

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

BIGLEAF MAHOGANY: REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. This report has been prepared by the Chairman of the Plants Committee (Ms Clemente Muñoz) with the assistance of the Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (Ms Patricia Dávila, supported by Mr Francisco García, Mexico).
2. In conformity with Decision 13.55, which states that the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group shall continue its work under the Plants Committee, and taking account of Decision 13.56, which states that the Plants Committee shall present a report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made by the Working Group, the Plants Committee hereby submits to the Conference of the Parties the work carried out since the latter's 13th meeting (CoP13, Bangkok 2004).
3. The Committee agreed at its 15th meeting (PC15, Geneva, May 2005) the following Terms of Reference for the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group:
  - a) *promote the preparation and official adoption, as a priority, of mahogany management plans at national and subregional level;*
  - b) *promote the conduct of forest inventories, as well as progress, and promote programmes to determine and monitor the distribution, population size and conservation status of mahogany;*
  - c) *facilitate and promote the development of capacity-building programmes in monitoring and management relating to CITES procedures and documents. To this end, if considered appropriate, it may request assistance from the Plants Committee and the Secretariat;*
  - d) *facilitate and promote the submission by the Parties concerned of reports on progress in the implementation of Decision 13.58, which establishes that such reports must be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 90 days before the 16th meeting of the Plants Committee, so that the Secretariat may include them in a report that it will present at that meeting; and*
  - e) *facilitate the organization and establishment, if considered necessary, of working groups.*
4. With a view to facilitating the fulfilment of these Terms of Reference, the Plants Committee decided, in conformity with Decision 13.55, to establish the Working Group with, at least, the following members:
  - the main mahogany-exporting Parties (Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru);
  - the main mahogany-importing Parties (Dominican Republic, Member States of the European Union and United States of America);

- members of the Plants Committee (both representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean, and both representatives of Europe);
  - one member of the CITES Secretariat; and
  - one member of each of the following organizations: FFI, TRAFFIC and WWF.
5. The Working Group was to conduct its work intersessionally (between PC15 and PC16), mainly through remote communication (email, fax or phone) and was to present substantive results at PC16 in conformity with the Terms of Reference listed above. If the Committee, after studying those results, felt that progress was insufficient, it would include mahogany in the Review of Significant Trade.
  6. The Plants Committee accepted with pleasure the offer made by Peru to chair the Working Group and requested that Party to send a formal offer containing the *curricula vitae* of three candidates. That offer was sent to the CITES Secretariat before 15 June 2005 in order to be distributed to the members of the Plants Committee, who were to select the most suitable individual as Chairman by 25 June 2005.
  7. The Plants Committee considered that it would be beneficial to support the Chairman of the Working Group with a Vice-Chairman selected from the importing countries, and accepted with pleasure the offer to take on that function made at the 15th meeting by the United States. Consequently, the Plants Committee requested the United States to submit the *curricula vitae* of three candidates for the Vice-Chairmanship of the Working Group. That communication was sent to the CITES Secretariat before 15 June 2005 in order to be distributed to the members of the Plants Committee, who were to select the most suitable individual as Vice-Chairman by 25 June 2005.
  8. Having been elected, the Chairman (Mr Marco Romero) and the Vice-Chairman (Mr Peter Thomas) began their work at the beginning of July 2005, making contact with the members of the Working Group and initiating the tasks specified in the Terms of Reference listed above. Subsequently, in September 2006, both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman submitted their resignations.
  9. The Chairman of the Committee turned to the range States, once again requesting *curricula vitae* for consideration by the members of the Committee. The *curricula vitae* of the candidates from Mexico and Peru were submitted. Once the members of the Plants Committee had received the *curricula vitae*, Ms Patricia Dávila (Mexico) was elected to the Chairmanship of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, to be assisted by Mr Francisco García (Mexico). Ms Marina Rosales (Peru) was elected Vice-Chairman.
  10. The changes were notified by the Chairman of the Plants Committee to the region of Central and South America and the Caribbean, to the Secretariat and to the Standing Committee in October 2006.
  11. The CITES Secretariat communicated the agreement to the interested Parties (range States and importing countries), on behalf of the Plants Committee immediately after the end of the 15th meeting, for purposes of general information and so that appropriate measures could be taken.
  12. The meeting of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group took place from 29 June to 1 July 2006 in Lima (Peru). The observer from Peru (Mr Romero), Chairman of the Group, presented at the 16th meeting of the Plants Committee document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1, pointing out that it contained an overview of compliance with the provisions of Decision 13.58 by the *Swietenia macrophylla* range States that had attended the meeting of the Working Group (Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru). The document also offered recommendations grouped by thematic areas and additional notes on the discussions at the meeting.
  13. The Plants Committee noted document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1 and established a working group (PC16 WG5) to discuss the report from the BMWG.

