

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 22-27 July 2017

Interpretation and implementation matters

Trade controls and traceability

Definition of the term 'artificially propagated'

REPORT ON PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR TREE SPECIES, PLANTATIONS  
AND DEFINITION OF THE TERM 'ARTIFICIALLY PROPAGATED'

1. This document has been submitted by Mr. César Beltetón (Guatemala), as the Plants Committee member for Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Background

2. At its 16th meeting (CoP16; Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.156 on Agarwood-producing taxa (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.), as follows: "The Plants Committee shall consider the current production systems of tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations, and assess the applicability of the current definitions of artificial propagation in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) respectively, and report back at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties".
3. At the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee (PC21; Veracruz, 2014), the Secretariat presented document PC21 Doc. 18.5, in which it stated that: "Although Decision 16.156 has been formulated in the context of agarwood-producing species, it targets all tree species included in the CITES Appendices", and recommended that the Committee consider establishing a working group during the meeting to undertake the work described in the aforementioned Decision.
4. The Plants Committee, at its 21st meeting (PC21; Veracruz, 2014), established an intersessional working group on plantations and artificial propagation of trees with the following mandate:
  - a) Consider the current production systems of tree species, including mixed and mono-specific plantations, and assess the applicability of the current definitions of artificial propagation in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP15) respectively.
  - b) Consider how the Committee could report on these matters at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. It was decided that the working group would be formed as follows:
  - a) Co-Chairs: Guatemala and Indonesia;

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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.*

- b) Members: PC Chair (Ms Clemente) and representatives of Asia (Mr Fernando), Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms Rauber Coradin and Ms Rivera), and Oceania (Mr Leach); Parties: Brazil, Cameroun, Canada, Chile, China, Germany, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America; and
- c) IGOs and NGOs: European Commission, IUCN, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC International, and WWF.
6. At the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee (PC22; Tbilisi, 2015), the co-chairs of the working group submitted document PC22 Doc. 17.5.2, in which they reported that they had prepared a questionnaire (see **ANNEX 1**) during the intersessional period to collect information on the production systems for CITES-listed tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations, and that a Notification had been sent to the Parties requesting information. The information was presented to the Committee in an oral report, the highlights of which are as follows:

The countries that responded to the questionnaire were thanked for their timely responses, namely: **Brazil, Cameroon, China, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Peru, and Thailand.**

All the countries have laws on forest plantations, some of which regulate and promote the establishment of forest plantations. However, only Guatemala and Peru mention plantations of CITES-listed species in their regulations.

All the countries reported that they have national strategies, programmes, and plans to promote forest plantations, and also laws to incentivize the establishment of plantation forests.

Brazil and Thailand reported that management plans are not always required to establish plantation forests; Guatemala reported that, generally speaking, management plans are only required in protected areas, although management plans are mandatory for CITES-listed species intended for international trade; Indonesia, Honduras, and Cameroon reported that management plans are required in their countries; in China, they are required only in some cases.

The average term of forest plantation management plans is 25–30 years in Cameroon and Guatemala, 5–10 years in China, 10–60 years in Peru, 5 years in Indonesia, and 16 years in Honduras.

Brazil reported that it registers plantations on privately owned land; China registers plantations on community-owned and government-owned land; Cameroon, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Peru, and Thailand register all plantations regardless of the type of ownership.

Plantation is defined in the laws of all the countries, and in some cases such as Guatemala, the Forestry Law applies a different definition depending on whether plantations are in a protected area or elsewhere.

All the countries have monospecific and mixed plantations.

Brazil, China, Cameroon, Guatemala, Honduras, and Thailand reported that they have monospecific forest plantations of CITES-listed species; however, Indonesia and Peru have no record of monospecific plantations of CITES-listed species.

All the countries, except Cameroon, have mixed plantations of CITES-listed species.

Brazil, Guatemala and Honduras reported plantations in deforested areas; Indonesia has mixed plantations in forested areas, or non-forested areas that are community-managed or privately owned; China, Peru, and Thailand reported plantations in secondary forests and on deforested land.

Cameroon, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, and Thailand reported that they only have plantations of native species, whereas Brazil, China and Indonesia have plantations of both native and non-native species.

Brazil, Cameroon, Guatemala, Indonesia, and Peru reported that seeds are sourced from natural forests; Thailand initially used seeds sourced from natural forests, but now uses seeds from plantations; China and Honduras reported that their seeds are sourced from natural forests and plantations.

All the countries reported that seedlings planted in natural forests are considered to be enrichment planting rather than plantations; only Indonesia and Honduras consider such planting as mixed plantations.

Cameroon, China, Indonesia, and Peru reported that they obtain all types of products from plantations of CITED-listed species (essential oils, timber, fruit, leaves, etc.); Guatemala and Honduras only obtain timber; Brazil reports that it obtains solely essential oils.

When issuing CITES permits/certificates, Brazil, China, Peru, and Thailand use the code "A" for products obtained from plantations; Guatemala uses the code "W"; Indonesia, as yet, has no exports of these products, and Cameroon and Honduras did not respond on this item.

Only Brazil, China, Guatemala, and Peru provided export volume data, by product type, for each species grown.

Brazil and Peru reported that they export 100% of the products obtained from plantations of CITES-listed species; in Guatemala, only 3% of the total export volume comes from such plantations; the remaining countries did not report on this item.

The files containing the whole of the data collected in response to the request for information are included in **ANNEXES 2 and 3** of this report.

7. At its 17th meeting (CoP17; Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.156 (Rev. CoP17) addressed to the Plants Committee: "The Plants Committee shall consider the current production systems of tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations, and assess the applicability of the current definitions of artificial propagation in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP15) on Implementation of the Convention for timber species and Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP17) on Regulation of trade in plants respectively, and report back at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties."

#### Recommendations

8. The Plants Committee is invited to:
  - a) consider the information submitted on production systems of CITES-listed tree species, including mixed and monospecific plantations; and
  - b) revise and update the questionnaire, and request that the Secretariat send out a new Notification to the Parties requesting further information in order to carry out a more detailed analysis.
  - c) the results of the new consultation will be reported at the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee.

**ANNEX 1**

**QUESTIONNAIRE AND ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES**  
**Production systems of tree species, plantations**  
**and definitions of artificial propagation**

Questionnaire completed by: .....

Country: .....

Date: .....

Questionnaire Response Author(s) (name, title, institution): .....

.....  
 .....

The Parties to CITES that have established mixed and/or monospecific plantations of CITES-listed tree species, are requested to answer the following questions:

Please note that these questions should be answered only for CITES-listed tree species.

<b>A. Legislation, regulation, and management of tree species grown in mixed and monospecific plantations.</b>	
1. Indicate the specific national legislation that provides for the establishment and management of production systems of tree species grown in mono-specific and mixed tree plantations:	
a) Describe legislation, regulations, decrees or other legal documents (measures) related to plantation grown tree species.	All countries have legislation about forest plantations, some of these laws regulate and promote the establishment of forest plantations. Although only Peru and Guatemala mentioned that there are regulation about plantations of species listed in CITES.
b) What national measures have been applied to promote mixed and mono-specific plantations with special emphasis on CITES-listed tree species?	Countries report that to promote forest plantations, they have strategies, programs and plans, there are also laws that encourage the establishment of forest plantations.
c) Does your country always require management plans, forestry management plans or other plans for the establishment of mixed and mono-specific tree plantations? <i>Please mark one option and provide a narrative explanation.</i>	Brazil and Thailand said they don't always require management plans for plantation establishment; Guatemala indicates that only in protected areas; China indicates that sometimes; Indonesia, Honduras and Cameroon indicate that they require management plans.
d) What is the average duration of a plantation management plan?	Guatemala and Cameroon indicate that the average length of management plans for forest plantations is from 25 to 30 years; China from 5 to 10 years; Indonesia 5 years; Peru from 10 to 60 years and Honduras 16 years.
e) Is there third-party certification of plantations in your country?	Brazil, Indonesia, Peru and Cameroon indicate that there are certification systems for plantations in general; Guatemala, Thailand, China and Honduras indicated that do not exist.
f) Where do mixed and/or monospecific tree plantations occur (e.g., privately owned land, community owned land, government lands)?	Brazil indicated that plantations on private land are recorded; China in communal and government lands; Guatemala, Thailand, Indonesia, Peru, Honduras and Cameroon in all types of land tenure.
g) Which definition of plantation is used in your silvicultural legislation?	All countries have a definition of Plantation in law, there are cases as in Guatemala, where the definition of the Forest Act that applies outside

