

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

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE BIGLEAF MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chairman: Cecilia Lougheed (Canada)

Members: Regional representatives for Central and South America and the Caribbean (F. Mereles and D.I. Rivera), Europe (M. Clemente and G. Frenguelli) observers from Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, UNEP-WCMC, European Community, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Defenders of Wildlife, International Wood Products Association, IWMC-World Conservation Trust, Natural Resources Defense Council, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC and WWF Peru.

Mandate

**Under document PC16 Doc.19.1.1**

Analyze information on actions taken by range States in conformity with Decision 13.58. Advise on any Plants Committee recommendations to CoP14 arising from them.

Review recommendations formulated by the BMWG and propose decisions to be submitted by the Plants Committee to CoP14 on the basis of these recommendations, if necessary, propose further decisions for the Plants Committee to submit for adoption to CoP14.

Advise on the possible inclusion of *Swietenia macrophylla* in the Review of Significant Trade.

Recommendations

1. Regarding progress made by the MWG, the WG recommends that the Plants Committee considers the following:
  - a) that some progress has been made by certain States (see document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1), although no Parties have fully complied with Decision 13.58. The activities of the MWG have promoted compilation and sharing of existing information, and has resulted in progress in

development of inventories and other scientific applications that contribute to the making of non-detriment findings (NDF) for mahogany.

- b) the format used to report the results of the MWG regarding evaluation of the fulfilment of Decision 13.58 do not adequately reflect the work that each of the countries have prepared.
- c) that despite some range Parties having compiled trade information to estimate existing volumes of mahogany, field-based inventories, distribution statistics and age class information (critical to making NDF) 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.
- d) that there is currently no mechanism to systematically compile scientific information gathered by the range countries and recommendations made by the MWG, to understand the situation at the regional level and to support the range countries in adequately implementing Article IV of the Convention.

2. Regarding the 15 recommendations made by the MWG, the WG recommends that the Plants Committee considers the following:

- a) that the Plants Committee endorses the following recommendations (document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1, pages 14-15, Table of order of priority) and forward them for consideration by 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.
- b) that the Plants Committee forwards 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.

The WG notes that recommendations presented by the MWG not included in items a) and b) above, are currently included in the revised Decision 13.59 to be proposed to CoP14.

3. In addition to the MWG report recommendations, the WG recommends that the Plants Committee considers the following short- and mid-term actions for further direction by the Plants Committee, or for recommendation to the Parties or the Secretariat (identified below):

- a) Recommendations to be addressed in the short-term (next 6 months), urgent matters:
  - i) Directed to the Plants committee: support the development of further guidance to exporting countries regarding elements necessary for making NDF for timber species.
  - ii) Directed to the Plants Committee: support the organization of a workshop on NDF for timber species (focused on identification of information necessary for making and documenting a NDF).
  - iii) Directed to Parties: by 30 November 2006, shall submit to the MWG a report that details the fulfilment of Decision 13.58. The MWG will compile the reports and forward them to the Plants Committee to complement their report to CoP14.
  - iv) Directed to Parties: emphasize the importance that no mahogany export shall take place without a NDF made by the scientific authority of the State.
  - 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 a 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 SC54.
  - 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 web-site links so as to provide, for use by the range countries, all information generated by meetings of the MWG and other *fora*.
- b) Mid-term recommendations, to be directed to CoP14 for adoption as decisions:
- i) Support the development of a strategic action plan for the region with timelines to address: NDF, legal origin, compliance and enforcement issues. The strategy should include the 15 recommendations made in the report of the MWG.
  - ii) Directed to the Secretariat: seek funding for and facilitate production of guidelines for the making of NDF for timber species. The guide should reflect the detailed information contained in document MWG2 Doc. 7.
  - iii) Amend current Decisions 13.55 to 13.59 as follows (**new or modified text in bold**):

*Directed to the Plants Committee*

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 **15th** meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made by the Working Group.

*Directed to Parties*

13.57 The countries belonging to the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group should attempt to ensure the presence of their representatives at the meetings of the Group, **as well as the presence of at least one of the representatives of the Plants Committee from the range states.**

13.58 **To better facilitate the making of non-detriment findings, the range states of *Swietenia macrophylla* should:**

- a) **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;**
- b) **develop and conduct forest inventories which enable specific identification and analysis of *Swietenia macrophylla* data, as well as programs 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).**
- c) **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;**
- d) **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**

- e) establish working groups at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the present Decision.

*Directed to Parties, the Secretariat and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations*

13.59 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.**

- 4. Regarding advise on the possible inclusion of *Swietenia macrophylla* in the Review of Significant Trade:
  - a) The WG recognized that range States had made some progress. It agreed on the need for monitoring, by the appropriate CITES committees, of the implementation of the recommendations that have been made to date. Such monitoring should involve timelines, means for implementing recommendations and requirements for making NDF.
  - b) The WG did not reach consensus on whether *Swietenia macrophylla* should be included in the Review of Significant Trade.