

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



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 5 – 9 June 2023

NEOTROPICAL TREE SPECIES

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Co-Chairs: representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Belteton Chacon) and acting representative for Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Olave);

Parties: Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; and

IGOs and NGOs: International Tropical Timber Organization, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC, World Resources Institute and World Wide Fund for Nature.

Mandate

During the meeting, the working group is to:

- a) review and, as appropriate, revise the list of neotropical tree species and associated CITES processes contained in the Annex to document PC26 Doc. 33;
- b) establish priorities for strengthening the implementation of the Convention for the neotropical tree species concerned, including linkages with the CITES Tree species programme, as per paragraph 6 of document PC26 Doc. 33;
- c) identify avenues to cooperate with Parties in making progress with the priorities identified; and
- d) draft recommendations for the Plants Committee to consider and submit to the Standing Committee and/or the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendations

The working group recommends that the Plants Committee agree to:

- a) with regard to paragraph a) of the mandate:
 - i) establish an intersessional working group at the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee, in view of the underrepresentation of range States of neotropical tree species;
 - ii) omit the prioritization process for the species *Araucaria araucana*, *Fitzroya cupressoides*, *Pilgerodendron uviferum* and *Abies guatemalensis*, *Podocarpus parlatoresi*, *Balmea stormiae*; and
 - iii) take note that these recommendations to establish priorities may be applied to other CITES-listed neotropical species that are priority species for Parties who are range States.
- b) with regard to paragraph b) of the mandate:

Recommend that projects be designed and promoted for the targeted species in order to build capacities, including: research on population studies, management plans, identification of species and timber, non-detriment findings, legal acquisition findings, and traceability in the trade of the species concerned.

c) with regard to paragraph c) of the mandate:

- i) recommend that mechanisms for cooperation with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions be established in order to obtain funding to enable implementation of prioritized activities, for which purpose, the Secretariat's support will be required;
- ii) invite the Secretariat to publish a Notification to the Parties requesting range States of neotropical tree species to:
 - A. consider whether or not to confirm the prioritized list prepared by the working group at the 26th meeting of the Plants Committee; and
 - B. invite Parties to submit information on priorities for strengthening implementation of the Convention with regard to neotropical tree species, based on the notification.
- iii) note that implementation of projects funded by donors, and cooperation efforts involving other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which already include species listed in the Annex to document PC26 Doc. 33, will continue. Further fundraising efforts will be geared towards new projects, based on the priorities established by the relevant Parties that are range States, in accordance with the results of the aforementioned Notification to the Parties.

d) with regard to paragraph d) of the mandate:

Inform the Plants Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, of the outcome of this task.