	protected areas varies with the definition used within protected areas.
h) Please provide other relevant information on tree plantations in your country	In China they mentioned that update their inventories is every 5 years, while in Guatemala indicate that there are interpretations that include the remnants of natural forest as plantations in some agroforestry systems.
2. Has your country conducted forest inventories or national registries that include up-to-date information on production systems for tree species from mixed and/or monospecific tree plantations? (please mark one option)	
a) What kind of mixed and/or monospecific plantations exist in your country?	In every country there are monospecific and mixed plantations.
b) Are CITES-listed tree species grown in monospecific plantations in your country? If yes, please list species.	Brazil, Guatemala, Cameroon, Thailand, China and Honduras indicate that in their countries there exist monospecific plantations with species included in CITES, while Peru and Indonesia said they did not have records of monospecific plantations of species listed in CITES.
c) Are CITES-listed tree species grown in mixed species plantations in your country? If yes, please list species.	All countries, with the exception of Cameroon, indicated that they have mixed plantations of species listed in CITES.
d) Where do mixed tree plantations occur in your country (e.g., existing primary natural forest, secondary forests, deforested lands, non-forested lands)?	Brazil, Guatemala and Honduras indicate that they record plantings in deforested areas; Indonesia indicated that Mixed plantations are operated mostly in production forest, either forested or non-forested land managed by communities or privately owned, adding that few local people would plant agarwood in nearby forest, whether primary forest or secondary; Thailand, China and Peru mentioned that they recorded plantations in secondary forest and deforested land.
e) How many hectares (or acres) of mixed tree plantations and monospecific plantations exist in your country?	Brazil, China, Indonesia, Peru and Cameroon reported the number of hectares of plantations, highlighting China and Indonesia that they reported surfaces of several million hectares.
<b>B. Evaluation of the characteristics of the production systems of tree species grown in mixed and/or monospecific plantations.</b>	
a) Are the CITES-listed tree species grown in plantations native or introduced species?	Guatemala, Thailand, Peru, Honduras and Cameroon indicated that in their countries there are only native species plantations, while Brazil, China and Indonesia recorded both native and exotic species.
b) Do plantation management practices include techniques designed to improve tree production and timber yields (e.g., seed tree selection, breeding, hybridization)?	All countries reported management practices on plantations for to improve of trees production and improve performance of the wood.
c) Describe the propagation methods used for tree species grown in mixed and monospecific plantations and the controlled conditions applied in these production systems	All countries mentioned that they are implementing sexual and asexual methods of spread for the development of seedlings for the establishment of forest plantations.
d) What is the origin of the material (e.g., from existing primary natural forests, secondary forests, plantations) used for the propagation of tree species included in these production systems?	Brazil, Guatemala, Indonesia, Peru and Cameroon indicate that the seed comes from natural forest; Thailand that the seeds originally came from natural forests but now come from plantations, while China and Honduras indicate that the source of their material is natural forest and plantations.
e) Are nursery-grown seedlings planted in plantations and/or in natural forests?	All countries except Honduras indicated that the seedlings produced in nurseries are grown only in plantations.

f) Do you treat nursery-grown seedlings planted in natural forests as plantations?	All countries indicate that the introduced plants in the natural forest are not considered as plantations, but as enrichment; only Indonesia and Honduras indicate that are considered as mixed plantations.
g) Are remnant trees included within the managed plantation?	Brazil, Guatemala and Peru indicate that they do not include remaining trees within of the plantations; China, Honduras and Cameroon include residual trees; Thailand and Indonesia did not report about it.
h) What kind of products is produced from mixed and/or monospecific tree plantations (e.g., wood, bark, oil, extracts, etc.)?	Cameroon, China, Indonesia, and Peru obtain all types of products (essential oils, timber, fruit, leaves, etc.); Guatemala and Honduras obtain solely timber, and Brazil solely essential oils.
i) What CITES source codes (e.g., W, A, O) are used to export plantation-grown tree species parts and products (e.g., wood, bark, derivatives) from your country?	Brazil, Thailand, China and Peru use the code "A", Guatemala the code "W", Indonesia still doesn't export; Honduras and Cameroon did not answer the question.
j) Is there commercial harvest of additional adventive CITES-listed species from plantation e.g. orchids, tree ferns, medicinal plants, etc.	Brazil, China, Honduras and Cameroon indicate that they collect orchids and medicinal plants; Guatemala, Thailand, Indonesia and Peru indicate that not collect other plants.
<b>C. Gathering information related to the export of products of tree species from mixed and monospecific plantations, including volume and products, indicating the percentage originating from mixed and monospecific plantations.</b>	
a) What is the volume exported in the last five years by the type of product for each of the tree species grown in plantations?	Only Brazil, Guatemala, China and Peru reported volume data exported by product type for each specie cultivated.
b) What is the percentage of the total export of the products derived from mixed and/or monospecific plantations?	Brazil and Peru indicated that they export the 100% of products from plantations, Guatemala indicated that only 3% from the exportations are from the plantations and the other countries did not report.
<b>D. Please provide periodic photographs of CITES-listed tree species growing in mixed and/or monospecific plantations, and at various stages of production (nursery seedlings, young plantations, older plantations, harvest of plantations).</b>	
See Annex 2.	