

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



Seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 3 – 8 February 2025

INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES
IN THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE
CITES TASK FORCE ON ILLEGAL TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED TREE SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Secretariat in relation to agenda item 38.3 on the *Task Force on illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed tree species*.*
2. The Secretariat issued [Notification to the Parties No. 2024/079](#) of 4 July 2024 inviting Parties to submit information to the Secretariat on their implementation of Decision 19.89. Responses were received from Colombia, Guatemala, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. These responses are compiled in the present document in the language and format they were received.
3. The Secretariat also received information from INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) about activities they implemented, relevant to what is outlined in the "Task Force outcome document". This information has been summarized by the Secretariat in paragraph 4 to 10 below.

Strengthening regional and international collaboration to address illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species

4. WCO reported on its ongoing efforts to support Parties in addressing illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species. WCO highlighted that it regularly engages WCO Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) officers in wildlife trade-related activities across regions, providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills to assist in the accurate reporting and analysis of CITES-listed species data, including that for tree species. Additionally, WCO participated in Operation THUNDER under the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), which targets the illegal wildlife trade, including tree species. WCO supported regional initiatives such as Operation PREASIDIO, which combats illegal wildlife trade in Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, and Operation SSHA, an initiative led by India Customs that focuses specifically on tree species like rosewood and sandalwood in Asia. While WCO does not have a programme solely focussing on tree species, its broader operations targeting illegal wildlife trade includes tree-related crimes. WCO indicated that it remains committed to supporting Parties in initiating operations targeting this illegal trade.
5. INTERPOL reported that Project LEAP (Law Enforcement Assistance Programme to reduce tropical deforestation), a project jointly implemented by INTERPOL and UNODC funded by Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, continued its work against illegal timber trade, including illegal logging, and associated crimes such as money laundering, tax evasion, and corruption. Since its launch in 2018, Project LEAP aims to support Parties by providing resources and training to detect, investigate, and prevent forestry-related offenses. Project LEAP's approach includes capacity-building, operational support, and intelligence sharing, encouraging multi-agency and international cooperation in addressing transnational forestry crimes. In 2023 and 2024, Project LEAP's activities focused on strengthening regional law enforcement connections and operational capacity for Project LEAP beneficiary countries in the Asia-Pacific (Cambodia, Indonesia,

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Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Thailand, and Viet Nam) and Latin America [Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Suriname, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru].

6. INTERPOL reported that it organized a Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting in Singapore in January 2024. Representatives from two countries in the Asia-Pacific region attended the meeting to review findings from an INTERPOL-provided analytical report related to illegal trade in tree species. The meeting confirmed continued illicit activities, identified the nationality of the primary suspect, and highlighted links to additional countries. INTERPOL then received a request for satellite monitoring support to cover three illegal logging sites connected to the criminal network under investigation. Furthermore, a Regional LEAP Mentoring Programme organized by INTERPOL in Bangkok, Thailand, in April 2024, provided practical learning opportunities for Project LEAP beneficiary countries within a multi-agency framework. The meeting, attended by 30 participants from seven countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Thailand, and Viet Nam), featured presentations from UNODC's Programme on Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention and the Global Programme against Money Laundering. Some key outcomes included the identification of high-value targets in the region for inclusion in the intelligence collection phase of an operation codenamed Arcadia 2024; the strengthening of cooperation between national authorities, including the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) and Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), and operational support requests from Thailand and Papua New Guinea. INTERPOL launched Operation LEAP – Arcadia 2024, a case-focused initiative to support Project LEAP beneficiary countries. Five official support requests were received—three from Latin America and two from the Asia-Pacific region—with the tactical phase currently underway, and results to be included in an upcoming progress report. Further, INTERPOL organized a Case Coordination and Operational Planning activity in Papua New Guinea in July 2024, responding to a request for support on a forestry crime case. Building on prior in-country efforts by Project LEAP, this five-day meeting facilitated collaboration among multiple agencies, including the Financial Analysis and Supervision Unit of the Forestry Authority, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, NCB, customs, and the Internal Revenue Commission. Outcomes included the implementation of a National Environmental Security Task Force framework, expanded multi-agency cooperation, and actionable information-sharing, with continued support from Project LEAP. Following a pre-task force mission to Peru and Colombia in November 2023, INTERPOL donated analytical software licences and provided training to Peruvian agencies, including police, prosecutors, and the FIU. By early 2024, these resources had significantly supported an investigation into a criminal network responsible for deforestation involving 31 individuals and 10 companies. Peruvian law enforcement, as noted by INTERPOL, reported that the software and training enabled them to produce two analytical reports based on data from seized mobile devices, advancing the investigation.

Detection and identification of illegal consignments of CITES-listed tree species and mobilizing available tools

7. WCO reported on its commitment to support Parties in developing risk assessments and risk indicators as anticipated by paragraph 3.3 a) in the "Task Force outcome document". WCO collaborated with Parties to facilitate this process, offering training on WCO tools for data collection, storage, and analysis. This training helped Parties leverage data to inform risk profiling as part of a broader risk management strategy. WCO noted that, while it provides support in these areas, further implementation of detection and identification measures remains the responsibility of the individual Parties.
8. INTERPOL reported that in June 2023, a joint INTERPOL-UNODC Operational Support Team (OST) was deployed to Panama to assist in a timber trafficking investigation. Following the seizure of over 20 containers containing timber, the OST provided guidance on sample collection, ensuring forensic standards and chain of custody. In January 2024, INTERPOL deployed a follow-up OST to support Panama with additional forensic testing of more than 200 wood samples. INTERPOL coordinated with a specialized forensic laboratory in the United States of America, which agreed to conduct the tests at no cost. Preliminary results revealed species discrepancies, providing crucial evidence in Panama's ongoing illegal timber trade investigation.

Addressing corruption and mobilizing investigations into illicit financial flows from illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species

9. INTERPOL reported that, in November 2023, it hosted a Project LEAP workshop in Singapore to strengthen cooperation and bridge gaps in coordination between law enforcement agencies and Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) in addressing financial crimes linked to forestry offences. The workshop included 18 participants: 16 law enforcement and FIU representatives, one representative from the UNODC Global Programme

against Money Laundering, and one from the WCO. Representatives came from four countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Viet Nam.

10. INTERPOL further reported that, in 2024, it continued supporting efforts to counter financial crime in forestry offences through Project LEAP. In June 2024, an online session aimed at enhancing FIU connectivity in Latin America provided FIUs from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, police from Colombia and governmental officials from Paraguay, with improved access to INTERPOL databases for investigations into forestry-related financial crimes. INTERPOL noted that the FIU of the Plurinational State of Bolivia reported successful outcomes from using these resources, and that the FIU of Colombia requested further support.

PARTIES' RESPONSES TO NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES NO. 2024/079 ON INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE CITES TASK FORCE ON ILLEGAL TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED TREE SPECIES

Colombia

Asunto: “Notificación No. 2024/079: Grupo de Tareas sobre Comercio Ilegal de Especies Arbóreas Incluidas en los Apéndices de la CITES”.

Como respuesta a la Notificación No. 2024/079, relacionada de manera puntual con información sobre las aplicaciones de teléfonos móviles y tabletas para la identificación de especies arbóreas incluidas en la CITES que se utilizan actualmente y su disponibilidad para las diferentes autoridades.

En el año 2017 se conceptualizó, desarrollo e implemento el Sistema Nacional de Trazabilidad Forestal (SNTF) en cabeza del Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible (MinAmbiente), el cual se concibe como una herramienta tecnológica que permite hacer seguimiento histórico, ubicación, trayectoria y control a cada uno de los eslabones que componen la cadena productiva forestal, así: planificación, manejo forestal, movilización y comercialización-transformación; los cuales se implementan a través de cuatro módulos: Planificación (PFL) (en conceptualización, se prevé propuesta para 2025), Manejo Forestal en Línea (MFL) (en desarrollo, se prevé pruebas en 2024), Salvoconducto Único Nacional en Línea (SUNL) (en implementación desde 2018), Libro de Salvoconducto Único Nacional en Línea (SUNL) (en implementación desde 2018), Libro de Operaciones Forestales en Línea (LOFL) (en implementación y desarrollo desde 2022), los cuales se alojan en la Ventanilla Integral de Trámites Ambientales – VITAL.