14. The Chairman of PC16 WG5, the observer from Canada (Ms Lougheed), presented document PC16 WG5 Doc. 1. Following extensive discussions and comments, and based on document PC16 WG5 Doc. 1, the Plants Committee adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

- a) Regarding progress made by the BMWG, the Plants Committee considers:
  - i) that some progress has been made by certain States (see document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1), although no Party has fully complied with Decision 13.58. The activities of the BMWG have promoted compilation and sharing of existing information, and have resulted in progress in development of inventories and other scientific applications that contribute to the making of non-detriment findings (NDF) for mahogany;
  - ii) that the format used to report the results of the BMWG regarding evaluation of the fulfilment of Decision 13.58 does not adequately reflect the work that each of the countries has prepared;
  - iii) that in spite of some range States having compiled trade information to estimate existing volumes of mahogany, field-based inventories, distribution statistics and age class information (critical to making NDFs) that are specific to mahogany are not available. In addition, range Parties have not developed effective mechanisms or a standardized approach for making NDF for mahogany; and
  - iv) that there is currently no mechanism to systematically compile scientific information gathered by the range States and recommendations made by the BMWG to understand the situation at the regional level and to support the range States in adequately implementing Article IV of the Convention.
- b) Regarding the 15 recommendations made by the BMWG in document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1, the Plants Committee agrees to:
  - i) endorse the following recommendations (document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1, pages 14-15, Table of order of priority) and submit them for consideration at CoP14: recommendation 1 (with the clarification that for the purpose of the work of the PC, the activities on information sharing and capacity building shall be related to the making of non-detriment findings); and recommendations 3, 9, 10 and 12; and consequently the following draft decisions are submitted to the Conference of the Parties:

***Directed to the range States and to the Secretariat***

14.XX The range States and the Secretariat should increase the activities on information-sharing and capacity-building among countries, related to the making of non-detriment findings, sharing them regionally among mahogany range States, covering the requirements of the different stakeholders (the Customs, government, police and judiciary) involved in implementing the CITES Appendix-II listing of mahogany.

***Directed to the range States***

14.XX The range States should:

- a) Promote national synergies among the producing countries by establishing formally and specifically multi-institutional committees whose memberships include competent scientific organizations, in order to support Scientific Authorities.
- b) Perform studies of the sawn timber yields from logs, and on the height-diameter ratio, in order to improve management of and control over mahogany timber.

- c) Foster regional territorial management for mahogany and validate or verify the reports submitted by forestry users, including periodic studies on ecology and growth dynamics.
- d) Examine the possibility of giving CITES species special treatment in technical standards on census-taking of diameters smaller than the minimum cutting size in order to determine stocks of remaining trees, the setting of minimum cutting diameters, the percentage of remaining trees that should be left and harvesting techniques.

- ii) forward to the Standing Committee the following recommendations relating to compliance and enforcement for its consideration: recommendation 1 (activities on information sharing and capacity building related to compliance and enforcement); and recommendations 7, 11, 13 and 15.

15. Recommendations presented by the BMWG that are not included above are currently included in the revised Decision 13.59 to be proposed at CoP14.

16. In addition to the BMWG report recommendations, the Plants Committee recommends the following short- and mid-term actions directed to the Plants Committee, the Parties or the Secretariat:

- a) Recommendations to be addressed in the short-term (next 6 months), urgent matters shall be communicated to the Parties with a Notification to the Parties issued by the Secretariat:
  - i) Directed to the Plants Committee: support the development of further guidance to exporting countries regarding elements necessary for making NDFs for tree species.

In this connection, an International Expert Workshop on the making of non-detriment findings for mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) will be held in Mexico in the first quarter of 2007. The general purpose of the workshop will be to define general guidelines that will act as a basis and a reference for the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for mahogany by the Scientific Authorities, with the aim of improving the implementation of the CITES provisions and ensuring the sustainable utilization of and trade in the species.

