

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



Seventeenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 April 2008

Timber issues

CEDRELA ODORATA, DALBERGIA RETUSA, D. GRANADILLO AND D. STEVENSONII

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 14th meeting (The Hague, 2007), the Conference of the Parties adopted an action plan for the control of international trade in *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii* (see Annex 1 to the present document).
3. With Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033 issued on 5 October 2007, the Secretariat asked Parties to submit by 15 December 2007 the reports requested in paragraphs 1. e) and 2. c) of the action plan, so as to have sufficient time to collate and summarize the information in due time for the present meeting.
4. In order to facilitate the submission of these national progress reports, Ms Dora Rivera, regional representative of the Plants Committee for Central and South America and the Caribbean, prepared a questionnaire that addressed all tasks directed to Parties in the action plan, particularly with regard to the requirements under paragraphs 1. e) and 2. c).
5. The Secretariat sent the questionnaire to range States on 19 November 2007. The information received by 15 December is summarized below from paragraphs 6 to 26.

Secretariat's report

6. At the time of writing this document, reports had been received from Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, the Netherlands, New-Caledonia (France), Panama, Paraguay, Spain, the United States of America and the European Commission on behalf of the Member States of the European Union. The full text of these replies, in the language in which they were submitted, are attached as Annex 2 to the present document.
7. The Secretariat presents below a summary of all received reports addressing matters mentioned in the action plan on *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*.

Overview of range States responses

8. Status of available information on the species concerned: this section addresses paragraph 1.a) of the action plan. Range States reported progress on legislation, national measures that have been taken e.g. moratoria, and whether management plans are required prior to forest exploitation and they also presented information on the conservation status of the species.

9. Range States have mostly reported on *Cedrela odorata*. Only Guatemala and Mexico have provided comments on *Dalbergia stevensonii*.
10. Cuba reported that it considers the species *Cedrela odorata* as abundant in its territory and that efforts have been made to undertake reforestation with this species.
11. All other range States reported on their legislation on *Cedrela odorata* (see national reports in Annex 2 for more detailed information). Only Paraguay reported applying special measures through the National Forestry Service that can authorize clear cuts. The establishment of management plans are required prior forest exploitation in Brazil, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay. The conservation status of the species is not known in Brazil and Panama; the species' range is reducing in Guatemala, while the species is very scarce in Honduras and considered endangered in Paraguay; other range States such as Cuba consider it abundant, and Guyana reports it as a species well conserved. In Mexico it seems to be stable and increasing through plantations.
12. Regarding the genus *Dalbergia*, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama reported the species status on their territories. They all reported on legislation on some or all three species of *Dalbergia*. In Honduras has established a moratorium on the use of *D. retusa* and *D. granadillo* because of their scarcity. Guatemala reports using management plans although it is not clear whether they apply for these species; Guatemala further mentions the scarcity and the high value of *D. retusa* on its territory, but the status of the other two species is not clear. Panama reports management using management plans for *D. retusa*. Mexico has drafted the terms of reference for a project to assess the conservation status of these three species on its territory. In Panama the number of *D. retusa* specimens seems to be low.
13. In spite of providing responses to all questions in the questionnaire, in most of the cases Guatemala does not make a clear distinction between the species *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*. This makes it difficult for the reader to have a general idea of what the situation is in this country.
14. Paraguay makes special reference to the difficulty in distinguishing *Cedrela odorata* from *C. fissilis*. The Committee may therefore want to consider the problem of look-alike species when it prepares its report for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
15. Assessment of the population: information submitted by range States under this element of the action plan is almost non-existent regarding *Dalbergia* spp. Guatemala reports that species of *Dalbergia* (without specifying which species) are very scarce and that it has signed an agreement with a non-governmental organization to formulate a project to undertake the national inventory of *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Cedrela* spp., and *Dalbergia* spp. Mexico presents maps showing the distribution of *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*. Honduras mentions that the two former species are found in the canopy; Finally, Guatemala simply states that the range of the three species has become fragmented owing to human activities.
16. The information provided on *Cedrela odorata* is more complete. However, only Mexico provided comments on regeneration dynamics, stating that the species regenerates well and that it estimates around 1600 young trees of 1m high in the whole territory. Other range States report lack of data on this matter. All seem to have some information on the distribution of this species at national level. However, apart from Guyana, which reports having a frequency of 0.4% of this species, and Mexico which reports having some information on certain regions, all others report not having data on cover, density and size structure. Guyana and Honduras say that *Cedrela odorata* is found in the canopy and Mexico and Paraguay write that it is a pioneer species that is abundant in places with no vegetation or with secondary vegetation. Apart from Cuba and Guatemala, all others report having some legislation on changes in land use. Paraguay explains that the main threat to this species on its territory is loss of habitat.
17. Forest plantations: Only Guatemala and Paraguay reported having some plantations, pure in both cases, of *Dalbergia retusa*. However, in the case of Guatemala, it is not yet clear whether these plantations include *D. granadillo* and *D. stevensonii* too, given that it reports about *Dalbergia* spp. in general.