La implementación del Sistema Nacional de Trazabilidad Forestal permite realizar el seguimiento histórico, ubicación y trayectoria a los productos os forestales en primer grado de transformación a lo largo su cadena de abastecimiento desde su origen hasta su destino final.



Figura 4. Libro de Operaciones forestales en Línea

Fuente: Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible. 2024

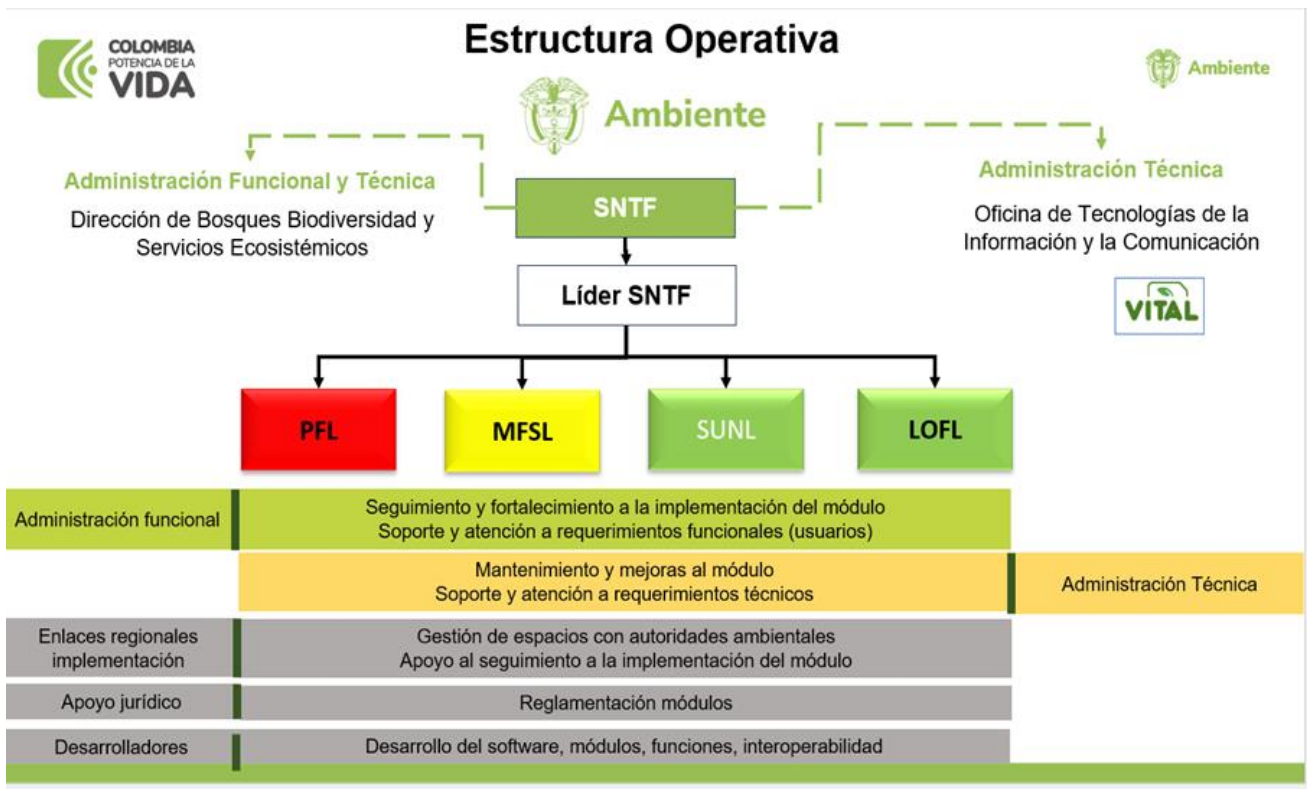


Figura 2. Estructura operativa del Sistema Nacional de Trazabilidad Forestal.

Fuente: Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible. 2024

La operación del módulo SUNL embebido en VITAL fue reglamentado en el año 2017 a través de la Resolución 1909 de MinAmbiente, a partir de esa fecha las autoridades ambientales del país, migraron, sus procesos analógicos para la generación de este documento, requisito para la movilización de productos maderables, no maderables y de la flora silvestre, a un sistema online que permite el seguimiento permanente de los procesos allí gestionados. El proceso parte del cargue de los actos y actuaciones administrativas emitidos por las autoridades ambientales que otorgan el aprovechamiento de estos recursos, para la posterior generación de los SUNL requeridos. El módulo SUNL cuenta con una funcionalidad (Cargue saldo aprovechamiento) para el cargue de información asociada al acto u actuaciones administrativas emitidas por cada autoridad ambiental que otorgan el aprovechamiento, información asociada al acto u actuaciones administrativas emitidas por cada autoridad ambiental que otorgan el aprovechamiento de los recursos forestales maderables, no maderables, de la flora silvestre y de la fauna, dentro de esta funcionalidad se registran datos asociados al área de aprovechamiento, localización, especies, productos y volúmenes otorgados.

A partir de los datos consignados en esta funcionalidad es que se generan los SUNL, realizando los descuentos en términos del volumen cargado para cada acto u actuaciones administrativa. Como soporte de cada acto u actuación administrativa la autoridad ambiental carga el documento con el que se ampara el otorgamiento. Así mismo, incorpora dos funcionalidades para la consulta de la información que fue cargada por la autoridad ambiental (Cargue saldo aprovechamiento), la primera correspondiente a consultar aprovechamientos cargados, permite acceder a la base de datos de los aprovechamientos persistentes, únicos, domésticos, árboles aislados y la funcionalidad Reporte documentos que permite acceder a la base de datos de plantaciones protectoras y plantaciones protectoras productoras.



Figura 3. Salvoconducto Único Nacional en Línea (SUNL)

Fuente: Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible. 2024

A través de la Resolución 1971 del 2019, se establece, El Libro de Operaciones Forestales en Línea LOFL, el cual es un instrumento de control, por medio del cual se realiza un registro de entradas y salidas de especies maderables y no maderables, las cuales serán transformadas y comercializadas en diferentes establecimientos forestales.

Con la entrada del LOFL este proceso se desarrollará de manera virtual y en tiempo real, lo cual permitirá tener un mayor control y vigilancia sobre las dinámicas de la flora maderable y no maderable en el país. Este módulo está conectado y tendrá relación directa con los módulos de aprovechamiento y movilización, lo cual, permitirá tener un control sobre los volúmenes de madera desde la etapa de aprovechamiento, hasta la etapa de transformación, comercialización y movilización. A la fecha este módulo se encuentra en implementación en las autoridades ambientales y empresas de transformación y comercialización de madera quienes están realizando la migración del medio físico al ambiente virtual



Figura 4. Libro de Operaciones forestales en Línea

Fuente: Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible. 2024

Complementariamente desde el Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible con el apoyo de la Real Embajada de Noruega en Colombia y El Instituto Global para el Crecimiento Verde – GGGI Colombia, se realizó el lanzamiento virtual de la herramienta digital para el Control y Vigilancia de Madera – COVIMA, la cual reúne información actualizada de las aplicaciones “Especies Maderables” y “Cubimadera” y permite integrar esfuerzos previos del programa de la FAO (Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura) y la Unión Europea sobre aplicación de las leyes, gobernanza y comercio forestales (Programa FAO-UE FLEGT).

COVIMA, Fue diseñada con el fin de apoyar la consolidación del Sistema de Trazabilidad Forestal Nacional y facilitará que a futuro los ciudadanos puedan elegir madera legal, para así aportar a la conservación de los bosques naturales del país. Dentro de sus características se destaca que funciona sin necesidad de conexión a Internet para facilitar su uso en cualquier rincón del país y ya se encuentra disponible en las tiendas Google Play y App Store, de acceso libre y gratuito para cualquier persona interesada en utilizarla.

La app COVIMA es una nueva herramienta tecnológica que surge de la necesidad de contar con información inmediata y de acceso abierto, es por ello que el Sistema de Información Ambiental de Colombia (SIAC) y el Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible pretenden darle prioridad e importancia a los datos ambientales y a este tipo de iniciativas que permiten tomar medidas reguladoras para mejorar la sostenibilidad, la producción, la gestión y otros campos relacionados con el sector

El ambiente es de todos Minambiente

¡COVIMA, la nueva aplicación al servicio del sector forestal!

La app COVIMA reúne y actualiza las apps de Especies Maderables y Cubimadera. Esta es una iniciativa del Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible con el apoyo de GGGI y la Embajada de Noruega.

GET IT ON Google Play Download on the App Store

Esta App tiene tres funcionalidades

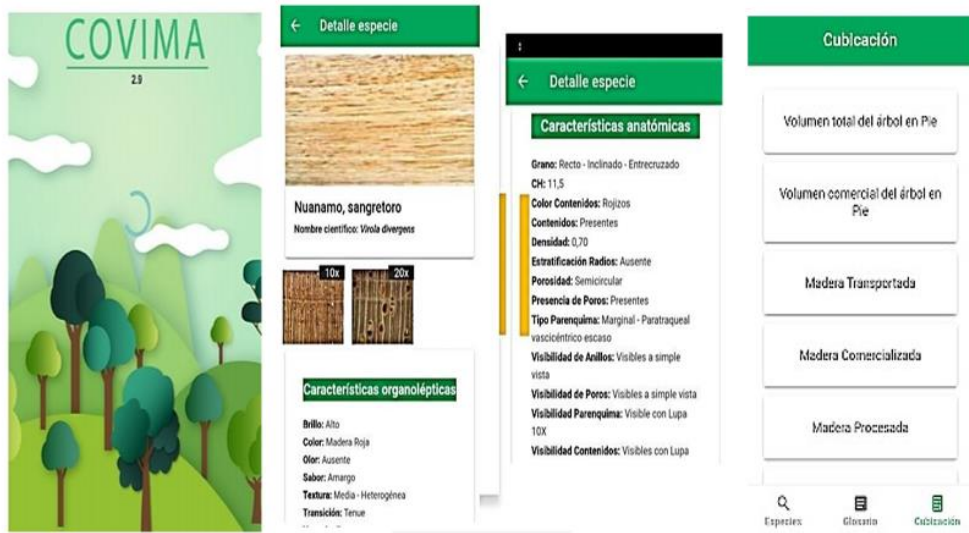
- Permite controlar y verificar las especies forestales maderables que se comercializan provenientes del bosque natural.
- Calculadora que facilita cubicar árboles en pie, los volúmenes de madera en el transporte y verificar los inventarios en las empresas forestales.
- Acceso directo a SUNL - VITAL para verificar los salvoconductos que autorizan el transporte de la biodiversidad en el país.

Con el apoyo de: GGGI Embajada de Noruega

Figura 5. Covima - Infografía Trazabilidad Forestal Nacional.

Fuente: Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible. 2024

<https://www.minambiente.gov.co/app-covima-la-apuesta-tecnologica-desarrollada-por-minambiente-gggi-y-el-reino-de-noruega/>



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.encisosystems.covimaMADS>



Microscopio electrónico 1000x



Figura 6. Herramienta tecnológica de apoyo a la gestión forestal COVIMA

Fuente: Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible. 2024

<https://www.minambiente.gov.co/app-covima-la-apuesta-tecnologica-desarrollada-por-minambiente-gggi-y-el-reino-de-noruega/>

TRAZABILIDAD FORESTAL NACIONAL



Planificación Ordenación Forestal

- Se realiza la planificación y las autoridades ambientales zonifican sus áreas para identificar donde están los bosques aptos para el manejo sostenible y en donde se pueden realizar plantaciones forestales.

Aprovechamiento

- Los productores forestales interesados en manejar el bosque solicitan el aprovechamiento a las autoridades ambientales y entregan el Plan de Manejo para garantizar la sostenibilidad del bosque o realizan el establecimiento de plantaciones forestales en zonas aptas para la producción.
- Las autoridades ambientales autorizan el manejo del bosque y registran plantaciones forestales.
- El ICA registra las plantaciones forestales comerciales y emite los documentos de movilización.

Movilización Salvoconducto Único Nacional en Línea (SUNL) y Remisión ICA

- Los productores forestales a quienes autorizan el manejo del bosque solicitan el SUNL en VITAL (Ventanilla Integral de Trámites Ambientales en Línea) para garantizar la legalidad de los productos movilizados.
- Los productores forestales de plantaciones solicitan al ICA sus remisiones de movilización.
- COVIMA facilita el control y verificación de los productos forestales maderables en las carreteras, mares y ríos.

Control de Industrias Libro de Operaciones Forestales en Línea (LOFL)

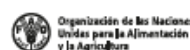
- Los productores forestales que tienen Industrias de transformación de productos forestales registran sus inventarios en el LOFL en VITAL para que las autoridades ambientales puedan garantizar la legalidad de los productos.
- COVIMA facilita el control y verificación de los productos forestales maderables en las Industrias.

Con el apoyo de:



Embajada de Noruega

PROGRAMA FAO - UE FLEGT



Suecia Sverige





Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas

Dirección de Manejo
de Bosques y Vida Silvestre



Oficio DMBVS-492-2024
Ref. AALR/maco

Guatemala, 30 de septiembre de 2024

Ivonne Higuero
Secretaria General
Secretaría CITES

Presente,

Distinguida Secretaria General:

Reciba un cordial saludo de las Autoridades Científicas CITES para Guatemala, deseándole éxitos en sus labores diarias.

En atención a la Notificación a las Partes No. 2024/079 sobre la Invitación a proporcionar información sobre la puesta en práctica de las medidas y actividades descritas en el documento final del Grupo de Tareas sobre Comercio Ilegal de Especies Arbóreas Incluidas en los Apéndices de la CITES, emitida el 4 de julio de 2024, por medio de la presente queremos compartir la información que pudimos recabar sobre las últimas medidas y actividades vinculadas al tema:

1. Se está trabajando en el proceso de actualización del "**Manual de procedimientos para el comercio internacional de flora maderable incluida en los apéndices II y III de la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres - CITES**", documento que debe presentar en forma sistemática y estandarizada los procedimientos para la implementación del comercio internacional de especies forestales incluidas en los Apéndices de la CITES, constituyéndose en una herramienta que permitirá tanto a técnicos involucrados en el proceso de regulación como a usuarios vinculados en el comercio de dichas especies disponer de los criterios técnicos y procedimientos administrativos que son necesarios para asegurar que el comercio de especies reguladas por la convención CITES sea una actividad sostenible, legal y trazable.

Este manual incluirá una **actualización de los requisitos y procedimientos**, acorde al origen del producto forestal que se pretende comercializar, para facilitar y garantizar la determinación de la legalidad antes de expedir cualquier permiso de exportación CITES. Se considerará la documentación que respalda el **origen lícito de las especies arbóreas cuando estas se encuentren en el medio silvestre en áreas protegidas y fuera de áreas protegidas y cuando estas se ajusten a otros códigos de origen.**



Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas

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2. Se han realizado comunicaciones y coordinaciones interinstitucionales para la recopilación de información para la elaboración de los **informes anuales CITES sobre el comercio ilegal**, específicamente con la Intendencia de Aduanas de la Superintendencia de Administración Tributaria **-SAT-**, con la División de Protección a la Naturaleza **-DIPRONA-** de la Policía Nacional Civil **-PNC-**, con la División de Puertos, Aeropuertos y Puestos Fronterizos **-DIPAFRONT-** de la Policía Nacional Civil **-PNC-**, con la Dirección General de la Policía Nacional Civil **-PNC-** y con el Instituto Nacional de Bosques **-INAB-**. Se les explicó sobre las disposiciones establecidas en el Texto de la Convención y en la Resolución Conf. 11.17 (Rev.CoP19) y la importancia de elaborar los informes nacionales. Además, se les instruyó sobre el ingreso de la información en el formato normalizado para el informe anual CITES sobre el comercio ilegal, acorde a las *"Directrices para la preparación y presentación del informe anual CITES sobre el comercio ilegal"*.
3. Se coordinó y se realizó una reunión de coordinación con la **Fiscalía de Delitos Contra el Ambiente del Ministerio Público**, en la cual se le explicó a la Fiscal de Sección, Agentes Fiscales y Auxiliares Fiscales sobre las disposiciones establecidas en el Texto de la Convención y en la Resolución Conf. 11.17 (Rev.CoP19) y sobre la importancia de la elaboración del **Informe Anual CITES sobre el Comercio Ilegal** acorde a las *"Directrices para la preparación y presentación del informe anual CITES sobre el comercio ilegal"*. En esta reunión la Fiscalía de Delitos Contra el Ambiente se comprometió en coordinar con el personal del Ministerio Público, específicamente con **ASTREA** (Aplicaciones Tecnológicas para la Solución Estratégica de Casos y Atención de Víctimas), y que coordinarían con el personal de la División Especializada en Investigación Criminal **-DEIC-** de la Policía Nacional Civil **-PNC-**.
4. Se han realizado comunicaciones a la Intendencia de Aduanas de la Superintendencia de Administración Tributaria **-SAT-** y a la Dirección de Industria y Comercio Forestal del Instituto Nacional de Bosques **-INAB-**, en las cuales se les **compartió un cuadro que contiene los especímenes, partes y derivados de las especies forestales incluidas en los Apéndices I, II y III de la CITES**, con el objetivo de informarles sobre las regulaciones que deben de tomar en cuenta dentro de sus competencias. Además, se les hizo de su conocimiento que, a partir del 25 de noviembre de 2024, entra en vigor la regulación de trozas, madera aserrada, láminas de chapa de madera, madera contrachapada y madera transformada de las especies que pertenecen a los géneros *Handroanthus*, *Roseodendron* y *Tabebuia*.
5. Durante los años 2022 y 2023, el Laboratorio Forense de Maderas de la Facultad de Agronomía de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala realizó **4 talleres de capacitación sobre "Identificación botánica y de la madera de las especies arbóreas del género Dalbergia de Guatemala y 5 especies semejantes"** dirigido principalmente al personal de las instituciones de gobernanza forestal de Guatemala. En estos talleres el personal de la universidad capacitó sobre algunas técnicas para la identificación de maderas de las especies del género *Dalbergia*.



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6. En el año 2019 se implementó la actualización de la "**Estrategia Nacional para la Conservación del Pinabete *Abies guatemalensis* Rehder 2019-2028**", siendo esta una herramienta de política pública cuyas líneas de acción contribuyen a alcanzar la protección, conservación, restauración y producción del Pinabete, incluida en el Apéndice I de la CITES. En la implementación de la estrategia, instituciones como el Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas -**CONAP**-, Instituto Nacional de Bosques -**INAB**-, Ministerio de Gobernación -**MINGOB**-, División de Protección a la Naturaleza -**DIPRONA**- de la Policía Nacional Civil -**PNC**- y Asociación Nacional de Productores de Pinabete de Guatemala -**ANPROPIGUA**-, participan para analizar los resultados, análisis y recomendaciones de la implementación anual de la estrategia, para que entre actores puedan mejorarse las acciones de protección, conservación y restauración de las áreas naturales de distribución del Pinabete, lo cual involucra la implementación de actividades de control y vigilancia.

Además, se realizan campañas de sensibilización a la sociedad guatemalteca, sobre la importancia de la conservación, protección y restauración de las áreas naturales del Pinabete y el manejo de las plantaciones de esta especie, ya que el comercio de esta especie en Guatemala únicamente se permite con los especímenes que provengan o tengan origen de plantaciones, lo cual debe registrarse en lo establecido "*Reglamento para el manejo de plantaciones y áreas productoras de semillas de pinabete*", documento que tiene por objeto regular el registro de plantaciones, áreas productoras de semillas y viveros, así como el transporte, aprovechamiento y comercialización de productos y subproductos de dichas especies.

Sin otro particular, nos despedimos con muestras de estima y consideración.

Atentamente,

Manuel Alejandro Colindres Orellana
Autoridad Científica CITES
para Guatemala de Flora Maderable
Servicios Profesionales
Dirección de Manejo de Bosques y Vida Silvestre
Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas

Airam Andrea López Roulet
Autoridad Científica CITES
para Guatemala de Flora No Maderable y Fauna
Directora de la Dirección de Manejo de
Bosques y Vida Silvestre
Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas

Japan

1. Improve legality and traceability and strengthen the implementation of CITES provisions regarding trade in CITES-listed tree species

1.3

a) consider including additional information in the CITES permit (e.g. including in box 5 of the permit information such as concession details and shipment value) or appending relevant documents to the permit to improve traceability and transparency.

At present, we do not intend to add concrete information to CITES permit. We will consider and respond promptly if specific decisions are made in resolutions.

b) consider in addition to security stamps, providing further layers of security to CITES permits and certificates, such as for example by incorporating two-dimensional barcodes (e.g. QR codes), a digital thumbprint, or using paper with security features for permits.

We have started to assess technical and systematic issues that would arise in case further electric layer of security is added to the current management system.

c) where not yet done, explore automating the CITES permit processes and controls by implementing the eCITES framework for CITES-listed species, including tree species

We will consider how to implement eCITES based on the EPIX discussions at the SC.

d) where not yet done, implement national legislation to enable the seizure and confiscation of specimens in transit or being transhipped without a valid permit or certificate or proof of the existence thereof, as anticipated by Resolution Conf. 9.7 (Rev. CoP15) on Transit and transshipment. Where any irregularity concerning a CITES-listed tree species shipment in transit or being transhipped is detected and taking action in accordance with national legislation is not possible, take action to immediately provide to the country of destination, or other countries through which the shipment will pass and the CITES Secretariat, all relevant information on the shipment

If the required certificate is not presented at the time of customs clearance, the Japanese customs will not allow the export and will suspend it.

We recognize that the necessary measures have been taken under the current law.

e) provide regular training on timber identification techniques to frontline officers working at key border points or hubs used for trade in CITES-listed tree species

In order for officers to acquire necessary examination capabilities for appropriate customs clearance, the government is providing them with training related to the CITES.

f) consider developing a centralized national database for 'blacklisting' of companies and individuals found to be involved in illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species

Currently, we are not in the process of developing a database for 'blacklisting' companies and individuals found to be involved in illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species.

g) explore mechanisms to help simplify Annotations and facilitate the correct application and interpretation of species-specific Annotations, to support legal, and prevent illegal trade

Currently, no such initiatives are being implemented.

h) ensure that a platform to facilitate collaboration between different authorities at national level exists, and, where needed, reach out to INTERPOL for support to forge multi-agency cooperation through the convening of a National Environmental Security Seminar

If there are any doubts about the export CITES permits submitted, we promptly confirm with the authorities of the exporting country. In this way we deal with imports using forged CITES permits.

i) ensure that any trade in CITES-listed tree species harvested before the inclusion of the species in the CITES Appendices entered into force, but not exported until after the listing has entered into force, is done in accordance with CITES provisions (e.g. such trade would require a legal acquisition finding as outlined in the provisions of paragraph 2 in Annex 2 to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on Legal acquisition findings)

Such rules are already in place.

j) ensure the safe storage and disposal of seized and confiscated CITES listed tree specimens, and actively pursue recovering associated costs from offenders as anticipated by paragraph 5 in Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species, and the provisions of paragraph 2 in Article VIII of the Convention

The seized and confiscated CITES listed specimens are properly kept or disposed by the authority. However, there is no rule for recovering the associated costs to the authority.