To that end, the following specific objectives have been defined:

- A. Provision to the Scientific Authorities of the mahogany-exporting countries (countries of origin) of the basic information and tools, including general principles, guidelines, directives and criteria, that are needed to evaluate forestry management and exploitation plans covering mahogany and the making of NDFs;
- B. Consolidation of a network for communication and exchange of information among the Scientific Authorities of the various countries (both exporting and importing) and the specialists, relating to the making of NDFs for mahogany; and
- C. Definition of mechanisms for international coordination, through which it will be possible to complement the conservation and exploitation programmes as well as monitoring programmes of the conservation status of wild populations and their habitat.

At the time of preparing this report from the Chairman of the Plants Committee the results were not yet available, but they will be distributed at CoP14 in an information document.

- ii) Directed to the Plants Committee: support the organization of a workshop on NDFs for tree species (focused on identification of information necessary for making and documenting a NDF).

After receipt of the results of the drafting of new guidelines to the exporting countries with respect to the items needed to make non-detriment findings for tree species, support will be provided to the organization of the workshop at regional level.

- iii) Directed to Parties: by 30 November 2006, Parties shall submit to the BMWG a report in a format agreed to by the Chairman of the Plants Committee that details the fulfilment of Decision 13.58. The BMWG will compile the reports and forward them to the Plants Committee to complement its own report for CoP14.

Decision 13.58, paragraph d), directs the range States of *Swietenia macrophylla* to "submit reports on progress in the implementation of this Decision to the Secretariat no later than 90 days before the 16th meeting of the Plants Committee, so that the Secretariat may include them in a report that it will present at that meeting." Unfortunately no Party has complied with this Decision in the established time-frame.

Notwithstanding what is stated above, all of the range States of bigleaf mahogany, with the exception of Belize, following the recommendation made by the Plants Committee at its 16th meeting, sent in their reports by the end of September 2006, in the format that had been prepared by the Chairman of the BMWG (Mr Romero) in consultation with the Chairman of the Plants Committee, in the manner laid down by the Committee.

The reports of the mahogany range States were provided to the Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (Ms Dávila) who in cooperation with Mr García drew up a summary of them. This summary is given in Annex 1 to this document, the complete reports being contained in document CoP14 Inf. 8.

- iv) Directed to Parties: emphasize the importance that no mahogany export shall take place without an NDF made by the Scientific Authority of the State concerned, based on valid, sound scientific information.
  - v) Directed to Parties: emphasize that no export shall take place without evidence of legal origin of the timber.
  - vi) Directed to Parties: importing countries should refuse mahogany shipments accompanied by CITES export permits issued under a court order, unless the importing country can confirm that an NDF has been made by the Scientific Authority of the country of origin.
  - vii) Directed to the Secretariat: to raise the issue of mahogany enforcement and compliance problems at 54th meeting of the Standing Committee.
  - viii) Directed to the Secretariat: to investigate the high volume of mahogany imports taking place in the Dominican Republic.
  - ix) Directed to the Secretariat: to update its mahogany website links in order to provide, for use by the range countries, all information generated by meetings of the BMWG and other fora.
  - x) Directed to the Parties: export quotas should be based on sound, valid scientific information.
- b) Mid-term recommendations, to be submitted at CoP14 for adoption as new decisions and amendments to current Decisions 13.55 to 13.59:

***Directed to Parties***

- 14.XX Bigleaf mahogany range States, in cooperation with importing countries and international organizations, should develop a strategic action plan for the region with timelines to address: NDFs, legal origin, compliance and enforcement issues. The strategy should include the 15 recommendations made in the report of the BMWG (document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1) and mechanisms to ensure adequate implementation and enforcement. Progress on implementation should be reported to the Plants Committee and at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

14.XX The Secretariat shall Seek funding for and facilitate production of guidelines for the making of NDFs for timber species. The guidelines should reflect the detailed information contained in document MWG2 Doc. 7.

***Directed to the Standing Committee***

14.XX The Standing Committee shall discuss compliance and enforcement with regard to *Swietenia macrophylla* at each of its meetings between its 57th meeting and the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and recommend appropriate action.

17. The Plants Committee recommends that Decisions 13.55 and 13.56 be deleted and proposes to replace them with the following decision:

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

14.XX a) The Bigleaf Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) Working Group shall continue its work under the Plants Committee. The Working Group shall primarily comprise the range States of the species, the main importing countries and at least one member of the Plants Committee.

b) The Plants Committee shall present a report at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made by the Working Group.

c) The Plants Committee shall discuss and review progress on the implementation of the strategic action plan for the region.

