

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Plants Committee  
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 17 to 21 March 2009

Timber issues

Bigleaf mahogany

MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

The attached report has been submitted by Mexico, as Chair of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group of the Plants Committee\*.

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\* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

FOURTH MEETING OF BIGLEAF THE MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP  
AND THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN WORKSHOP ON THE JOINT CITES-ITTO TIMBER PROJECT:  
ENSURING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN CITES-LISTED TIMBER SPECIES IS CONSISTENT  
WITH THEIR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION  
(13-15 NOVEMBER 2008)

1. This document has been prepared by Mexico, as Chair of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group of the Plants Committee.
2. The document includes an annex and has been prepared for the purpose of informing the 18th Meeting of the Plants Committee of the results of the Fourth Meeting of the Mahogany Working Group and the First Latin American Workshop on the Joint CITES-ITTO Timber Project: Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation, held in Cancun, Mexico, 13-15 November 2008.

Background

3. Based on decision 14.145, at its 14th Conference of the Parties adopted the Plan of Action for the control of bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) which states in paragraph 4:

"Bigleaf mahogany range States, in cooperation with importing countries and international organizations, should develop a regional strategy with timelines to address: non-detriment findings, legal origin, and compliance and enforcement issues. The strategy should include the 15 recommendations made in the report of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (document PC16 Doc. 19.1.1) and mechanisms to ensure adequate implementation and enforcement. Progress on implementation should be reported to the Secretariat 90 days before the 18th meeting of the Plants Committee."

4. Mexico, through its General Directorate for Forestry Management and Soils of the Mexican Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), in conjunction with the CITES Secretariat and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), with the support of the Brazilian company, SCTP, the Chair of the Plants Committee, CONAFOR, the Government of the state of Quintana Roo, the Federal Delegation of SEMARNAT in that state and the CONABIO organized the IV Meeting of the Mahogany Working Group and the I Latin American Workshop on the Joint CITES-ITTO Timber Project: Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation (PC18 Inf. 3).

Recommendation

5. In order to comply with Decision 14.145 pertaining to the Action Plan for the control of international trade in bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) by the States of the area of distribution, the Plants Committee is asked to take note of the results included in Annex 1, these were obtained at the Fourth Meeting of the Mahogany Working Group and at the First Latin American Workshop on the Joint CITES-ITTO Timber Project: Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation held in Cancun, Mexico, 13-15 November 2008.

## REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR BIGLEAF MAHOGANY

Three objectives or strategic lines are proposed:

### **Implementation** (execution)

- Promote the adoption of standardized guidelines, validated by the Plants Committee, including volumetric conversion methodologies, for the preparation of non-detriment findings on Mahogany.

### **Institutional Strengthening**

- Promote national synergies, at the producing country level, by means of the formal establishment of collegiate bodies to support the CITES Authorities.
- Implement an electronic Management and Information System including chain of custody processes.
- Promote the dissemination of forestry regulation and guidelines, particularly those used in the chain of custody of Mahogany.
- Promote the exchange of experiences in forestry management and the application of forestry guidelines at the regional level.
- That the countries consider the participation of all the players in the forestry chain within their own national collegiate bodies (boards, committees, working groups).
- Carry out and strengthen training activities at the country level and share them in the region of the Mahogany distribution area, thus meeting the needs of the different areas involved.

### **Financing**

- Remind the governments of the countries of the mahogany area of distribution to consider their own resources and other forms of financing in order to implement national actions in the framework of the regional strategy for mahogany.
- Exhort international cooperation by means of bilateral and/or multilateral financing agencies, as well as the private sector of the producing and importing countries to provide support for the management and contribution of economic resources for the countries of the area of distribution in the implementation of the regional strategy.
- The following annex is the matrix that contains the objectives, goals, periods of implementation and compliance indicators.

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR BIGLEAF MAHOGANY

Objective	Goals	Responsibilities	Implementation Period	Compliance Indicators
<b>1. Implementation (execution):</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the adoption of standardized guidelines validated by the Plants Committee, including volumetric conversion methodologies, for the preparation of non-detriment findings on Mahogany.</li> </ul>	Have the standardized guidelines adopted by the countries.	Scientific authorities of the countries.	24 months	Number or percentage of countries applying standardized findings.
<b>2. Institutional Strengthening:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote national synergies, at the producing country level, by means of the formal establishment of collegiate bodies to support the CITES Authorities.</li> </ul>	That the Collegiate Bodies be created and operating	Administrative Authorities of the countries	36 months	Number or percentage of countries with officially recognized collegiate bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement an electronic Management and Information System including chain of custody processes.</li> </ul>	Electronic Management and Information System implemented	National forestry authority	36 months	Number or percentage of countries with a functional electronic management and information system
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the dissemination of forestry regulation and guidelines, particularly those used in the chain of custody of Mahogany.</li> </ul>	Access to information on forestry regulation and standardization of Mahogany.	Competent forestry authority of each country.	1 year	Number or percentage of countries with information available on institutional and/or published
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the exchange of experiences in forestry management and the application of forestry guidelines at the regional level.</li> </ul>	Exchange of experiences on the management of Mahogany to strengthen the control and follow-up with a regional perspective.	Forestry Authority of Brazil	2 years	Workshop for the exchange of experiences on the management of mahogany to strengthen control and follow-up with a regional perspective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out and strengthen training activities at the country level and share them in the region of the mahogany distribution area, thus meeting the needs of the different areas involved.</li> </ul>	Hold regional workshop(s) every 2 or 3 years on the subject of forestry legislation in the different countries of the area of distribution, focusing on Mahogany. Training workshop for the	Mexico	2010	Number of workshops held in a given period; number of participants; number of countries in the area of distribution; number of participants per country.
		USA tentative	2010	Participating areas of government and

Objective	Goals	Responsibilities	Implementation Period	Compliance Indicators
	judicial branch and judicial bodies.			authorities.
<b>3. Financing:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remind the governments of the countries of the Mahogany area of distribution to consider their own resources and other forms of financing in order to implement national actions in the framework of the regional strategy for mahogany.</li> </ul>	The CITES authorities will prepare within their own governments, the financial proposal for the minimum investment in the next 4- 5 years.	CITES Authorities with the reinforcement of the collegiate bodies of each country and the private sector.	4-5 years, medium term 8-10 years, long term	Interannual budget allocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exhort International Cooperation by means of bilateral and/or multilateral financing agencies, as well as the private sector of the producing and importing countries to provide support for the management and contribution of economic resources for the countries of the area of distribution in the implementation of the regional strategy</li> </ul>	Begin paperwork with the different development and financial aid agencies (ITTO, World Bank, GEF, CITES, among others) to support projects seeking sustainable development of Mahogany in the area of distribution. Reach an agreement with productive sectors for immediate assistance to support activities for the consolidation of the action plans for mahogany in the countries of the region	Forestry authorities, CITES authorities in each country	Short term (1 year)	Number of projects with financial assistance by country