2. Strengthen regional and international collaboration to address illegal trade in CITES- listed tree species:

2.1

a) where not yet done, consider developing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and bi-lateral agreements to facilitate increased collaboration and information exchange to address illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species, including by drawing upon mechanisms such as bilateral agreements on mutual administrative assistance in Customs matters

The Japanese Customs have concluded Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements (CMAAs) with 41 countries and regions that stipulate mutual support in information exchange including information on smuggling and export of CITES-listed animals and plants. (As of September 2024)

b) increasingly use INTERPOL Notices to share information about illegal logging and illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species and the criminals involved.

The National Police Agency uses INTERPOL Notices according to individual cases.

c) explore opportunities, where illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species is detected, to initiate and conduct controlled deliveries, and to engage with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) for support as may be needed.

We request a support from these institutions according to individual cases.

d) share information on seizures with Parties of origin, transit or destination as applicable, providing information associated with the seizure, for example, information on modus operandi and accompanying documentation and, where appropriate, the details of the offenders involved, and any other information that could assist the initiation of investigations as appropriate, in countries of origin, transit and destination or to support the development of risk profiles and the identification of high-risk routes, vessels and entities involved

Information on illegal trade of CITES-related specimens (including tree specimens) is shared with relevant organizations.

e) include in a timely manner information on seizures of CITES-listed tree species, where possible at species level, in their CITES annual illegal trade reports submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with the reporting deadline set in Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP19) on National reports

Information on seizures of CITES-listed tree species is already included in the annual illegal trade reports. We do not provide species-level information.

f) make every effort to participate in the global law enforcement operations convened by INTERPOL and the WCO to address environmental crime, and to consider initiating their own operations at national and regional levels, in particular targeting illegal logging and illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species < 財

We participate in activities to address environmental crimes carried out by the WCO, if any, as necessary. At this time, we are not conducting our own activities related to the illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species.

3 · Detection and identification of illegal consignments of CITES-listed tree species and mobilizing available tools

3.1

a) put in place effective border controls to improve verification of consignments containing CITES-listed tree species and ensure that permits are completed and validated in accordance with CITES provisions

We are conducting the necessary examinations, etc., and we would like to continue to do so.

b) where not yet done, undertake risk assessments to develop risk profiles specific to CITES-listed tree species, and to reach out to the WCO for support where needed

We haven't created a risk profile specified to the CITES listed species.

c) implement physical inspection best practices to strengthen detection of illegal timber consignments, for example ensuring advanced inspection of documents to detect any inconsistencies or high-risk indicators, and thorough preparation before undertaking the physical inspection ensuring that all relevant documents and sufficient information about the species in question are at hand to support quick and efficient informed decision-making during the physical inspection process

At the time of customs clearance, the necessary documents such as certificates are examined. Physical inspections are carried out based on the results of the examination of the documents, and efficient operation is carried out.

d) enhance collaboration with shipping agencies to ensure legal trade provisions are respected and take strict action against shipping agencies that commit offences, such as altering bills of lading

We believe that necessary cooperative relations with companies related to imports and exports and necessary measures already have been taken in the event of illegal acts.

3.2

a) where a need to strengthen national cargo targeting systems exist, encourage national Customs Administrations to draw upon the WCO Cargo Targeting System and WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium, including to target illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species and other wildlife crimes, and to reach out to the WCO for support in this regard as may be needed

We do not recognize the need to strengthen the National Cargo Targeting System.

b) capacitate and provide training to frontline officers responsible for physical inspections regarding timber identification, aiming to have at least one officer available with expert knowledge concerning timber and access to equipment to facilitate such work

In order to acquire examination capabilities of officials, which is necessary for proper customs clearance, we provide training on CITES and assign staff members who have acquired specialized knowledge to necessary departments.

Moreover, we endeavor to share any useful techniques for timber identification with the field inspection department.

3.4

a) develop, or apply existing, timber identification technologies and traceability(Traceability is the ability to access information on specimens and events in a CITES-listed species supply chain.) systems with a focus on the main CITES-listed tree species traded, to provide access to information on specimens and events in CITES-listed tree species supply chains

Currently, no such system is applied, but we will consider necessary response based on the future development and the situation of usage of timber identification systems.

b) increasingly mobilize forensic science to address illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species and to make available resources for the collection and submission of samples from seized tree species to designated accredited forensic laboratories <

The authority provides seized species as the sample to the designated accredited forensic laboratories, if requested.

c) maintain information on laboratories that can assist them with analyses in support of timber identification, for such information to be at hand when needed. Parties are further encouraged to invite any new laboratories that may come to their attention to reach out to the CITES Secretariat to apply for inclusion in the CITES Directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensic testing

We have confirmed that several public research institutes have published information on wood analysis and identification on their websites. We will make an effort to inform the CITES Secretariat if any new laboratories that may come to our attention.

d) facilitate the sharing of reference material (wood samples, databases) with recognized institutions, to support the development of forensic analysis techniques and reference databases in different countries, allowing for quick in-country or regional level analysis

Currently, support for the development of forensic analysis techniques and reference databases is not being provided.

4. Addressing corruption and mobilizing investigations into illicit financial flows from illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species

4.1

a) pursue the full implementation of Resolution Conf. 17.6 (Rev. CoP19) on Prohibiting, preventing, detecting and countering corruption, which facilitates activities conducted in violation of the Convention, including in the context of illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species

We investigate thoroughly when we recognize the crimes related to CITES and crimes committed by civil servants.

b) undertake risk assessments to identify high corruption risk areas and to develop and implement strategies to counter corruption, including by developing corruption prevention policies, codes of conduct and ethics for staff, and whistle blower protection policies.

c) publicize information on arrests and prosecutions related to corruption to send a clear and deterrent message that such conduct will not be tolerated

When arresting a suspect in corruption cases involving civil servants, we inform the general public as much as possible.

4.2

a) consider establishing multi agency units consisting of vetted staff to address serious wildlife crime involving high value CITES-listed specimens, such as CITES-listed tree species. Illegal trade of CITES listed species is dealt with by the community safety section of the Police.

b) draw upon the tools developed by the UNODC to address and mitigate corruption risks available on the Enforcement webpage on the CITES Secretariat website, such as the Scaling Back Corruption - A Guide on Addressing Corruption for Wildlife Management Authorities, and take note that UNODC will soon launch a guide entitled Rooting out Corruption, developed to specifically address corruption driving forest loss.

In the course of investigation, relevant materials are studied as appropriate to ensure a high quality and sophisticated investigation. We will make appropriate use of the guide which will be released by UNODC.

c) pursue enhancing collaboration between relevant governmental agencies and civil society organizations in support of the implementation of measures to prevent and combat corruption.

We implement necessary measures with the cooperation of the Japan Association of Botanical Gardens as well as the Management Authority (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), the Scientific authorities (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (including Forestry Agency and Fisheries Agency), Ministry of the Environment and the National Police Agency.

4.4

a) implement national legislation to combat money laundering and facilitate asset forfeiture associated with wildlife crime, and to actively implement activities to bringing together wildlife trade and money laundering expertise, including from financial intelligence units, as anticipated by the provisions of Resolution Conf.11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement.

The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds has been enforced, and appropriate measures have been taken to prevent money laundering.

b) ensure that investigations and prosecutions concerning wildlife crime, including illegal trade in CITES- listed tree species, also consider additional types of offenses, such as for example tax evasion.

The National Police Agency responds appropriately to tax evasion as necessary in individual cases.

c) initiate activities to increase awareness amongst national authorities about the importance of incorporating financial investigations in investigations concerning illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species and other serious wildlife crimes

The National Police Agency responds by issuing relevant materials for awareness as appropriate.

4.5

Parties are encouraged to draw upon the tools and reports developed by the Financial Action Task Force and the Egmont Centre of FIU Excellence and Leadership (ECOFEL) and ICCWC partners available on the Enforcement and ICCWC webpages on the CITES Secretariat website, in support of strengthening their work to address illicit financial flows from illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species and other serious wildlife crimes

The National Police Agency utilizes the tools and reports as needed.