19. Brazil and Guyana do not have plantations of *Cedrela odorata*, Paraguay has no information about it and Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama have pure and mixed plantations. Cuba, Guatemala and Mexico present information about the extent of the area dedicated to these plantations. Cuba seems to have the widest area, which reaches 3746.2 ha with 3.2 million trees for plantation and reforestation purposes.
20. Information on exports: Brazil, Guyana, Mexico and Panama reported on export volumes for the last five years and only Guatemala reported quantities on sawn wood of *Dalbergia* spp. under the common name 'rosul'.
21. Brazil reports exporting sawn wood on *Cedrela odorata*, and Guatemala sawn wood, plywood (not covered by annotation #5 that accompanies the listing of *Cedrela odorata*) and veneer sheets. The exports from Honduras are of finished products e.g. furniture. Paraguay reports exports on 'bloques' and Mexico on 'escuadras'.
22. Brazil, Mexico and Paraguay exports are not from plantations. Other range States do not specify the percentage of timber from plantations owing to lack of data or because they do not grow plantations of these species at all.
23. Listing of *Cedrela odorata* in Appendix III: populations of Peru were listed in Appendix III on the 12 of June 2001; populations of Colombia were listed in Appendix III on the 29 October 2001; and populations of Guatemala have been recently listed on the 12 February 2008 as result of the adoption of Decision 14.146 by the Conference of the Parties at its 14th meeting. The populations of *Cedrela odorata* listed in Appendix III bear annotation #5 which covers logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets.

Overview of Parties' responses

24. Information on imports and re-exports: importing countries have submitted no information on *Dalbergia* spp. Australia reports zero import of *Cedrela odorata* from Peru or Colombia and no re-exports. It explains that import trade data on specimens which require a certificate of origin are not available as an import permit is not required for those specimens. The European Commission has provided detailed import data on behalf of the member States of the European Union. Mexico reports 45,658.2761 m³ of sawn wood imported from Peru, between 2002 and 2006. Panama has imported a total of 20.85 m³ over the last five years from Mexico and Peru; finally, the United States reports having extensively planted *Cedrela odorata* in Puerto Rico, and the timber is used locally only. It further reports imports of 47,525 m³ of sawn wood from Peru, of wild origin, between 2001 and 2006.
25. Re-exports quantities do not seem to be high, with a maximum of 1,177 m³ of sawn wood reported by the United States.
26. Forest plantations: Mexico and Panama report pure and mixed plantations (paragraph 17 above). Other importing countries do not report growing plantations of any of the species mentioned in Decision 14.146. Consequently, they have not submitted information on the type of plantations, extent, volumes exported and type of products.

Fund-raising

27. The Secretariat has approached potential donors to obtain financial support for the implementation of activities related to this agenda item. The European Union may provide some funds in the context of a project proposal to implement several CITES Decisions.

Summary

28. The Committee is invited to analyse the report on progress made in implementing the Action Plan for *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii* and discuss a way forward to implement the tasks directed to it in paragraph 3. c) of the action plan.
29. The Committee may want to pay particular attention to the difficulty in distinguishing *Cedrela odorata* from *C. fissilis*, and possibly other species of the same genus.

30. Information submitted by range States on the assessment of populations of *Dalbergia* spp. is almost non-existent while that on *Cedrela odorata* is still very limited.
31. It is clear from the reports of importing countries that most exports of *Cedrela odorata* originate in Peru. Unfortunately, this key range State did not respond to Notification to the Parties No. 2007/033 and therefore no information is available on the status of these species in that country.

*CEDRELA ODORATA, DALBERGIA RETUSA, DALBERGIA GRANADILLO
AND DALBERGIA STEVENSONII*

14.146 The Conference of the Parties adopted the Action Plan attached as Annex 4 to these Decisions, to complete knowledge on the status of conservation of, trade in and sustainable use of *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*.

Annex 4

Action plan for Cedrela odorata, Dalbergia retusa, Dalbergia granadillo and Dalbergia stevensonii

1. The range States of *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii* shall:
 - a) complete and update the available information on the species mentioned in this Decision;
 - b) assess the populations of the species mentioned in this Decision, taking into account *inter alia* the distribution, cover, density, size structure, regeneration dynamics and changes in land use;
 - c) report the existence, extent and type of forest plantations of the species mentioned in this Decision;
 - d) compile the information related to export of the species mentioned in this Decision, including volumes and products, indicating the percentage from plantations;
 - e) report to the Secretariat progress in the compilation of the information outlined in paragraphs a), b), c) and d) above, 60 days before the 17th and 18th meetings of the Plants Committee, so that the Secretariat may present a report to the Committee and the Committee may adopt the necessary measures; and
 - f) consider the inclusion of their populations of *Cedrela odorata* in Appendix III, with the adequate annotation and ensure the implementation and enforcement of CITES with regard to that species in that Appendix.
2. Parties, with regard to *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*, shall:
 - a) compile the information on the import and re-export of the species mentioned in this Decision, including origin (wild or cultivated), volumes and products, indicating the country of origin and final destination;
 - b) report the existence, extent and type of forest plantations of the species mentioned in this Decision, including exported volumes and products; and
 - c) report to the Secretariat on the compilation of the information outlined in paragraphs a) and b) above, 60 days before the 17th and 18th meetings of the Plants Committee, so that the Secretariat may present a report to the Committee and the Committee may adopt the necessary measures.
3. The Plants Committee shall:
 - a) establish the relevant methodology and necessary formats for the presentation of the information requested for the implementation of this Decision;
 - b) receive, analyse and follow up the Action Plan at its 17th and 18th meetings; and

- c) propose the relevant recommendations for *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii* at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

4. The Secretariat shall:

- a) seek external funding from interested parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, exporters, importers and other entities directly interested in supporting this Decision;
- b) inform Parties of the management of funds that have been raised, of technical assistance and of how they may accede to these resources;
- c) request technical and financial support from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in the framework of Resolution Conf. 14.4 on Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber; and
- d) promote and assist capacity building in the range States through workshops, trainings and other activities considered relevant in the period between the 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties.