

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

Regional matters

Regional reports

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

This document has been prepared by Vera Rauber Coradin (Brazil) and Cesar Beltetón Chacón (Guatemala), as Committee members, and Karina Ramírez (Peru) and Delhy Albert Puentes (Cuba), as Alternate members*.

Reporting period: November 2015 – May 2017

The following countries responded to the request for information: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, and Peru.

This document was prepared using the most relevant data provided by the Parties who responded to the request for information, as provided by the Regulation. Full reports from each of the Parties are enclosed in Annex 3.

The request for information included a form that was drawn up following the advice of the Chair of the Plants Committee regarding the main issues to report (Annex 1). Information was also requested for the Regional Directory of Botanists (Annex 2). The request for information was sent in English and Spanish to at least two addresses in each of the countries in the Region.

II. OVERVIEW OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

a) Significant Trade Review

The Countries did not report on this issue.

b) Periodic Review

No information was reported on the Periodic Review.

c) Non-detriment findings

Colombia reported that it had attended several workshops on this subject.

Peru has made six non-detriment findings for five species listed in CITES Appendix II, specifically mentioning the species *Swietenia macrophylla* and *Aniba rosaeodora*.

* Las denominaciones geográficas empleadas en este documento no implican juicio alguno por parte de la Secretaría CITES (o del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente) sobre la condición jurídica de ninguno de los países, zonas o territorios citados, ni respecto de la delimitación de sus fronteras o límites. La responsabilidad sobre el contenido del documento incumbe exclusivamente a su autor.

Bolivia reported that it has not made any non-detriment findings. However, it has prepared the project: Population density and effects of forest harvesting on natural regeneration and diameter growth of *Swietenia macrophylla* King. The information obtained from the project will be used as the basis for making the relevant non-detriment finding.

Chile currently has a non-detriment finding for the species *Araucaria araucana* (Molina) K. Koch, that was made in 2014 by the Forestry Institute, the Scientific Authority for CITES-listed timber species in Chile. Nonetheless, taking into consideration the framework of new Law 20.962 that implements the CITES Convention in Chile, the Management Authority for CITES-listed terrestrial plants in Chile has indicated that, given the current status of the species (phytosanitary problems in its natural range), once the Scientific Authorities have been formally designated, the non-detriment finding should be revised and updated. It also indicated that it would be necessary to work together to make non-detriment findings for other species, giving priority to species listed in Appendix I.

Guatemala made non-detriment findings for all timber exports of CITES-listed species, based on its General Management Plans, Annual Operational Plans, population studies, studies on the conservation status of CITES-listed timber species, and other technical documents that are evaluated by the Scientific Authority to guarantee that harvesting from the wild will not put the species at risk.

d) Capacity-building

Brazil provided capacity-building on macroscopic timber identification for 142 prosecutors and technical experts through the Forest Product Laboratory at the Brazilian Forestry Service, the CITES Scientific Authority.

Colombia reported that it has three action plans in place: **1)** Action plan for conservation of Colombian zamias; **2)** Colombian orchid study and conservation plan; and **3)** Management plan for conservation of abarco, mahogany, cedar, rosewood, and ishpingo. Colombia provided the following link: <http://catalogoplantasdecolombia.unal.edu.co/es/> where information is available on species occurring within national territory, including a file sheet for each species indicating whether the species is CITES-listed.

Colombia also reported that it has the following management tools to strengthen governance: **1)** Guide to exporting and importing timber and non-timber products in Colombia; **2)** Guide to responsible timber procurement and use in Colombia; **3)** Protocol for reviewing and evaluating Forest Management Plans; **4)** Protocol for the monitoring and control of forest harvesting in natural forests; **5)** Protocol for the monitoring and surveillance of movements of timber and non-timber forest products; **6)** Protocol for the monitoring and surveillance of forest product processing and trading industries and companies; **7)** Guide to responsible timber procurement and use in Colombia; **8)** approval system for forestry companies processing or trading forest products; **9)** Manual of good practice in forest industries; and **10)** tools for measuring the cubic volume of timber (Cubimadera), and for monitoring timber species.

With regard to capacity-building, Peru reported that it has freely accessible publications on CITES-listed plants that can be downloaded from <http://www.minam.gob.pe/>; available documents include: **1)** Guide to identification of the most highly traded orchids; **2)** Guide to the methodology for evaluating the recovery of mahogany and cedar populations; and **3)** All Peruvian cacti.