Netherlands

Response to notification 2024/079 from the Netherlands, concerning the OUTCOME DOCUMENT from the CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species

1. General comment law enforcement

Dutch National legislation enables seizure and confiscation of specimens in transit or being transshipped without valid permits or certificates or proof of the existence thereof. In case such an irregularity is detected, law enforcement will reach out to the country of import and export to inquire about the availability of permits and to pass along all relevant information with regards to the shipment. This information can include amongst others modus operandi, shipping documentation, means of transport etc. All seizures and confiscations are reported in the CITES Annual illegal trade report. If new trends and trade routes appear, data will also be shared on EU-TWIX to alert other member states.

Representatives of Dutch authorities working on CITES-related matters meet regularly to discuss (illegal) trade trends, to secure unequivocal application and interpretation of rules, regulations and annotations as well as to share risks and information on repeat offenders. We do not maintain a 'blacklist' of companies and individuals found to be involved in illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species, but close collaboration between enforcement authorities allows us to monitor repeat offenders closely and to take appropriate enforcement action.

If goods are seized based on administrative law it is general procedure to require the importer or carrier who violated the law to meet all costs associated with the seizure, storage, destruction, other disposal or repatriation.

2. Information from the Dutch Customs

Dutch Customs in general

In 2023 Dutch Customs have organised a so called 'Intervision Day'.

The aim of this day was to bring together inspectors and specialists from the Dutch Customs, The Netherlands Enterprise Agency and the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority to share knowledge about CITES. On this day, among other things, specialists from Dutch Customs organized a workshop on wood and wood determination.

Dutch Customs working at the Port of Rotterdam

The CITES officers at Customs Rotterdam are trained in identifying wood and they have participated in at least two of the following courses:

- Workshop wood id, J. H. von Thünen-Instituut te Hamburg (D) (multiple courses, CITES species)
- Recognizing woodspecies in practice- Wood Research Foundation- Wageningen (NL)
- Wood Identifying, mr S. I. Wiselius, Centrum Hout- Almere (NL)
- Microscopic Wood ID- mr S. I. Wiselius, Centrum Hout- Almere (NL)
- Microscopic Wood ID- Professor dr. P. Baas, Leiden (NL)
- Masterclass Forest Crime, dr. T. Boekhout-van Solinge, Utrecht (NL)
- Webinar: Joining forces against illegal timber on EU market (Interpol & WWF)
- Meeting (also online) CCP trainer UNODC, risk indicators, A. Huitema
- Regional Meeting on Forestry Crime (EU countries), Interpol, Lyon (F)

For identifying wood the following tools and guides are used:

- *Apps:* developed by wood anatomists at the J. H. von Thünen-Instituut te Hamburg (D):

CITES Wood ID: 85 wood species of which 53 CITES listed tree species

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.bfn.CITESwoodID&hl=en> US

Macro Holz data: 153 wood species of which 22 CITES listed tree species

<https://apps.apple.com/de/app/macroholzdata/id1120922391?l=en-GB>

- *Websites:*

https://www.itto.int/files/itto_project_db_input/3028/Technical/E-TMT-SDP-010-12-R1-M-Tropical%20Timber%20Atlas.pdf

<http://insidewood.lib.ncsu.edu/welcome>

<https://www.wood-database.com/>

<https://www.timbertradeportal.com/en>

https://cites.unia.es/file.php/1/files/CAN-CITES_Wood_Guide.pdf (also book)

- *Books:*

- "Hout Herkennen" ISBN 90-440-0496-4
- "Loofhout herkennen", ISBN 978-90-1258544-6;
- "Wood identifying", ISBN 978 0 9822460 3 0
- "Houtvademecum", ISBN 978 90 828 172 94
- " Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber ID" UNODC/ WCO/ World Bank/ Interpol/CITES
- " Best Practice Guide for timber shipment inspections" WCO/ UNODC/ CCP/ NICFI

- *Accredited wood samples* (via (Customs) laboratory)

Dutch Customs works in very close relationship with colleagues of:

- Administrative law enforcement CITES, -Netherlands Enterprise Agency - (Legislation, permits and query's)
- Customs Laboratory (Amsterdam), specialists DNA and CITES (Identification of wood samples)
- Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, team nature (EUTR/FLEGT Regulation/criminal investigation)
- National Police, team milieu, Rotterdam (Criminal investigation)
- Public Prosecutor's office (Amsterdam/ Rotterdam/ Den Bosch) and Customs Information Center (Request for mutual legal assistance / official report request for prosecution)
- Customs Intelligence Department CITES- (Risk indicators/ profiling/ Europol)

--> By sharing knowledge (wood ID b.e.)/ information, findings of inspections, risk indicators etc., investigations can be initialized in the Netherlands or abroad (b.e when a shipment is destined for another EU country).

Awareness raising:

Since the beginning of 2022 Dutch Customs at the Port of Rotterdam have monitored all the in the EU on annex D Regulation (EG) 338/97 listed tree species in order to raise awareness by the importing companies. This also provided Dutch Customs more insight into the sector and the amount of species that have been imported.

One of the tasks of Dutch Customs is to deliver workshops/provide information on wood identification to colleagues (also to the above mentioned government agencies) and also to the general public at national events or musea.

Aim is to create more awareness in order to prevent and combat illegal trade in CITES listed wood species.

3. Information from the Customs Laboratory

- Participation in (inter)national science project groups for wood identification and determination of origin (e.g. EU Horizon project).
- Different techniques, such as DNA and Dart-TOF-MS (massaspectrometry)
- Research on new methods and set up new identification analysis:
 - light microscopy (coupes; cell-level identification)
 - Wood identification by Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)
 - Dart-TOF-MS (chemical comparisson)
- Collaboration with (inter)national laboratories on wood identification analysis (e.g. Thunen Institute)

Courses:

- Preparing wood coupes for microscopy analysis, dr. Frederic Lens, Naturalis Biodiversity Center Leiden
- Colouring woord coupes for microscopy analyses, dr. Frederic Lens, Naturalis Biodiversity Center Leiden
- Wood identification, Rene Klaassen, Stichting Hout Research (SHR)

Mobile apps:

- Contacts with the developers of wood-ID apps in order to set up databases of reference wood pictures

4. Information from the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA)

Market survey on the Dutch role in CITES-wood species trade

The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) has conducted a market survey in 2023 to gain more insight into the Dutch role in the (illegal) trade in CITES-listed wood species. For this market survey, seizures and permit data from both 2013 and 2022 were analyzed to see trends over a ten year period. The Dutch trade in CITES wood encompasses a limited number of species, and although the trade has increased significantly between 2013 and 2022, the volumes are still very small compared to the total timber trade.

Oudh/Bakhoor signal from customs

Between 2022 and 2024, Dutch customs has increasingly seized wood chips of *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinopsis* (which is being sold as bakhoor or oudh) during their inspections. Furthermore, these wood chips are often for sale via online webshops and marketplaces.

Sweden

September 2024

Sweden would hereby like to respond to Notification 2024/079 and report on the progress of the implementation of Decision 19.89 and the recommendations provided in the Outcome document of the CITES Task Force meeting on illegal trade in specimens of listed tree species.

Section 1.1

Not relevant since Sweden is not a range state to any CITES-listed tree species.

Section 1.2:

Importing Parties to strengthen the verification of CITES documents concerning CITES-listed tree species by exercising due diligence as outlined in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Compliance and enforcement in the clearance of such documents.

Sweden fully exercises due diligence as outlined in Resolution Conf. 11.3 (Rev.CoP19) and places particular emphasis on the strict enforcement of CITES regulations, especially regarding the proper documentation of customs procedures. We maintain a zero-tolerance policy towards any trade where customs requirements have not been duly fulfilled in accordance with the Convention.

In alignment with the guidance of the resolution, we do not permit the return of shipments once they have arrived at our customs processing facilities. Should any consignment fail to meet all requisite criteria, we classify it unlawfully imported. Our interpretation, based on the context provided by Res. Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19), is that any such shipment requires a permit to be returned, subject to the requisites for re-exportation. If we do not receive explicit directives from the country of origin, confirming that the shipment can be considered legally exported, the consignment will be subject to confiscation.

Subsequently, in most cases, these seized shipments are destroyed as part of our enforcement actions. This approach is in line with the recommendations of Res. Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP19), particularly in ensuring that specimens are not traded in contravention of CITES provisions.

