

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



Twenty-first meeting of the Plants Committee  
Veracruz (Mexico), 2-8 May 2014

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species (Decision 16.159)

MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the interim Chair of the Plants Committee\*.
2. At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted the Decisions 16.159 and 16.160, directed to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat as follows:

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

16.159 *The Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species shall work under the auspices of the Plants Committee. During its 21st meeting, the Plants Committee shall define the membership and the terms of reference of the Working Group.*

*The Working Group shall preferably work through electronic means in order to reduce costs and speed up information exchange and progress in the activities included in its terms of reference.*

*The Working Group shall report on its progress at the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee. In turn, the Plants Committee shall prepare a report on work completed for submission at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

***Directed to the Secretariat***

15.93 (Rev. CoP16)

*The Secretariat, within the scope of its cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization and other bodies, shall seek external funding to support the work of this Working Group, if necessary.*

3. The Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species stems from the "Working Group on Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species", whose work and excellent results were presented at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [CoP16 Doc. 68 (Rev. 1) and CoP16 Doc. 69 (Rev. 1)].

---

\* *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.*

4. The Committee is invited to consider the proposal included in the Annex hereto and to decide the terms of reference and membership of the Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species (WGNT).

PROPOSAL: WORKING GROUP ON NEOTROPICAL TREE SPECIES (WGNT)

1. Terms of reference of the Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species:
  - a) The group shall work under the auspices of the Plants Committee;
  - b) The working group shall preferably use electronic means for its work, through the web page of the CITES Secretariat, in order to reduce costs, facilitate information exchange, and make progress in the activities included in its terms of reference.
  - c) The group shall act as a hub to circulate and exchange experiences on the sustainable use and management of these species;
  - d) The group shall contribute to the strengthening of capacities in range States;
  - e) Where necessary, the group shall facilitate full and effective application of the review of significant trade and review of the appendices for the species concerned.
  - f) The group shall draft up reports on progress made in the management and conservation of and trade in the species dealt with by this group, as well as on lessons learnt, for submission at the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee, which shall agree on how to submit them at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17);
  - g) The group shall include, as part of its activities, an analysis of the data received from range States and importing Parties;
  - h) The group shall facilitate and foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences relating to the inclusion of *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo*, *Dalbergia stevensonii*, *Aniba rosaeodora* and *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, among others, and likewise any other New World tree species listed in the CITES appendices.
  - i) The Chair of the working group shall submit a written report, on the tasks defined in the previous paragraphs, for consideration at the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee, which report shall be submitted to the Secretariat 60 days in advance of the meeting.
2. Membership:
  - a) All range States;
  - b) The major importing Parties: United States of America, European Union (Germany, France, Spain, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), China;
  - c) The two regional representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean on the Plants Committee;
  - d) Intergovernmental organizations: the European Union, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD);
  - e) The CITES Secretariat (the Scientific Officer for Flora)
  - f) Additionally, the Plants Committee shall select:
    - i) Two scientific experts with relevant experience in Neotropical tree species;
    - ii) Two experts from non-governmental organizations with experience in the activities mentioned in this Decision; and

- iii) Three representatives from organizations of exporters from the main exporting Parties of the relevant products of these species that are regulated by CITES; and
  - g) The chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of the working group shall be held by representatives from the range States, to be selected by the Plants Committee at its 21st meeting on the basis of candidates' *Curricula vitae*. Should there be no candidate or should they resign from their functions during the intersessional period between CoP16 and CoP17, the regional representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean shall act as interim chair or vice-chair of the group, as relevant.
3. To facilitate the functioning of the Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species, and provided that the people and institutions involved are willing, as far as possible, candidates from the former "Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Tree Species should be confirmed".