



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2019/051

Geneva, 26 September 2019

CONCERNING:

Current status of Malagasy rosewood logs seized by Singapore in March 2014  
and advisory on rosewood stockpile originating from Madagascar

1. The Secretariat hereby notifies Parties of the current status of 29,434 CITES-listed rosewood logs originating from Madagascar and seized by the CITES Management Authority of Singapore in March 2014. The Secretariat recalls that the export of the rosewood from Madagascar was in breach of Madagascar's obligations under CITES. Madagascar has also confirmed at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18) that the rosewood logs were illegally exported out of Madagascar.
2. In response to a request by the Secretariat, the National Parks Board, which is the CITES Management Authority of Singapore, has informed the Secretariat that in its final judgment in the case<sup>1</sup>, the Singapore Court of Appeal has ordered that the rosewood be released to the defendants as soon as practicable.
3. The National Parks Board will be releasing the rosewood to the defendants in due course in compliance with the judgment of the Court of Appeal. The defendants have yet to provide the National Parks Board with information on the intended movement of the rosewood outside of Singapore and its intended destination.
4. Because the export of the rosewood from Madagascar was in breach of Madagascar's obligations under CITES, the Secretariat is concerned about the risk that the released stockpiles might be traded illegally, in contravention of the Convention and Resolution Conf. 17.8 on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species* and invites Parties to inform the Secretariat should they be presented with information relating to rosewood stockpiles originating from Madagascar.
5. Pursuant to a Decision adopted by CoP18<sup>2</sup>, potential destination countries of shipments of illegal specimens of *Dalbergia* spp. and *Diospyros* spp. from Madagascar should take appropriate measures to ensure that such timber is not illegally transported or traded, including prohibiting entry, seizing such specimens upon arrival and applying appropriate sanctions against traffickers in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.
6. The Secretariat stands ready to support Parties, within its mandate and available resources, to comply with the Convention and to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed specimens.

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<sup>1</sup> See [Kong Hoo \(Private\) Limited and Wong Wee Keong v Public Prosecutor \[2019\] SGCA 21](#).

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph c) of Decision 18.FF in in-session document [CoP18 Com. II.8](#)