



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

03 December 2018

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. 259-2018

To: All Deputy Commissioners
All Directors and Division Chiefs
All District/Port Collectors
And Others Concerned

**Subject: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
of Fauna and Flora (CITES)/Notifications**

Attached is the letter dated 21 November 2018 of Ms. Marlynn M. Mendoza, In-Charge, Office of the Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), DENR endorsing copies of CITES¹ Notifications to the Parties concerning the application of Article XIII ("International measures") of the Convention, as follows:

- **No. 2018/081** maintaining the recommendation to suspend trade in African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC);
- **No. 2018/082** recommending to suspend trade in stockpiled specimens of pangolins (*Manis spp.*) from DRC;
- **No. 2018/083** recommending to suspend commercial trade in *Dalbergia spp.* from Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), including finished products like carvings and furnitures; and
- **No. 2018/084** recommending to suspend the commercial trade of West African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) from Nigeria.

The BMB-DENR informs that they shall not issue any CITES Permit for the import of any of the aforesaid species from the above-mentioned countries.

Should said shipment be encountered, concerned officers are enjoined to coordinate with the BMB-DENR for confirmation of identification of the species and/or other appropriate/legal measures. The directory of DENR officials in Regions with International Seaports and Airports is also attached.

¹ CITES-refers to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It is an international agreement between governments which aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It entered into force in July 1975. The Philippines is a member to CITES since November 16, 1981. Presently, the Convention has 183 member-states.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

For your information and guidance.

For record purposes, please confirm the dissemination of this circular throughout your offices within fifteen (15) days from receipt hereof.

Handwritten signature of Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero

Bureau of Customs
REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO
Commissioner
18-00992

REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO

Commissioner
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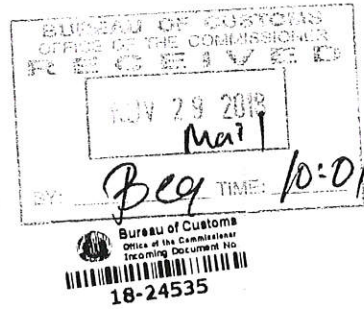


Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU
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Website: <http://www.bmb.gov.ph> E-mail: bmb@bmb.gov.ph

[Handwritten Signature]
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COMMISSIONER ISIDRO S. LAPEÑA
Bureau of Customs
G/F OCOM Bldg
South Harbor, Gate 3, Port Area
Manila
E-mail: info@customs.gov



Dear **Commissioner Lapeña**,

We wish to provide you with copies of CITES¹ Notifications to the Parties concerning the application of Article XIII ("International measures") of the Convention, as follows:

- No. 2018/081 maintaining the recommendation to suspend trade in African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC);
- No. 2018/082 recommending to suspend trade in stockpiled specimens of pangolins (*Manis spp.*) from DRC;
- No. 2018/083 recommending to suspend commercial trade in *Dalbergia spp.* from LAO People's Democratic Republic (PDR), including finished products like carvings and furniture;
- No. 2018/084 recommending to suspend the commercial trade of West African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) from Nigeria.

✓ In view of said recommendations and as part of our compliance with the CITES, this Bureau - the CITES Management Authority of the Philippines for terrestrial species, shall not issue any CITES Permit for the import of any of the aforesaid species from the above-mentioned countries, hence, any importation thereof shall be considered illegal.

Relative thereto, may we request the assistance of your Office in disseminating the aforesaid notifications and information to concerned BOC office and personnel in all international air and sea ports in the country. ✓ In case the BOC personnel encounter shipment of said CITES-listed plants and animals from affected countries into the Philippines, kindly advise them to coordinate with the concerned DENR Regional Office for confirmation of identification of the species, and/or confiscation of items and execution of other appropriate legal measures in accordance with Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001) and other relevant laws, if warranted. Please find attached the contact details of the concerned DENR Regionals Offices for your reference.

Thank you for your usual support and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

[Handwritten Signature]
MARLYNN M. MENDOZA
Chief, Coastal and Marine Division
In-Charge, Office of the Director

cc: The Assistant Secretary for Staff Bureaus, DENR

¹CITES –refers to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It is an international agreement between governments which aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It entered into force in July 1975. The Philippines is a member to CITES since November 16, 1981. Presently, the Convention has 183 member-states.




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


NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/081

Geneva, 1 November 2018

CONCERNING:

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIII IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Reissue of a recommendation to suspend trade in African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*)

1. Pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention, the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) agreed to maintain the recommendation to suspend trade in specimens of African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) pending compliance with the recommendations made at its 69th meeting (SC69). It is recalled that this recommendation was first agreed at its 66th meeting and has been valid since 15 January 2016.
2. For ease of reference, it is recalled that the Standing Committee at SC69 (SC69 SR) recommended that:
 - c) *a non-Party to the Convention for Psittacus erithacus, in accordance with Resolution Conf.4.25 (Rev. CoP14), the DRC treat the species as if it were included in Appendix II for all purposes, including documentation and control, and suspend the issuance of export permits for commercial and non-commercial trade in specimens of Psittacus erithacus of wild origin until it is in a position to make scientifically based non-detriment findings for trade in the species;*
 - d) *the DRC take steps to implement CoP Decision 17.256 on African grey parrots (Psittacus erithacus);*
 - e) *the DRC not establish experimental export quotas as part of scientific surveys of the species in the country;*
 - f) *the Standing Committee notes the moratorium announced by the DRC to suspend trade of Psittacus erithacus and its announcement that it will not implement its reservation on the listing of the species in Appendix I and It invites DRC to adopt a regulatory act to implement the moratorium, and*
 - g) *the Standing Committee also notes the commitment by the DRC to undertake population surveys and develop a management plan for Psittacus erithacus.*
3. At SC70, the Standing Committee further encouraged donors and cooperation agencies to support DRC in the undertaking of population surveys and development of management plans for *Psittacus erithacus*;
4. 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](#). Parties are requested to implement this recommendation and to inform their enforcement and Customs authorities of the trade suspension to avoid the inadvertent acceptance of specimens of species subject to such a recommendation.
5. The Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2017/063 of 26 September 2017 and Notification 2016/021 of 16 March 2016.



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



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/082

Geneva, 1 November 2018

CONCERNING:

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIII IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Recommendation to suspend trade in stockpiled specimens of pangolins (*Manis* spp.)

1. Pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention, the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) adopted a recommendation concerning the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with respect to stockpiled specimens of *Manis* spp. as follows:

Regarding trade in pangolin stockpiles

- d) *Parties shall suspend trade in stockpiled specimens of *Manis* spp. from DRC, until further guidance is provided by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (CoP18);*
2. The Secretariat hereby notifies Parties of the Standing Committee's recommendation to suspend trade in stockpiled specimens of pangolins from the DRC with immediate effect. Parties are requested to inform their enforcement and customs authorities of this recommendation to suspend trade to avoid the inadvertent acceptance of specimens of species subject to such a recommendation.
3. For ease of reference, it is recalled that the Standing Committee at SC69 adopted the following recommendation (see SC69 SR):

Given the differing interpretation of Article VII paragraph 2 and Resolution Conf. 13.6 (Rev. CoP16) as they relate to the requirements for trade in specimens, including stockpiles, of Appendix I species that were obtained when the species was listed in Appendix II or Appendix III, the Standing Committee recommends that:
 - a) *the Secretariat prepare a document for consideration at CoP18, including information relating to the implications associated with the different interpretations; and*
 - b) *in the interim and until a decision is made by CoP18, Parties should treat specimens, including stockpiles, of Appendix I species of pangolin obtained when the species was listed in Appendix II, as Appendix I specimens and regulate trade in accordance with Article III of the Convention.*
4. It is further recalled that China, the DRC and the United States made statements for the record regarding this recommendation and that these can be found in the annexes to the summary record of SC69 at <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/69/sum/E-SC69-SR.pdf>.
5. 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](#).


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

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/083

Geneva, 1 November 2018

CONCERNING:

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

Recommendation to suspend commercial trade in rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp.)
 and other recommendations

1. Pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention, the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) adopted a recommendation concerning the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) with respect to the management of exports of *Dalbergia* spp., as follows:
 - a) *Parties shall suspend commercial trade in specimens of the genus Dalbergia spp., including finished products, such as carvings and furniture, from the Lao People's Democratic Republic until Lao PDR makes scientifically based non-detriment findings for trade in the relevant species, including D. cochinchinensis and D. oliveri in the country to the satisfaction of the Secretariat.*
2. The Secretariat hereby notifies Parties of the Standing Committee's recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of *Dalbergia* spp., including finished products such as carvings and furniture from the Lao People's Democratic Republic with immediate effect.
3. Parties are requested to inform their enforcement and customs authorities of this recommendation to suspend trade to avoid the inadvertent acceptance of specimens of species subject to such a recommendation. Parties that issue import permits for trade in specimens of Appendix-II species are also encouraged to consult the list when processing applications.
4. The Standing Committee, at its 70th meeting, also adopted additional recommendations concerning Lao PDR with respect to: national legislation; CITES Scientific Authorities, enforcement; monitoring of wildlife farms and related trade; and public awareness raising. Lao PDR was requested to report on the implementation of the recommendations to the Secretariat by 1 February 2019 for the Secretariat to convey the report and its recommendations to the next meeting of the Standing Committee (SC71, Colombo, May 2019). The recommendations are contained in document SC70 Sum. 2, pages 1-3, available online at: <https://cites.org/eng/com/sc/70/sum/index.php>.
5. The Standing Committee further invited Parties, CITES Secretariat, international non-governmental organizations and development partners to make efforts to respond to requests for capacity-building and technical support expressed by Lao PDR to implement the recommendations and to coordinate their support to maximize effectiveness and minimize overlap. In response to a request by Lao PDR and within available resources, the Secretariat will support Lao PDR authorities in the implementation of these recommendations, including on the development of non-detriment findings for the relevant species of the genus *Dalbergia* spp., the development of adequate national legislation, capacity-building of the CITES authorities and development of an information-collection and reporting system that links several government agencies and provincial offices on CITES-related matters.
6. 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.