Section 1.3

- a **consider including additional information in the CITES permit (e.g. including in box 5 of the permit information such as concession details and shipment value) or appending relevant documents to the permit to improve traceability and transparency;**

The main concern is determining who is responsible for not only checks but follow-ups, including investigations and confiscations. The introduction of the EUDR (EU Deforestation Regulation) complicates this issue further. Sweden is actively involved in implementing the EUDR within the country as well as with CITES, with close communication with the Swedish

Forestry Service. Our hope is that CITES and EUDR can work together seamlessly or complement each other, rather than creating overlapping regulations that could result in unnecessary complexity or overregulation. Thus, if or when we add additional information to CITES-permits for traceability for timber, we would need it to be in regulation with EUDR as well.

- b** consider in addition to security stamps, providing further layers of security to CITES permits and certificates, such as for example by incorporating two- dimensional barcodes (e.g. QR codes), a digital thumbprint, or using paper with security features for permits;

Please see answer to section a – needs to be in coherent with EUDR, but also primarily handles in source/exporting country of the timber rather than on arrival to the EU.

- c** where not yet done, explore automating the CITES permit processes and controls by implementing the eCITES framework for CITES-listed species, including tree species;

Sweden is currently developing and implementing a software that will work to incorporate eCITES framework as well as work across several authorities in order to alleviate digital processing. It is estimated that the first use of this will occur in 2025.

- d** where not yet done, implement national legislation to enable the seizure and confiscation of specimens in transit or being transhipped without a valid permit or certificate or proof of the existence thereof, as anticipated by Resolution Conf. 9.7 (Rev. CoP15) on *Transit and transshipment*. Where any irregularity concerning a CITES-listed tree species shipment in transit or being transhipped is detected and taking action in accordance with national legislation is not possible, take action to immediately provide to the country of destination, or other countries through which the the shipment will pass and the CITES Secretariat, all relevant information on the shipment;

Existing national legislation enables the Custom and Police authorities to seize and confiscate specimens referred to in this paragraph.

- e** provide regular training on timber identification techniques to frontline officers working at key border points or hubs used for trade in CITES-listed tree species;

The Swedish EPA Environmental Protection Agency (Swedish EPA, also the CITES Scientific Authority for terrestrial species) has not provided training specific to timber identification techniques for the County Administrative Boards, which are responsible for monitoring and controlling trade in CITES-listed species.

The Swedish Forestry Agency is responsible to monitor harvest and trade (import/export) of *non-CITES* listed timber species and uses timber identification techniques when conducting monitoring/control visits.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture (Swedish CITES MA) do host on-demand (1-2 annually) smaller training workshops in identifying most commonly found CITES species, including wood products commonly found in Sweden (for example *Dalbergia nigra*). It is notable that the workshops do not center around identifying tree, timber or wood products, rather it is only briefly touched upon.

The Swedish Customs do not have internal training sessions for timber identification but do regularly use external taxonomists and laboratory methods to identify uncommon species (such as the Swedish Forestry Services).

- f consider developing a centralized national database for 'blacklisting' of companies and individuals found to be involved in illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species;**

Sweden has very few imports of CITES-listed timber and thus do not currently possess a national database with 'blacklisted' CITES-listed timber species nor companies but would potentially find this a useful tool in the future.

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j ensure the safe storage and disposal of seized and confiscated CITES listed tree specimens, and actively pursue recovering associated costs from offenders as anticipated by paragraph 5 in Resolution Conf. 17.8 (Rev. CoP19) on *Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species*, and the provisions of paragraph 2 in Article VIII of the Convention.

Seized or confiscated CITES-listed tree species are disposed of appropriately immediately following the conclusion of an investigation, with no cases of storage.

instrument is made from *Dalbergia* spp. when it is actually made from *Dalbergia nigra* can, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, result in the item being excluded from CITES regulations. This represents a significant flaw that can be exploited and abused.

The EU has produced the "Reference guide" that has proved more than useful for many authorities. We would welcome mechanisms for simplifying annotations, as long as they are regularly updated and easy to access and use.

- h ensure that a platform to facilitate collaboration between different authorities at national level exists, and, where needed, reach out to INTERPOL for support to forge multi-agency cooperation through the convening of a National Environmental Security Seminar**

Currently, Swedish CITES authorities closely collaborate and coordinate on CITES- related issues through an established group where all authorities that work with CITES are represented, including authorities with close connections to INTERPOL and other relevant forums. The group meets regularly two to three times a year.

- i ensure that any trade in CITES-listed tree species harvested before the inclusion of the species in the CITES Appendices entered into force, but not exported until after the listing has entered into force, is done in accordance with CITES provisions (e.g. such trade would require a legal acquisition finding as outlined in the provisions of paragraph 2 in Annex 2 to Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on *Legal acquisition findings*); and**

Sweden does not have any CITES-listed tree species occurring naturally. However, this is how we would handle imports on recently listed tree species.

Section 2.1

In response to this, we would encourage the WCO to update its nomenclature to include more tree species, especially commercially important tropical ones. The Swedish Forestry Agency is also a member of the European Task Force to Counter Forestry Crime which helps serve as a bridge between international and national efforts. Additionally, anti-corruption and enforcement networks are covered in section 1.3.h.

Section 2.2

Not relevant for Sweden to report on.

Section 3.1

- a put in place effective border controls to improve verification of consignments containing CITES-listed tree species and ensure that permits are completed and validated in accordance with CITES provisions;**

Customs border controls are conducted, with CITES being one of the regulations that are routinely monitored.

- b where not yet done, undertake risk assessments to develop risk profiles specific to CITES-listed tree species, and to reach out to the WCO for support where needed;**

The Swedish Forestry Agency continually conducts risk assessments for the import of non-CITES tree species, due to EUDR and national measures. While CITES authorities have not prioritized this for CITES-listed timber species, as Sweden is a relatively minor importer of such species, this situation may change. Specifically, the tree species listed in Appendix II at CITES CoP19, with a delayed implementation period of 24 months, will come into effect in November 2024.

Under the EUDR, risk assessments will become a legal requirement for imports, potentially creating an overlap with CITES regulations. Although this may seem redundant, CITES' global reach could simplify trade within the EU as a supplementary benefit. This, however, primarily affects traders rather than regulatory authorities.

- c implement physical inspection best practices to strengthen detection of illegal timber consignments, for example ensuring advanced inspection of documents to detect any inconsistencies or high-risk indicators, and thorough preparation before undertaking the physical inspection ensuring that all relevant documents and sufficient information about the species in question are at hand to support quick and efficient informed decision-making during the physical inspection process; and**

The Swedish Forestry Agency has developed systematic inspection and control methods, although this is for non-CITES tree species. Sweden has very few imports of CITES tree species however, as stated above, this might change when the last listings from CoP19 enter into force as well as the implementation of EUDR.

- d enhance collaboration with shipping agencies to ensure legal trade provisions are respected and take strict action against shipping agencies that commit offences, such as altering bills of lading.**

As a country with minimal CITES-listed timber imports, this issue primarily concerns countries of export. Although it is not a high priority for us at present, we support ongoing communication and actions related to this outcome.

Section 3.2

- a) where a need to strengthen national cargo targeting systems exist, encourage national Customs Administrations to draw upon the WCO Cargo Targeting System and WCO Customs Risk Management Compendium, including to target illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species and other wildlife crimes, and to reach out to the WCO for support in this regard as may be needed; and**

Please see section 2.1 and 3.1 b.

- b) capacitate and provide training to frontline officers responsible for physical inspections regarding timber identification, aiming to have at least one officer available with expert knowledge concerning timber and access to equipment to facilitate such work.**

Please see section 1.3 e.

Section 3.3

Not relevant for Sweden to report on.

Section 3.4

- a) develop, or apply existing, timber identification technologies and traceability systems with a focus on the main CITES-listed tree species traded, to provide access to information on specimens and events in CITES-listed tree species supply chains.**

The Swedish Customs and Swedish Forestry Agency have a close collaboration on all, CITES and non-CITES timber species in trade and this collaboration will only continue to grow and improve with time and new regulations.