Bolivia reported that it has a number of publications on plants, highlighting: **1)** Wildlife species threatened by illegal trade; and **2)** Guide to identification of wildlife species at control points in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Further, within the framework of Supreme Decree 3048, it is currently liaising with other government institutions to monitor exports and prevent illegal wildlife trade.

During the reporting period, Chile—through CONAF—has provided capacity-building on procedures to implement the Convention. These capacity-building activities targeted practitioners from several regions who are responsible for CITES procedures at their institutions, and also officials from other public services, particularly, the National Customs Service. Further, in its new capacity as the Management Authority for terrestrial plants, the Corporation intends to implement a capacity-building programme during the course of this year on the identification of CITES-listed species, particularly species of the genus *Cactaceae*. Chile has also indicated that it could provide assistance with capacity-building in other countries in the region.

Guatemala reports that it has carried out several capacity-building activities during the reporting period, including: **a)** Workshop on timber identification using NIRS technology (near infrared spectroscopy) combined with multivariate analysis; **b)** Introductory workshop on Illegal wildlife trade in Guatemala; **c)** Workshop on macroscopic timber identification; **d)** Workshop on comprehensive identification of species of the genera *Dalbergia*, *Swietenia*, and *Guaiacum* occurring in Guatemala, and their timber; and **e)** Regional training course

for national trainers on macroscopic timber identification, focussing especially on species of the genus *Dalbergia*. Training was provided to 140 people from various government bodies (environmental and agricultural institutions, Customs, national civil police), the National University, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Judiciary, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations (OIRSA), and others; some participants took part in several capacity-building activities. Guatemala also reported that these capacity-building activities were funded and coordinated by the Government of Guatemala and partners, mainly the ITTO-CITES programme, the United States Forest Service, and the United States Department of the Interior.

e) Other issues

Peru reported that nurseries propagating ornamental species of wild plants have been established in the departments of San Martín, Amazonas, Junín, Lima, Pasco, and Lambayeque in order to guarantee sustainable harvesting of orchid and cactus species, and for the purpose of national trade. Peru also reported that in 2017 it registered three nurseries that artificially propagate specimens of Appendix I plants (*Phragmipedium* spp.) for export; the report includes the names and registration numbers of these nurseries, and the species being propagated.

Chile reported that during the period 2015–2017, the National Forestry Corporation carried out the following activities in its capacity as the CITES Management Authority in Chile: **1)** Law 20.962, which implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), came into force in November 2016; **2)** With regard to implementation of CITES procedures, the Executive Directorate of the National Forestry Corporation, through Resolution No. 401 of 11 July 2016, published the updated Manual for Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); **3)** Inspections were carried out at CITES-registered nurseries authorized to export artificially propagated *Araucaria araucana*, which is listed in Appendix I; **4)** In 2015 and 2016, pre-Convention stocks of *Fitzroya cupressoides* were inventoried and notified to the Parties in Notification No. 2014/002; **5)** In the period 2015–2017, the National Forestry Corporation started to develop and implement a Pilot Traceability System for the species *Fitzroya cupressoides* in order to modernize and optimize the marking process by using electronic markings that can be read by mobile telephones (NFC system) throughout the process, and which enable specific monitoring of the volumes of the species moving between source and final destination; and **6)** in 2015 and 2016, the National Forestry Corporation took part in various outreach activities to raise awareness about the CITES Convention, and the role of the CITES Management Authority in matters relating to forest plants (see detailed information on these activities in the full report submitted by Chile, which is attached hereto).

III. Conservation Issues

Colombia reported that progress is taking longer than expected with the evaluations to classify and reclassify species, according to their level of threat, in order to have updated information.

Peru reported that it has noted losses, degradation, and fragmentation of habitats caused by agricultural expansion, extractive activities (deforestation, illegal mining with no environmental standards in place), uncontrolled urban development, and forest fires. However, according to the report, this rarely affects CITES-listed species, or if so, the impact is minimum.

In Chile, CONAF (the Management Authority for CITES-listed terrestrial plants in Chile) is compiling background information on the conservation and trade of the species *Jubaea chilensis* (Mol.) Baillon (Chilean wine palm) in order to submit this information to the National CITES Committee and coordinate work at a national level to determine whether this species meets the criteria for inclusion in the CITES Appendices in order to increase its level of protection.