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


NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2018/084

Geneva, 1 November 2018

CONCERNING:

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIII IN NIGERIA

Recommendation to suspend commercial trade in
West African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*) and other recommendations

1. Pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention, the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) adopted recommendations concerning Nigeria with respect to the management of trade in specimens of West African rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*), as follows:
 - a) *Parties shall suspend commercial trade in specimens of the species Pterocarpus erinaceus from Nigeria until the Party makes scientifically based non-detriment findings for trade in the species in the country to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Plants Committee.*
2. The Secretariat hereby notifies Parties of the Standing Committee's recommendation to suspend commercial trade in specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* from Nigeria with immediate effect. Parties are requested to inform their enforcement and customs authorities of this recommendation to suspend trade to avoid the inadvertent acceptance of specimens of species subject to such a recommendation. Parties that issue import permits for trade in specimens of Appendix-II species are also encouraged to consult the list when processing applications.
3. The Standing Committee further encouraged all importing Parties to inform the Secretariat about the volumes of timber of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* imported from Nigeria since the entry into force of the Appendix-II listing.
4. The Standing Committee also invited the importing Parties to share with the Secretariat the administrative, legislative and enforcement arrangements put in place to ensure that trade in specimens of this species only takes place when Parties are satisfied that it is in line with the requirements of the Convention, including any relevant stricter domestic measure to verify legality and ensure sustainability; and encouraged those Parties to consider inviting the Secretariat to conduct technical missions in order to strengthen cooperation between range States and importing countries and identify further recommendations to ensure that timber trade is conducted in accordance with the Convention.
5. Pursuant to Article XIII of the Convention, the Standing Committee finally adopted additional recommendations concerning Nigeria regarding legislation and enforcement; issuance of export permits and information systems; and handling and disposal of seized stockpiles. Nigeria was requested to report on the implementation of the recommendations to the Secretariat by 31 December 2019 for the Secretariat to convey the report and its comments as well as recommended follow-up measures in case of continued non-compliance to the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee. The recommendations are contained in document SC70 Sum. 12, pages 1-3, available online at: <https://cites.org/eng/com/sc70/sum/12/index.php>.
6. 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](#).

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7. This Notification replaces Notification to the Parties No. 2017/0012 of 1 February 2017.

Directory of DENR Officials in Regions with International Sea and Air Ports

DENR Regional Office	Contact Persons
DENR NCR National Ecology Center East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City	JACQUELINE A. CAANCAN Regional Executive Director Tel Nos. 435-8876
	ORLY T. CARIAZO Chief, Enforcement Division Tel No. 435-8878 to 79
DENR Region I Government Center, Sevilla City of San Fernando, La Union	REYNULFO A. JUAN, CESO V Regional Executive Director Tel Nos. (072) 888-3833
	FRANK VINCENT D. DANGLOSE Chief, Enforcement Division Tel No. (072) 607-8461
DENR Region III Diosdado P. Macapagal Government Center, Maimpis San Fernando City, Pampanga	ENGR. PAQUITO T. MORENO, JR. Regional Executive Director Tel. No. (045) 455-3648/455-3456
	FRED B. SADUESTE Chief, Enforcement Division Tel No. (045) 455-3457
DENR CALABARZON DENCRI Business Center National Highway Brgy. Halang, Calamba City, Laguna	ATTY. MARIA PAZ G. LUNA Regional Executive Director Tel No. (049) 502-6667
	ENGR. GIOVANNI G. GAMO Chief, Enforcement Division Tel No. (049) 502-6673
DENR MIMAROPA DENR by the Bay 1515 L&S Bldg. Roxas Blvd., Manila	HENRY A. ADORNADO Regional Executive Director Tel No. 405-0157/405-0046
	LINO M. DIMAPILIS Chief, Enforcement Division Tel No. (02) 755-3300 / 755-3330 loc 2710

DENR Region VI Pepita Aquino Street, Port Area Iloilo City	JIM O. SAMPULNA Regional Executive Director Tel No. (033) 337-8900
	JUNE MELLISA C. GAROL Chief, Enforcement Division Tel No. (033) 503-3625/
DENR Region VII National Government Center, Sudlon, Lahug Cebu City	GILBERT C. GONZALES Regional Executive Director Tel No. (032) 346-9612
	ARIEL N. RICA Chief, Enforcement Division Tel No.(032) 414-4903
DENR Region IX President Corazon C. Aquino Regional Government Center Balintawak, Pagadian City	CARLITO M. TUBALLA Regional Executive Director Tel No. (062) 945-0870/945-0945
	JULIUS JAMES M. VELA Chief, Enforcement Division Tel No. (062) 945-0925
DENR Region XI Km. 7, Lanang, Davao City	RUTH M. TAWANTAWAN Regional Executive Director Tel No. (082) 234-0811
	CATHERINE E. ORELLAN Chief, Enforcement Division Tel No. (082) 233-1764
DENR Region XII Aurora St., City of Koronadal South Cotabato	NILO B. TAMORIA Regional Executive Director Tel No. (083) 228-6225
	ELMER D. OLIVEROS Chief, Enforcement Division Tel No. (083) 228-6226