18. The Plants Committee recommends that Decisions 13.57 and 13.58 be deleted and proposes to substitute them with the following decision:

***Directed to Parties***

14.XX a) The country members of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group should attempt to ensure the presence of their representatives at the meetings of the Working Group, as well as the presence of at least one of the representatives of the Plants Committee from the range States.

b) In order to facilitate the making of non-detriment findings, the range States of *Swietenia macrophylla* should:

i) prepare, adopt and implement, as a priority, forest management plans at a national and subregional level that include specific requirements for mahogany, as outlined in document MWG2 Doc. 7;

ii) develop and conduct forest inventories which enable specific identification and analysis of *Swietenia macrophylla* data, as well as programmes to monitor the distribution, population size and conservation status of mahogany incorporating the three basic requirements for non-detriment findings highlighted in document MWG2 Doc. 7, p. 44 a) to c)\*;

iii) develop capacity-building programmes in monitoring and management, specifically related to requirements of CITES procedures and documents. This activity might also involve assistance from the Plants Committee and the Secretariat;

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\* <http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/mwg/mwg2/index.shtml> (English and Spanish only)

- iv) submit reports on progress in the implementation of this Decision to the Secretariat no later than 90 days before the 17th meeting of the Plants Committee, so that the Secretariat may include them in a report that it will present at that meeting; and
- v) establish working groups at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the present Decision.

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

14.XX At its 17th meeting, the Plants Committee shall analyse the reports presented by the range States and progress made in implementing Decision 14.XX (mentioned in the previous paragraph) directed to the Parties, and review the need to include the species in the Review of Significant Trade.

19. The Plants Committee recommends that Decision 13.59 be deleted and proposes that it be replaced by the following decision:

***Directed to Parties, the Secretariat and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the bigleaf mahogany importing and exporting industries***

14.XX Parties (importing and exporting), the CITES Secretariat and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations shall seek ways to share information through the organization of regional workshops, capacity-building programmes, the exchange of experiences and the identification of financial resources to support exporting countries on the activities, training, studies, and capacity building. Amongst others, support in the form of funding for such capacity building activities should be sought from bigleaf mahogany importing and exporting industries.

20. The Plants Committee also wishes to point out to the Conference of the Parties that in recent months there has been some confusion in the interpretation of the annotations for tree species and in particular those referring to bigleaf mahogany; consequently, in consultation with the Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group and the Secretariat, it recommends the adoption of the following decisions:

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

14.XX The Plants Committee shall review and, if appropriate, draft amendments to the annotations to the tree species listed in Appendix II and Appendix III and/or shall prepare clear definitions for the terms used in those annotations in order to facilitate their use and understanding by the CITES Authorities, enforcement officials, exporters and importers.

14.XX The amended annotations shall focus on the articles that initially appear in international trade as exports from the range States and on those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource.

14.XX The Plants Committee shall draft, if necessary, proposals to amend Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP13) and/or to amend the Appendices accordingly so that the Depositary Government may submit them on its behalf for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

14.XX Subject to the availability of external funding, the Secretariat shall prepare a glossary with definitions and training materials to illustrate the content of the amended annotations, the terms used and their practical implementation in the course of application of the law and controls.

21. The Plants Committee is grateful for the valuable inputs made by the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, the range States, all the participants in the 15th and 16th

meetings of the Committee and in the meeting of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, and the CITES Secretariat.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat agrees with the comments from Mexico, as Chairman of the Mahogany Working Group under the Plants Committee, concerning the implementation by range States of Decision 13.58 (see Annex 1 to this document).
- B. The Secretariat had extensive comments on the draft decisions presented in paragraphs 14. b) i); 16. a) i), ii), v), vi) and viii); 16. b); 17; 18 and 19. Consequently, and in consultation with the Plants Committee and the Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, the Secretariat has compiled and edited the draft decisions proposed in the present document and the final version that has been agreed is attached in Annex 2 for consideration at this meeting.
- C. The Secretariat fully supports the adoption of the draft decisions submitted by the Plants Committee in Annex 2.
- D. Finally the Secretariat would like to seek the opinion of Parties on whether a 'Tree Species Working Group' should be re-established to address all timber issues, rather than establishing working groups on individual species.



## SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS OF THE MAHOGANY RANGE STATES

Document prepared by Mexico  
(Chairman of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, under the Plants Committee)

### Introduction

In line with the format agreed by the Chairman of the Plants Committee, the national reports submitted by all of the mahogany range States except Belize have been reviewed.

Analysis and synthesis of the reports concentrated on the first three subparagraphs of Decision 13.58, which focus on documenting the information available to the mahogany range States for making non-detriment findings (NDFs). Given the complexity, volume and variety of the information contained in the national reports, it was decided to summarize it and arrange it systematically under 10 main headings covering the relevant points of the initial format, in order to facilitate analysis. These main headings are:

1. National management plans specifically for mahogany
2. Estimated potential total range
3. Range being exploited
4. Inventories of specimens / exploited area
5. Distribution of ages or diameter categories of the specimens in exploited areas (specimens / ha)
6. Cycle, age (rotation), cutting rate and minimum cutting diameters
7. Information on illegal harvesting
8. Plantations
9. Volume of exports
10. Capacity building

#### Heading 1. National management plans specifically for mahogany

Country	Information
Belize	No report submitted
Bolivia	None. There are laws and management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas
Brazil	None. There are laws and management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas
Colombia	No information
Costa Rica	None. There are laws and management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas, although mahogany harvesting is banned
Ecuador	None. There are forestry laws. Mahogany is on the list of species whose harvesting is subject to conditions, and in addition there are management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas
Guatemala	None. There are laws and management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas
Honduras	None. There are laws and management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas
Mexico	None. There are laws and management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas, as well as a national long-term forestry strategic plan
Nicaragua	None. There are laws and management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas
Panama	None. There are laws and management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas. Export of mahogany is prohibited

Country	Information
Peru	None. There are laws and management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas. A specific reinforcement plan is being drafted
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	None. There are laws and management programmes covering forestry exploitation areas, although the harvesting of mahogany is prohibited

### Heading 2. Estimated potential total range

Country	Potential range (ha)	In protected areas (ha)
Belize	No report submitted	No report submitted
Bolivia	3 million	2 million
Brazil	150 million	26 million
Colombia	No information	No information
Costa Rica	398,580	No precise figures
Ecuador	1.8 million	No precise figures
Guatemala	2,248,922	868,884
Honduras	No precise figures	No precise figures
Mexico	3.8 million	2.5 million
Nicaragua	2,397,977	1,442,982
Panama	1,134,007	No precise figures
Peru	No precise figures	13,033,393
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	7,994	No precise figures

### Heading 3. Range being exploited (ha)

Country	Information
Belize	No report submitted
Bolivia	No precise figures
Brazil	1,016
Colombia	No information
Costa Rica	Total ban
Ecuador	400
Guatemala	533,134
Honduras	50,000
Mexico	518,000
Nicaragua	949,995
Panama	1,134,007
Peru	No precise figures
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	No information, harvesting of the species prohibited

#### Heading 4. Density (specimens / exploited area)

Country	Information
Belize	No report submitted
Bolivia	0.3 – 0.5 specimens/ha
Brazil	No precise information
Colombia	No information
Costa Rica	0.05 specimens/ha, of a DBH between 40 and 75 cm and overall heights varying between 13 and 30 m
Ecuador	1.1 specimens/ha, DBH > 60 and average heights of 18 m
Guatemala	3.108 specimens/ha In protected areas: 3 specimens/ha of a DBH greater than 10 cm
Honduras	No precise information
Mexico	0.009 to 8 specimens/ha
Nicaragua	0.64 to 0.65 specimens/ha
Panama	0.4 specimens/ha In protected areas: 0.5 to 1 specimens/ha
Peru	No precise information
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.09 to 1.42 specimens/ ha

#### Heading 5. Distribution of ages or diameter categories of the specimens in exploited areas (specimens / ha)

Country	Information
Belize	No report submitted
Bolivia	No information
Brazil	No information
Colombia	No information
Costa Rica	No information
Ecuador	No information
Guatemala	Diameter categories are reported
Honduras	No information
Mexico	Diameter categories are reported
Nicaragua	No information
Panama	No information
Peru	No information
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	No information

