

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Lima (Peru), 3-8 July 2006

Tree species

BIGLEAF MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Decisions 13.55 and 13.56 of the Conference of the Parties, directed to the Plants Committee, state that:
 - 13.55 *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 principal importing countries and at least one member of the Plants Committee.*
 - 13.56 *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.*
3. At its 15th meeting, (PC15, Geneva, May 2005) the Plants Committee agreed on the terms of reference and functioning of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (MWG) (see Annex 1).
4. At PC15 the Plants Committee also decided that the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group would comprise at least both PC representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean and both PC representatives of Europe; Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru (as major exporting range States); the Dominican Republic, the United States of America, and the European Union (as main importers); a member of the CITES Secretariat; a member of each of the following organizations: Fauna and Flora International, TRAFFIC and WWF International. Subsequently Mr Marco Romero Pastor (Peru) and Mr Peter Thomas (United States of America) were designated as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of the MWG.
5. Finally the Plants Committee requested the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group to work intersessionally between PC15 and PC16, and to report on progress at the present meeting.
6. A work plan has been prepared by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the MWG (see Annex 2).
7. The Plants Committee is invited to consider the report of the working group with a view to report on progress at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE BIGLEAF MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP
(Agreed by the Plants Committee at its 15th meeting)

The Plants Committee, at its 15th meeting (PC15, Geneva, May 2005), adopted the following final text for the Terms of Reference of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group and its functioning:

The Plants Committee has been extremely concerned about the poor implementation of Article IV of the Convention after the inclusion of the bigleaf mahogany in Appendix II at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Santiago, 2002), as well as of the priority actions identified by the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (see document PC14 WG7 Doc. 1) and adopted as Decision 13.58, paragraphs a), b), c) and e), by the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004).

Consequently the Working Group on Significant Trade which convened during the 15th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC15) concluded that bigleaf mahogany should be included in the Review of Significant Trade. Nonetheless, in accordance with Decision 13.55 which states that the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group works under the Plants Committee, and taking into account Decision 13.56 which directs the Plants Committee to present a report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made by the Working Group, the Plants Committee has agreed to the following:

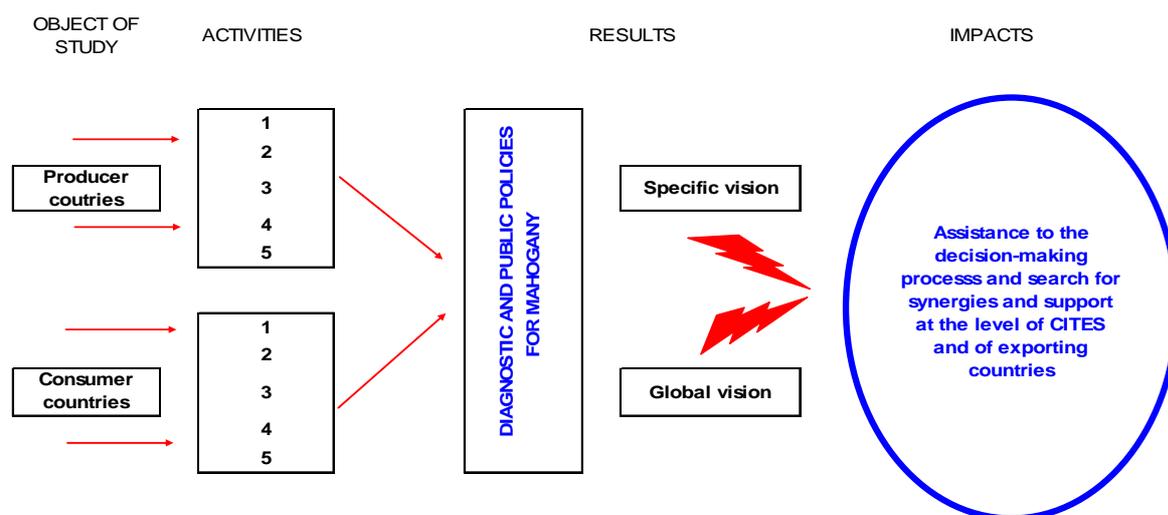
1. Terms of Reference of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group:
 - a) promote the preparation and official adoption, as a priority, of mahogany management plans at national and subregional level;
 - b) promote the conduct of forest inventories, as well as progress, and promote programmes to determine and 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.
2. In order to facilitate the fulfilment of those Terms of Reference, the Plants Committee has decided, in accordance with Decision 13.55, to establish the Working Group with at least the following members:
 - main bigleaf mahogany exporting Parties (Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru);
 - main bigleaf mahogany importing Parties (the Dominican Republic, the Member States of the European Union and the United States of America);
 - members of the Plants Committee (both representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean, and both representatives of Europe);
 - a member of the CITES Secretariat; and
 - a member of each of the following organizations: FFI, TRAFFIC and WWF.
3. The Working Group shall conduct its work intersessionally (between PC15 and PC16), mainly through remote communication (email, fax or phone) and shall present at PC16 substantive results in accordance with the Terms of Reference mentioned above. Should the Committee consider after analysing these results that progress is not sufficient, it will include bigleaf mahogany in the Review of Significant Trade.

