Specimens of animal species bred in captivity;**
2. The Standing Committee also agreed to maintain the recommendation on the management of exports of *Dalbergia* spp.
 - a) **Parties shall continue to suspend commercial trade in specimens of the genus *Dalbergia* spp., including finished products, such as carvings and furniture from Lao PDR, until Lao PDR makes scientifically based non-detriment findings for trade in the relevant species, including *D. cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri*, to the satisfaction of the Secretariat.**
3. The Secretariat hereby notifies Parties of the Standing Committee's recommendation to suspend all trade in live specimens of *Elephas maximus* from Lao PDR, with effect from the date of adoption of document SC74 Sum. 3 (10 March 2022). The Secretariat also notifies Parties of the Standing Committee's recommendation to continue to suspend commercial trade from Lao PDR in specimens of the genus *Dalbergia* spp., including finished products such as carvings and furniture.
4. Parties are requested to inform their enforcement and customs authorities of these recommendations to suspend trade to avoid the inadvertent acceptance of specimens of species subject to such a recommendation. Parties should not issue import permits for trade in specimens of Appendix-I species; Parties that issue import permits for trade in specimens of Appendix-II species are also encouraged to consult the list when processing applications. Parties are reminded that the complete list of Parties subject to a recommendation to suspend trade is available on the CITES website under [Documents/Trade suspensions](#).

5. AT SC74, the Standing Committee also adopted additional recommendations concerning Lao PDR with respect to national legislation; CITES authorities (in particular the CITES Scientific Authority); law enforcement; monitoring of wildlife farms and related trade; and awareness raising. Lao PDR was requested to report to the Secretariat by 28 February 2023 on activities undertaken between January – December 2022 to implement the recommendations, in order for the Secretariat to convey the report and its recommendations to the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee. The recommendations are contained in document SC74 Sum. 3, pages 4-5, available online at: <https://cites.org/eng/com/sc/74/sum>.
6. The Standing Committee further recommended that Parties, the CITES Secretariat, international non-governmental organizations and development partners make efforts to respond to requests for capacity-building and technical support expressed by Lao PDR to implement the action plan and aim to coordinate their support to maximize effectiveness and minimize overlap. In response to a request by Lao PDR and within available resources, the Secretariat is supporting the authorities of Lao PDR in the implementation of these recommendations, in particular on the development of non-detriment findings for the relevant species of the genus *Dalbergia* spp.
8. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2018/083 of 1 November 2018.