- b) increasingly mobilize forensic science to address illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species and to make available resources for the collection and submission.**

Accredited laboratories are used for species identification, and their findings can be used in legal contexts. Whether they are considered forensic is not crucial, as it is the courts discretion in evaluating evidence.

- c) maintain information on laboratories that can assist them with analyses in support of timber identification, for such information to be at hand when needed. Parties are further encouraged to invite any new laboratories that may come to their attention to reach out to the CITES Secretariat to apply for inclusion in the CITES Directory of laboratories conducting wildlife forensic testing.**

Swedish Forestry agency has a list of accredited laboratories for identifying tree species.

- d) facilitate the sharing of reference material (wood samples, databases) with recognized institutions, to support the development of forensic analysis techniques and reference databases in different countries, allowing for quick in-country or regional level analysis; and**

The main reference material is digital and available between institutions.

- e) take note that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory, within the limits of its resources, make its services freely available to any Party to CITES for analyses of samples at its premises, and to reach out to the laboratory for support as may be needed.**

The availability of resources is gratefully noted.

Section 3.5

- a) explore the possibility of developing a field guide for timber identification including information on CITES- listed tree species most commonly found in illegal trade;**

Sweden would support and contribute to the development of the guide.

- b) issue a Notification to the Parties to gather information on mobile phone and tablet applications for CITES-listed tree species identification currently in use and their availability to different authorities.**

This combined with the bar or QR code for traceability would be highly appreciated.

- c) invite the Plants Committee's specialist on botanical nomenclature to consider including in the CoP19 - CoP20 workplan of the Plants Committee, matters related to nomenclature to facilitate assisting Parties and in particular enforcement authorities, in aspects relating to taxonomy and identification of specimens of CITES-listed tree species in trade.**

Sweden would support this.

- d) explore the possibility of establishing a directory of national experts that can be contacted at short notice to support.**

Sweden would support this, though we have networks of both formal and informal experts in different species for identification.

Section 3.6

Various tools exist to support Parties, and that Parties should draw upon available resources concerning timber shipment inspections, such as the Best Practice Guide for Timber Shipment Inspections developed for operational law enforcement officers by INTERPOL and the UNODC/WCO-CCP Law Enforcement Assistance Programme to Reduce Tropical Deforestation (LEAP), which includes essential information on risk analysis methods, physical inspection of timber shipments, and wood identification, and draw upon the UNODC Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification.

The Swedish Customs already oversees numerous restrictions, with more anticipated. For detailed information, refer to the EU P&R List: [EU P&R List](https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/customs-4/prohibitions-and-restrictions_en). While some areas, such as drugs, have detailed knowledge, others offer a more general overview of regulations. Often, it is necessary to consult sectoral authorities with specific expertise. Maintaining separate guides for all regulated goods would be challenging. Within CITES, there are various categories beyond timber, such as sturgeon caviar, each potentially requiring separate guides. For timber, the EU has provided a

"Guidance Document on the Verification of Legality in Timber Trade," available via the link in the response to question 1.3 g), along with other relevant guides.

The Swedish Forestry Agency also actively participate in a timber Task Force with Interpol that involves around 16 member states (MS) with mixed expertise, and there is also opportunity for several authorities from the same country to participate.

Section 4:

Sweden's anti-corruption laws, though broad and covering both public and private sectors, are not specifically designed to address illegal trade in protected CITES listed tree species.

Corruption in both public and private sectors is criminalized under the Swedish Penal Code, which prohibits bribery, trading in influence, and misuse of office. Public procurement laws also ensure transparency in government contracts, requiring open and competitive bidding processes to prevent favoritism and bribery. Whistleblower protection laws further strengthen Sweden's anti-corruption efforts by safeguarding individuals who report wrongdoing.

Transparency is key to Sweden's governance, with constitutional provisions granting citizens and journalists access to public documents, which helps detect and prevent corrupt activities. Independent institutions, like the Swedish Anti-Corruption Institute, provide guidance and monitor compliance. Additionally, the Corporate Liability Act holds companies accountable for corrupt practices, allowing for penalties when violations occur. Sweden also complies with international anti-corruption agreements, such as the UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, ensuring its legal standards align with global best practices and as well as the European Council framework (GRECO) and the European Union rular in the same area.

While general anti-corruption laws cover bribery and abuse of power, trade involving CITES-listed tree species is specifically governed by environmental and trade laws. Corruption linked to illegal trade in endangered species would still be prosecuted under the broader anti-corruption framework, ensuring comprehensive enforcement.

The United Kingdom

Regarding the outlined measures and activities:

3.4 Parties are encouraged to:

b) increasingly mobilize forensic science to address illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species and to make available resources for the collection and submission of samples from seized tree species to designated accredited forensic laboratories.

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is not an accredited forensic laboratory but works closely with UK Border Force and UK police forces to identify seized timber and finished wood products, mainly using wood anatomy and DART tools.

d) facilitate the sharing of reference material (wood samples, databases) with recognized institutions, to support the development of forensic analysis techniques and reference databases in different countries, allowing for quick in-country or regional level analysis;

At the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, digitized microscope slides from our wood anatomy slide collection are available at [Plants of the World Online](#). Kew's wood collections are part of our Economic Botany Collection which has an [online database](#).

The UK's enforcement authorities do not currently use tablet and mobile applications for CITES-listed tree species identification. There are multiple digital resources available online and some of which are used by Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, which may be of benefit to other Parties' enforcement of CITES tree species:

<u>Resource Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
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CITES wood ID	A wood anatomy app covering CITES-listed species and look alike non-CITES listed timbers. It has been used at Kew by our wood anatomist.
Xylorix and Inside wood	Provide wood identification tools and a wood anatomy database.
Plants of the World Online	Outlines species distribution and contains reference images of wood anatomy slides.

The below identification guide (Esteban *et al.*, 2020) has been published showing how to use a mobile phone with an attachable lens for provisional macroscopic identification. The guide contains images and descriptions of CITES listed tree species.

Esteban L.G., de Palacios P., Gasson P., García-Fernández F., de Marco A., García-Iruela A., García-Esteban Ly., González-de-Vega D. 2020. 'Early warning macroscopic guide to timbers listed in CITES - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.' *Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge*. Madrid, Spain. Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

World Customs Organization

The measures and activities are listed below:

1. Improve legality and traceability and strengthen the implementation of CITES provisions regarding trade in CITES-listed tree species:

Nothing to report as measures and activities are concerns for the Parties to the Convention.

2. Strengthen regional and international collaboration to address illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species:

Under 2.2. Intergovernmental agencies and Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) should further expand their work in this field and invite:

c) The WCO continually engages with RILO officers at all regional illegal wildlife trade-related activities to equip them with the knowledge, understanding, and skills necessary to support member parties in their efforts to report data for proper analysis of CITES-listed species, likewise, tree species as wells.

d) As you may know, under the ICCWC, we have Operation THUNDER, which targets wildlife trade species, including tree species. The WCO also has Operation PREASIDIO as a regional IWT concept tackling IWT in Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. WCO also support Operation SETHA, organized and prepared by India Customs, specifically targeting tree species such as rosewood and sandalwood in the Asia region. While WCO do not have a dedicated operation solely for trees, we include this crime area in the broader operations of IWT, we would always support members in their effort to initiate and start any operation related to tree species.

3. Detection and identification of illegal consignments of CITES-listed tree species and mobilizing available tools:

Under 3.3., we would gladly support member parties in their efforts to produce risk assessments and develop risk indicators. However, they must first understand that data on seizures needs to be stored in our database. We collaborate with them on this issue and provide training on WCO tools for data collection and storage, as well as further usage through analysis and extraction for risk identification, which is essential for risk profiling as part of a risk management concept. The remaining measures and activities are concerns of the parties.

4. Addressing corruption and mobilizing investigations into illicit financial flows from illegal trade in CITES-listed tree species:

Nothing to report as measures and activities are concerns for the Parties to the Convention.