

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



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Bigleaf mahogany and other neotropical timber species

RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON THE BIGLEAF MAHOGANY AND OTHER NEOTROPICAL TIMBER SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee on behalf of the Committee*.
2. The Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species submitted a report (document PC20 Doc. 19.1) at the 20th meeting of the Plants Committee (Dublin, March 2011).
3. The Plants Committee established a drafting group (PC20 DG1) chaired by the observer from Guatemala (Mr. Beltetón) in his role as Chair of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species. The mandate of the drafting group was to propose recommendations for the Plants Committee to consider presenting at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16), based on the recommendations in document PC20 Doc. 19.1.
4. As a result, the Committee adopted the following recommendations concerning requests to the Standing Committee, included in paragraphs 2, 10 and 11 of document PC20 DG1 Doc. 1:
 - a) Request the Standing Committee to consider preparing a draft decision directing the CITES Secretariat to continue liaising with the World Customs Organization (WCO) with a view to undertaking a joint review of the harmonized system tariff codes for specimens of CITES-listed species, with a special focus on tree species.
 - b) Request the Chair of the Plants Committee to report at the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee on concern regarding the high volume of *Swietenia macrophylla* imports from Fiji reported by the Dominican Republic.
 - c) Request the Standing Committee to consider the following draft decision for submission at CoP16:

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall undertake a mission to the Dominican Republic to meet with CITES and Customs authorities in order to verify the volumes of *Swietenia macrophylla* imported from Fiji, as well as range States of the species. During such mission, the Secretariat shall also verify production facilities in the country in order to assess the capacity of the Dominican Republic to process timber into finished products.

* *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.*

5. The Standing Committee is invited to consider the requests of the Plants Committee included in item 4. a)-c) above.