

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



Twentieth meeting of the Plants Committee
Dublin (Ireland), 22-30 March 2012

Timber issues

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE BIGLEAF MAHOGANY
AND OTHER NEOTROPICAL TIMBER SPECIES [DECISIONS 15.91, 15.92 AND 14.146 (REV. COP15)]
(Agenda item 19.1)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

- Co-Chair: The representative of Oceania (Mr Leach) and the observer from Guatemala in his role as chair of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species
- Members: Members of the Committee only

Mandate

Taking account of all available information, the working group shall test the criteria for inclusion of species in Appendix II for *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii* and evaluate whether the genera meet the criteria or not.

Recommendations

1. *Cedrela odorata*

WG7 concluded that the species fulfils the trade criterion and may qualify for Appendix II listing under Annex 2a, Criterion B. Data required to fully assess this criterion are still lacking. In particular some of the major exporting countries do not provide data on the conservation status of their populations. In light of this, and under the precautionary principle, Criterion B of Annex 2a might apply. It is noted that only five of the Range States have included the species in Appendix III (Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru).

2. *Dalbergia retusa*

- a) WG7 concluded that the species fulfils the trade criterion and may qualify for Appendix II listing under Annex 2a, Criterion B.
- b) The main trade is not reflected in the trade data because most trade is in finished products that are not covered by the Appendix III annotations. There is also evidence of illegal trade.
- c) Data required to assess Annex 2a, Criterion B is still lacking. In particular some of the major exporting countries do not provide data on the conservation status of their populations.
- d) In Costa Rica, populations are well protected in designated protected areas but there is fragmentation of non-protected populations. In Guatemala the population occurs throughout 10-20% of the country and is listed as a threatened species.

- e) Whilst there has been progress in the implementation of the Action Plan, some information is still lacking. In particular: information on Forest Inventories of natural populations, harvest zoning, size, coverage and density of population, vertical and horizontal structure occupied by the species and the percentage of volume exported which originates in plantations.
- f) In light of this, and under the precautionary principle, Criterion B of Annex 2a might apply. Only two of the Range States (Guatemala, Panama) have included the species in Appendix III.

3. *Dalbergia granadillo*

This species was included in the action plan owing to its similarity to *Dalbergia retusa*. WG7 concluded that any decision relating to this species is determined by the decision made for *D. retusa*.

4. *Dalbergia stevensonii*

- a) WG7 concluded that the species fulfils the trade criterion and may qualify for Appendix II listing under Annex 2a, Criterion B.
- b) Data required to fully assess this criterion is still lacking. In particular some of the major exporting countries do not provide data on the conservation status of their populations. There is also concern over the extent of possible illegal trade reported by some Range States.
- c) Whilst there has been progress in the implementation of the Action Plan, information is still lacking: this species has the least amount of information available compared to the others.
- d) In light of this, and under the precautionary principle, Criterion B of Annex 2a might apply. Only one of the Range States (Guatemala) has included the species in Appendix III.

5. General recommendations

- a) Given that there is no will from some Range States to propose or support an amendment proposal for any of these species, WG7 recommends that they are either removed from Decision 14.146 or that the Range States propose them for listing on Appendix II.
- b) WG7 encourages ITTO to provide assistance to major exporting Range States to compile national inventories to enable precise objective assessments of whether Criterion B of Annex 2a applies.
- c) WG7 noted that listing on Appendix II or Appendix III could be used as vehicle to support the acquisition of the necessary biological information and also improve the veracity of trade data.
- d) WG7 noted that although the species were primarily assessed against criterion Annex 2a, Criterion B, there might be a case to apply criterion Annex 2b, Criterion B ("There are compelling reasons other than those given in criterion A above to ensure that effective control of trade in currently listed species is achieved.").