

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

MADAGASCAR

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee on behalf of the Committee with the support of the nomenclature specialist of the Plants Committee and Madagascar\*.
2. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted the Decision 15.97, directed to the Plants Committee as follows:

***Directed to Madagascar and to the Plants Committee***

- a) *Review and gather further information on the succulent taxa proposed for listing at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties but not adopted;*
  - b) *Review and gather further information on species (including tree species) which would benefit from CITES listing;*
  - c) *Identify mechanisms to help build capacity to carry out non-detriment findings for currently listed species; and,*
  - d) *Report on their work at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, if necessary, prepare proposals to amend the Appendices for submission at that meeting.*
3. At PC19, the Committee discussed the document PC19 Doc. 14.3. and a working group was established during the meeting on this topic. As result of the working group recommendations the Committee invited the Secretariat to discuss this matter with the CBD Secretariat and agreed the following:
    - a) Madagascar and the Plants Committee should carry out a review, for consideration at its 20th meeting, of the trade and conservation status of the succulent species proposed for listing at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties but not agreed. This review should be coordinated by the Plants Committee representative for Europe (Mr Sajeva) and a representative of the CITES Authorities of Madagascar (Mr Aro Vonjy Ramarosandratana).
    - b) Species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* endemic to Madagascar are a priority for inclusion in Appendix II of the Convention at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Madagascar and the Plants Committee should prepare appropriate proposals to amend the Appendices. Consideration should be given as to whether or not the proposal listing should include an annotation such as "*Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. endemic to or originating from the State of Madagascar". Consideration should also be given to what parts and derivatives should be regulated.

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\* *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.*

- c) The Secretariat, interested Parties and observers (including ITTO) should urgently seek funds to support the preparation of such proposals (if necessary by a consultant), the research required to develop practical identification techniques and a species checklist to support any potential listings in Appendix II of the Convention.
  - d) Recommendations on identification techniques and draft proposals should be prepared for consideration at PC20. This work should be coordinated by the Plants Committee's nomenclature specialist (Mr McGough) and a representative of the CITES Authorities of Madagascar (Mr Aro Vonjy Ramarosandratana).
  - e) The Secretariat, interested Parties and observers (including ITTO) should urgently seek funds to support an *in situ* workshop, including field exercises, on non-detriment findings for succulent Malagasy plants and palms. Preparation for the workshop should include the development of a draft NDF manual and database for finalization and approval at the workshop.
  - f) Activities to be undertaken in Madagascar under Decision 15.97 should be considered as a country case study of CITES-related activities that support implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC). Furthermore, discussions should be held in conjunction with UNEP-WCMC and with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to secure GEF funds to implement further compatible work in Madagascar and other priority African countries, particularly in relation to tree species.
4. At PC20, the nomenclature specialist (Mr McGough) and Madagascar, in turn, introduced document PC20 Doc. 17.1.1, drawing attention to information documents PC20 Inf. 3 to PC20 Inf. 6 submitted on this subject by Madagascar. In discussion, reference was made to ongoing support to Madagascar being provided by the Secretariat with funding from the European Union and Norway, and to the willingness of the International Tropical Timber Organization to provide support.
  5. The Committee established a working group (PC20 WG4), to be co-chaired by the Mr McGough and Madagascar, with the following mandate:
    - a) Prepare a work plan to facilitate the submission of amendment proposals at CoP16;
    - b) Identify issues related to the identification of species that will need to be addressed to ensure that any potential listings can be adequately implemented and enforced;
    - c) Identify mechanisms to support the preparation of such amendment proposals; and
    - d) Consider any other items that it finds appropriate.
  6. As result of the working group recommendations, the Committee agreed the following:

With respect to listing of tree species on the Appendices

1. The Plants Committee commend Madagascar on its significant progress on the implementation of Decision 15.97.
2. Madagascar should continue to work with the Plants Committee on the completion of comprehensive listing proposals for *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. and these proposals should be annotated to apply only to "populations of Madagascar".
3. As the exports from Madagascar are confined to material such as logs and sawn wood, annotation #5 (logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets) would seem the most appropriate.
4. In parallel with the completion of listing proposals a document should be prepared for CoP16 which outlines a work programme (or implementation plan) for the ongoing preparation of identification tests, guides, training courses and a user-friendly manual for enforcement officers in Madagascar and in importing countries. Interested Parties and Observers should assist and support Madagascar in the preparation of this document.
5. Although no formal consultation is required Madagascar should take advantage of relevant meetings (e.g. Standing Committee 62, planned meetings on precious wood trade and identification and

tracking techniques) to inform and seek the views of interested Parties and other stakeholders, in particular major importer countries, on their proposals and plans for effective implementation.