**Heading 6.** Cycle, age (rotation), cutting rate and minimum cutting diameters

<b>Country</b>	<b>Information</b>
Belize	No report submitted
Bolivia	Cutting cycle: 20 years Age (rotation): No information Cutting rate: 80 % of harvestable diameters Minimum cutting diameter: 60 cm
Brazil	Cutting cycle: 25 years Age (rotation): No information Cutting rate: No information Minimum cutting diameter: No information
Colombia	No information
Costa Rica	No information
Ecuador	Cutting cycle: 15 years minimum Age (rotation): No information Cutting rate: 30 % of the basal area Minimum cutting diameter: 60 cm
Guatemala	Cutting cycle: 25 years Age (rotation): 30 to 40 years Cutting rate: maximum 85 % of the healthy trees that have reached the minimum cutting diameter Minimum cutting diameter: 45 to 50 cm
Honduras	No information
Mexico	Cutting cycle: 20-25 years Age (rotation): 60-75 years Cutting rate: 30 % Minimum cutting diameter: 55 cm
Nicaragua	Cutting cycle: No information Age (rotation): No information Cutting rate: 40 % Minimum cutting diameter: 50 cm
Panama	No information
Peru	Cutting cycle: No information Age (rotation): No information Cutting rate: 4 % Minimum cutting diameter: 75 cm
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	No information

### Heading 7. Information on illegal harvesting

Country	Information
Belize	No report submitted
Bolivia	No information
Brazil	No information
Colombia	No information
Costa Rica	No information
Ecuador	No information
Guatemala	No information
Honduras	Volume of wood intercepted (confiscated) 400,000 board feet, equivalent to 2,200.22 m <sup>3</sup> of wood
Mexico	Between 2004 and 2006 195.7 m <sup>3</sup> of mahogany logs and 9 m <sup>3</sup> of sawn mahogany were secured in 48 administrative proceedings undertaken
Nicaragua	No precise information
Panama	No precise information
Peru	Seizures of 7,383 m <sup>3</sup> between 2003 and June 2006
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Over the past five years an average of 12.8 m <sup>3</sup> of mahogany has been confiscated per year in the country as a whole

### Heading 8. Plantations (ha)

Country	Information
Belize	No information
Bolivia	No information
Brazil	No information
Colombia	No information
Costa Rica	No information
Ecuador	79.50 m <sup>3</sup> of mahogany planted on roadsides and officially registered; however work is in hand to officially register planted trees that are distributed along the Ecuadorean coast
Guatemala	622.68 Plantations are made with various species owing to the attack of the shoot borer, which is the reason that the area planted with mahogany is relatively small
Honduras	150
Mexico	42,012
Nicaragua	No information
Panama	300
Peru	3,000 to 4000
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	72.8

### Heading 9. Volume of exports (m<sup>3</sup>)

Country	Information
Belize	No report submitted
Bolivia	34,800 between 2001 and 2005
Brazil	33,585 between 2002 and 2006
Colombia	No information
Costa Rica	Ban
Ecuador	No export permits were issued in 2006
Guatemala	4,900 in 2006
Honduras	No information
Mexico	2,636 between 2001 and 2005
Nicaragua	38,146 between 2001 and 2006
Panama	596 in 2002 (ban starting in 2003)
Peru	233,060 between 2000 and 2005
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Ban

### Heading 10. Capacity building

Country	Information
Belize	No information
Bolivia	No information
Brazil	Courses on anatomical identification of timber species and capacity-building for the CITES Authorities Training courses on forest management
Colombia	No information
Costa Rica	Workshops on identification of mahogany (three national workshops, 10 for Central America and three with Panama and Nicaragua)
Ecuador	Various intergovernmental workshops and meetings and preparation of printed materials with information on mahogany
Guatemala	Workshops on identification of mahogany timber and course on trade in CITES species and regulation thereof
Honduras	Has a capacity-building programme in the supervision and management of mahogany
Mexico	Capacity-building workshops covering trade in and identification of mahogany and ongoing training programme on the implementation of CITES
Nicaragua	Regional workshop to evaluate the status of mahogany in Central America and a training programme on the identification of mahogany
Panama	Cross-frontier (Panama – Costa Rica) workshops on the identification of mahogany
Peru	Training courses on the identification of mahogany for various sectors, training course on identification of species similar to mahogany, 106 identification kits for commercial timber and an Administrative Procedure Manual on the exploitation, transport and export of mahogany
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	No information

## General conclusions

There are no national management plans specifically for mahogany in the range States. However, the majority of them have laws and management programmes for forest species in locations intended for exploitation, covering mahogany and establishing specific criteria for the species. This situation reflects the difficulty of establishing management plans specifically for mahogany at national level, although this is called for in Decision 13.58; the characteristics specific to tropical forests which have a high variety of forest species make it necessary to take an overall approach to forest management. Consequently, an alternative to national management of mahogany would be to obtain precise data on the total distribution and the areas under management or exploitation, as well as inventories and common *ad hoc* technical guidelines for mahogany, thereby providing the information necessary to make non-detriment findings and apply them in the forestry exploitation areas.