4. The Plants Committee welcomed the offer to chair the Working Group made by Peru in the letter [reference No. 125-2005-INRENA-IFFS-J (DCB)] from Mr Leoncio Álvarez Vásquez, Head of the National Institute of Natural Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture, to the Chairman of the Plants Committee. The Plants Committee requests from Peru that it send the *curricula vitae* of three candidates to chair the Working Group. This communication should be sent to the CITES Secretariat before 15 June 2005 to be circulated to the members of the Plants Committee, who will select the most suitable person for chairman before 25 June 2005.
5. The Plants Committee considered it helpful to support the chairman of the Working Group with a vice-chairman selected amongst the importing countries and welcomed the offer made at PC15 by the United States to fulfill this role. The Plants Committee therefore requests from the United States that it send the *curricula vitae* of three candidates to vice-Chair the Working Group. This communication should be sent to the CITES Secretariat before 15 June 2005 to be circulated to the members of the Plants Committee, who will select the most suitable person for vice-chairman before 25 June 2005.
6. Once selected, the chairman and vice-chairman shall start their work as soon as the beginning of July, contacting the members of the Working Group and initiating the work specified in the Terms of Reference mentioned above.
7. The CITES Secretariat shall send to the concerned Parties (range States and importing countries), on behalf of the Plants Committee, the present agreement right after the end of PC15, for general information and required action.

WORK PLAN OF THE BIGLEAF MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP

Objectives

1. Promote knowledge of public policies related to the conservation of the bigleaf mahogany (bans, quotas, management plans, incentives) in producer and consumer countries, in order to assist the CITES Secretariat and the Management Authorities, as well as the producer and consumer countries, in establishing synergies and realizing supportiveness potentials to implement the inclusion of the bigleaf mahogany in CITES Appendix II effectively.
2. Promote knowledge of bigleaf mahogany conservation practices that are in place in every producer country (at the regional and national levels, and at the concession and land plot levels).
3. Improve knowledge of the production levels of the bigleaf mahogany by producer and consumer countries, as well as of the national and international trade in this species.
4. Reinforce current capacities to monitor the exploitation of the bigleaf mahogany in producer countries, giving priority to the forest-based control systems.
5. Foster the circulation of information and formulate recommendations for countries and CITES.



Activities

These flow from the objectives, once the latter are established by the Working Group. The aim is to conduct an analysis of the past five years.

1. Identification of producer and consumer countries, as well as of focal points (CITES Management and Scientific Authorities; producers and NGOs).
2. Public policies related to the bigleaf mahogany at the national and regional levels: forest management (protected areas, zones of restricted exploitation and production areas), bans, export quotas, forest management plans (parameters considered for the conservation of the species, monitoring methods and decision level to apply corrective measures).

3. Public policies applied to concessions or silvicultural operations (inventory parameters, silvicultural treatments, calculation of annual cut possibilities. Review of the producers' sustainability).
4. Compilation of statistics on the production of the bigleaf mahogany in 2000-2004, per producer country and at the regional level.
5. Compilation of statistics on the trade in the bigleaf mahogany per product at the national and international levels during the past five years.
6. Compilation and systemization of information on imports by consumer countries, specifying the kind of products, and on timber in transit.
7. Compilation of information and brief analysis of national capacities to monitor the exploitation of the bigleaf mahogany.
8. Conclusions and recommendations at the national level, per producer and consumer country.