6. That Madagascar should facilitate access to vouchered wood samples to support development of identification techniques, tests and guides.
7. Commend ITTO on their support of Madagascar to date and recommend that this continue and Parties facilitate this work by targeting funding of relevant projects to support actions 4-6 above.
8. As available, Parties should provide Madagascar with information on projects or programmes that have demonstrated successful community—based sustainable management.

With respect to listing of succulent species on the Appendices

1. Plants Committee commend Madagascar on the elaboration of the proposals included in documents PC20 Inf. 4 – 6.
2. Madagascar should further elaborate, review and refine these proposals, in close co-operation with the Plants Committee, interested Parties, organisations and experts.
3. The final proposals should take due account of identification issues, problems associated with lookalike taxa and preparation of identification materials.
4. Parties and interested observers facilitate this work by targeting funding of relevant projects to support these actions.
5. The Secretariat continues to work with Madagascar to assist and build capacity for NDF-making and facilitates training of in-country Customs officials.

Work plan key milestones - tree species

<b>Action</b>	<b>Key event</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Implemented by-</b>
Liaison with key stakeholders	Chatham House, Precious Woods meeting, 23-24 April 2012, London	Madagascar representatives attend and consult	Madagascar, meeting organisers
Review current initiatives on Wood	Kuala Lumpur workshop, 15-17 May 2012	Review current methods of wood ID and tracking to assess “best fit “ with Madagascar’s needs	Madagascar and other partners such as ITTO
Document for SC62 outlining Madagascar’s plans	Document prepared and submitted to SC62 deadlines (May 24 for Agenda documents)	Document discussed at SC62 in July 2012	Madagascar and partners such as WWF
Review comments received at Standing Committee	Based on lessons learnt prepare briefing document for circulation to importing countries and other interested Parties and observers	Document circulated and comments received and reviewed by end August 2012	Madagascar and other partners such as ITTO

Action	Key event	Milestone	Implemented by-
Revision of <i>Dalbergia</i> and <i>Diospyros</i> proposal to generic listing restricted to populations of Madagascar with annotation #5 & draft implementation plan	Revised draft proposals (in the 3 working languages) for circulation to the Chair Plants Committee (PC) & interested Parties and Observers	End August 2012	Madagascar with assistance of PC & interested Parties and Observers
Revise proposal and submit with implementation plan document	Proposal submitted to deadline by government of Madagascar	Submitted by 4 October	Madagascar
Briefing other Parties	Provision of briefings and briefing documents to other Parties	Key Parties informed prior to pre CoP regional meetings to March 2013	Madagascar with assistance of interested Parties and Observers

7. At the time of preparation of the current report Madagascar was preparing proposals for submission to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties based on the recommendations of the Plants Committee. On submission of these proposals to the Conference of the Parties the Plants Committee considers that the tasks addressed to the Committee have been accomplished.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. Regarding the implementation of Decision 15.97 the Secretariat notes that the following additional information relating to each paragraph of that Decision is missing but is relevant to appreciate the progress made on its implementation:

- a) *Review and gather further information on the succulent taxa proposed for listing at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties but not adopted;*

The Secretariat, thanks to a generous contribution from the European Commission, has funded a project on the collection of biological, ecological and commercial data on succulent plants originating in Madagascar. Through the implementation of this project, the Scientific Authority of Madagascar for plant species aims to gather and review complete the information on *Operculicarya decaryi*, *Senna meridionalis*, *Adenia firingalavensis*, *Adenia subsessilifolia* and *Cyphostemma laza*. The project will end on 30 September 2013 and Madagascar will present some of the preliminary results of this work at CoP16 during the discussions on proposals CoP16 Prop. 51, Prop. 64, Prop. 65, Prop. 66, and Prop. 71.

- b) *Review and gather further information on species (including tree species) which would benefit from CITES listing;*

The Secretariat of ITTO, thanks to a generous contribution from Norway, funded a project on the provision of taxonomic data, and the development and validation of methods of quantification for the sustainable management of precious woods of Madagascar. Through the implementation of this project, the Scientific Authority of Madagascar for plant species aims to gather and review the information on the species of *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* from Madagascar. The project will end on October 2013 and Madagascar will be presenting some of the preliminary results of this work at CoP16 during the discussions on proposals CoP16 Prop. 58 and Prop. 63.

- c) *Identify mechanisms to help build capacity to carry out non-detriment findings for currently listed species;*

The Secretariat, thanks to a generous contribution from the European Commission, has agreed to fund a proposal from the Scientific Authority of Madagascar to organize a training workshop to strengthen the capacities of its Scientific Authorities to carry out non-detriment findings for plant and animal species. This workshop will take place in 2013.

- B. Madagascar continues making progress in the implementation of Decision 15.97, and the Secretariat agrees that the Plants Committee has complied with the tasks directed to it under that Decision and recommends that it therefore be deleted.