Some countries did not submit precise or standardized information on the potential range of mahogany. This makes it impossible to have a reliable estimate of the potential distribution of mahogany in its natural range and even less to make an accurate estimate on the actual occurrence of the species. Furthermore, the data on the presence of mahogany in protected areas have to be treated with caution, since probably the total extent of such areas was reported, but it cannot be assumed that this species is distributed homogeneously over the whole area. This makes it necessary to have a standard methodology in order to be able to estimate the present distribution of the species.

Some countries did not submit precise or standardized information on the area over which mahogany is harvested, which is a matter for concern since that information is essential for proper management of the species. It should be mentioned that only two countries (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Costa Rica), reported that harvesting of the species is prohibited. Given that all harvesting requires an inventory and a precise range, it is necessary that the information be shared by the Parties in a standardized format.

There are no national forest inventories specifically for mahogany. Some of the countries refer to inventories in the harvested areas and others provide no information at all. In this document those countries that are annotated with "No precise information" presented the data in cubic metres or as a total number of individual specimens, without referring to the area covered, which meant that it was impossible to determine the density. Therefore, it is necessary that the information on density be provided in a standardized format and according to a standardized methodology.

Only Guatemala and Mexico reported precise information on diameter categories, from which both the structure and the rate of population regeneration can be inferred. With this information missing, no conclusions can be drawn as to the sustainability of the harvest, and consequently it is essential that all the countries should have this information in a standardized manner.

There is a striking lack of information on the cycle, age, cutting rate and minimum cutting diameter. Those are indispensable elements for management planning, and in consequence all the range States that permit harvesting should have standardized information clearly reflecting those parameters.

Various countries make mention of penalties for infringement of the forestry laws, although only four report volumes of confiscated wood. The reason those countries did not report confiscations of illegally-harvested timber is unknown, but this information is very important, since it makes it possible to make an estimate of the level of impact on the wild populations.

Although there are countries that have made an effort to promote mahogany plantations, it is evident that the impact thereof on the conservation of this species, in the medium and even in the long term, is very limited.

While there are countries that have imposed a ban on harvesting and/or export of mahogany, it is evident that the others trade internationally in this species. The volumes of reported exports are very variable and do not make it possible by themselves to determine the sustainability of the harvest. It is important to correlate those values with the volume actually authorized (the rate of which is derived from the inventory), the volume extracted and, where this occurs, the volume processed (allowing for the processing coefficient).

The majority of the countries do report on the conduct of capacity-building activities covering identification of and trade in mahogany; however, except for Brazil, they do not report on any specific activities concerning the drawing up of inventories and forest management of the species in the exploited areas. This means that the countries have to make a major effort in order to train the field personnel who gather the basic information for the making of non-detriment findings.



DECISIONS PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION

Non-detriment findings for tree species

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 14.XX Before the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Plants Committee shall:
- a) draft guidelines for making non-detriment findings for tree species; and
  - b) support the organization of a workshop on non-detriment findings for tree species.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 14.XX The Secretariat shall raise funds to assist the Plants Committee in drafting the guidelines mentioned in Decision 14.XX.

Annotations to tree species included in Appendices II and III

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

- 14.XX a) The Plants Committee shall review and, if appropriate, draft amendments to the annotations to the tree species listed in Appendices II and III and/or shall prepare clear definitions for the terms used in those annotations in order to facilitate their use and understanding by CITES Authorities, enforcement officers, exporters and importers.
- b) The amended annotations shall focus on the articles that initially appear in international trade as exports from the range States and on those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource.
- c) The Plants Committee shall draft, if necessary, proposals to amend Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP13) and/or to amend the Appendices accordingly so that the Depository Government may submit them on its behalf for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

- 14.XX Subject to the availability of external funding, the Secretariat shall prepare a glossary with definitions and training materials to illustrate the content of the amended annotations, the terms used and their practical implementation when applying the law and controls.

