

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



Twenty-third meeting of the Plants Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 22 and 24-27 July 2017

Species specific matters

NEOTROPICAL TREE SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee\*.
2. At its 17th meeting (Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 16.159 (Rev. CoP17), directed to the Plants Committee as follows:

***Directed to the Plants Committee***

***16.159 (Rev. CoP17)***

*The Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species shall work under the auspices of the Plants Committee.*

*During its 23rd 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 24th meeting of the Plants Committee. In turn, the Plants Committee shall prepare a report on work completed for submission at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

3. The Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species stems from the "Working Group on Big Leaf Mahogany and other Neotropical Tree Species", whose work and results were submitted to, and approved at the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties [CoP17 Doc. 76], together with a proposal to renew Decision 16.159 until the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties
4. The Committee is invited to consider the proposal included in **Annex 1** hereto, and to define the new terms of reference and membership of the Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species (WGNT).

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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.*

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 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. External funding would be needed should the working group decide that additional means are required for it to carry out its mandate;
  - 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 reports on progress made in the management, conservation of, and trade in the species dealt with by this group, as well as on lessons learnt, for submission at the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, which shall agree on how to submit these at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18);
  - 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*, *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, among others, and species of the genus *Dalbergia*, with special emphasis on the latter in the annotation, and likewise any other New World tree species listed in the CITES appendices; and
  - i) The Chair of the working group shall submit a written report, on the tasks defined in the previous paragraphs, for consideration at the 24th 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: China, the European Union (France, Germany, Holland, Spain, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), and the United States of America;
  - 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 (Scientific Officer for Flora)
  - f) Additionally, the Plants Committee shall select:
    - i. Two scientific experts with significant experience in Neotropical tree species;

- ii. Two experts from two non-governmental organizations with experience in the activities mentioned in this Decision;
  - iii. Two representatives from organizations of exporters from the two major exporting countries of the relevant products of these species that are regulated by CITES;
  - iv. Two representatives from organizations of importers from the two major importing countries 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 23rd 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 CoP17 and CoP18, 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 previous working group should be confirmed.