Bigleaf mahogany

- 14.XX The Conference of the Parties adopted the *Action plan for the control of international trade in bigleaf mahogany* (*Swietenia macrophylla*), attached as Annex XX.

## ANNEX XX

### Action plan for the control of international trade in the bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*)

1. All range States of the bigleaf mahogany should:
  - a) Promote national synergies among the producing countries by establishing formally and specifically multi-institutional committees whose memberships include competent scientific organizations, in order to support Scientific Authorities;
  - b) Perform studies of the sawn timber yields from logs, and on the height-diameter ratio, in order to improve management of and control over bigleaf mahogany timber;
  - c) Foster regional territorial management for the bigleaf mahogany and validate or verify the reports submitted by forestry users, including periodic studies on ecology and growth dynamics;
  - d) Examine the possibility of giving CITES species special treatment in technical standards on census-taking of diameters smaller than the minimum cutting size in order to determine stocks of remaining trees, the setting of minimum cutting diameters, the percentage of remaining trees that should be left and harvesting techniques; and
  - e) Facilitate the making of non-detriment findings by:
    - i) Preparing, adopting and implementing, as a priority, forest management plans at a the national and local levels that include specific requirements for the bigleaf mahogany, as outlined in the results of the workshop on Non-Detriment Findings for Mahogany held in Cancun (April 2007) (see document CoP14. Inf. 24) after its endorsement and adoption by the Plants Committee;
    - ii) Developing and conducting forest inventories that enable specific identification and data analysis of the bigleaf mahogany, as well as programmes to monitor the distribution, population size and conservation status of the bigleaf mahogany, based on the results of the workshop on Non-Detriment Findings for Mahogany held in Cancun (April 2007), after its endorsement and adoption by the Plants Committee, and incorporating the three basic requirements for non-detriment findings highlighted in document MWG2 Doc. 7, paragraph 44. a) to c);
    - iii) Implementing capacity-building programmes in monitoring and management, specifically related to the understanding and application of CITES requirements. This activity might also involve assistance from the Plants Committee and the Secretariat;
    - iv) Submitting reports on progress in the implementation of this Action Plan to the Secretariat no later than 90 days before the 17th meeting of the Plants Committee, so that the Secretariat may include them in a report that it will present at that meeting; and
    - v) Establishing working groups at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the present Action Plan.
2. The countries members of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group should ensure the presence of their representatives at meetings of the Working Group, as well as the presence of at least one of the representatives of the Plants Committee from the range States.
3. Parties and international organizations should stress the importance of not authorizing any export without proof of legal origin of the timber. Importing countries should refuse mahogany shipments accompanied by CITES export permits issued under a court order, unless the importing country can confirm that a non-detriment finding has been made by the Scientific Authority of the country of origin.
4. Bigleaf mahogany range States, in cooperation with importing countries and international organizations, should develop a regional strategy with timelines to address: non-detriment findings,

legal origin, and compliance and enforcement issues. The strategy should include the 15 recommendations made in the report of the BMWG (document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1) and mechanisms to ensure adequate implementation and enforcement. Progress on implementation should be reported to the Secretariat 90 days before the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee.

5. The Standing Committee shall discuss compliance and enforcement with regard to the bigleaf mahogany at its 57th, 58th and 59th meetings, and recommend appropriate action.
6. The Plants Committee shall:
  - a) be the body under which the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group shall continue its work. The Working Group shall primarily comprise the range States of the species, the main importing countries and at least one member of the Plants Committee.
  - b) analyse at its 17th meeting the reports presented by the range States and progress made in implementing the present Action Plan directed to the Parties, and review the need to include the species in the Review of Significant Trade.
  - c) discuss and examine at its 18th meeting the progress made with the implementation of the regional strategy; and
  - d) submit a report at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made by the Working Group.
7. The Secretariat shall investigate the high volume of mahogany imports taking place in the Dominican Republic.
8. Importing and exporting Parties, the CITES Secretariat and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should seek ways to share information through the organization of regional workshops, capacity-building programmes, the exchange of experiences and the identification of financial resources to support exporting countries in their activities, training, studies, and capacity building. Amongst others, support in the form of funding for such capacity-building activities should be sought from bigleaf mahogany importing and exporting industries.