Guatemala has made an evaluation of the status of wild populations of species of the genus *Dalbergia*. Its analysis showed that the main conservation problems affecting this genus are illegal logging to meet the high market demand, and loss of habitat. The report indicates that, in the period 1991–2012, there was an average reduction of 23% of the forests where these species occur. In the case of species such as *Swietenia macrophylla* and *Cedrela odorata*, studies on the conservation status of the species have not shown any major problems affecting wild populations under management and in National Parks where these species occur naturally.

IV. Technical matters

Colombia reported that it needs to strengthen traceability to be able to identify the source of materials, and that greater information is required on potential markets within the CITES framework in order to establish new trade

alliances. Capacity-building is needed for the various authorities involved in CITES implementation and regulation, and also for authorities who work with the trade sectors where there is trade of CITES-listed species.

Peru reported that there have been no problems in implementing the Resolutions relating to CITES-listed plants. However, national procedures need to be established for issuing certificates of origin for some species listed in CITES Appendix III.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia provided some background information, and reported that, following the enactment of Supreme Decree No. 3048 of 11 January 2017, the Plurinational State of Bolivia has now established administrative procedures for the protection of wild fauna and flora within the framework of the CITES Convention, thus bringing new regulations into force that will be evaluated during their implementation. It also reported that there are no problems in implementing the CITES Resolutions and Decisions, and that the species it exports are listed in Appendix III, namely, *Cedrela odorata*, *Cedrela fissilis*, and *Cedrela ililloi*, and *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in Appendix II.

Chile reported that, as indicated in the Regional Report for the period 2014–2015, the National Forestry Corporation has had no problems in implementing the Convention to date, nor any problems that affect the conservation of timber species listed in the CITES Appendices (*Araucaria araucana* (Molina) K. Koch, *Fitzroya cupressoides* (Molina) I.M. Johnst., and *Pilgerodendron uviferum* (D. Don) Florin). Further, when Law 20.962 came into effect implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (November, 2016), CONAF became the CITES Management Authority for terrestrial plants in Chile, and its scope of action was extended to include plant species from the families Cactaceae, Dicksoniaceae, Euphorbiaceae, and Orchidaceae listed in CITES Appendix II. Accordingly, the Corporation is incorporating the relevant procedures, and has had no difficulties with their implementation to date. However, the Corporation does consider it necessary to share information on the making and implementation of non-detriment findings to ensure that standard general guidelines are applied in the region.

Guatemala reported that, with regard to the listing of the genus *Beaucarnea*, it is currently facing problems to correctly identify species from this genus, and is working on the procedures required to enable correct identification in order to regulate the production chain of companies trading in this species.

In the case of *Tillandsia xerographica*, Guatemala reported that during the reporting period, two shipments of *Tillandsia xerographica* were detained due to irregularities. The European Union also reported a detained shipment due to irregularities (plants with no cataphyll) in Germany, where due explanations were required. In this regard, the CITES Management Authority has intensified verification activities at the port as part of its commitment to effective CITES implementation, and is also in constant communication with the European Union to report the action taken by Guatemala to regulate the trade of this species. Guatemala concluded its report noting that close cooperation should necessarily be established with importing countries to deal with these issues.

V. ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Regional member César Beltetón participated in the regional workshop on the practical application of the Guide to making non-detriment findings for tree species that was held in Lima, Peru, on 4–5 May 2017. The workshop focussed on the nine-step guide to making NDFs for timber species that was prepared by the German Scientific Authority and TRAFFIC, with the support of the GIZ Amazon programme and representatives from the CITES Scientific and Management Authorities in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Guatemala, Peru, and Venezuela.

Regional member Vera Rauber Coradin attended the meetings of the group of experts organized by UNODC, within the framework of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), in Vienna on 10 – 12 December 2014, and 7 – 9 October 2015. The technologies and procedures used for timber identification throughout the world were presented and discussed at the meeting in order to assist UNODC in preparing a guide to forensic timber identification. The regional member, who attended the meeting as an expert in wood anatomy, made a presentation on the methods used by Amazonian countries for timber identification, including a presentation on NIRS technology for identifying timber and determining its source. The "Guide to best practice for Forensic Timber Identification" was published in 2016 and presented at CoP17.

VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION

Brazil reported having made a technical visit to the Petén and Escuintla Departments in the Republic of Guatemala for the purpose of obtaining NIRS spectra for *Swietenia humilis* and *Swietenia macrophylla* for the project "Use of near-infrared technology as a potential tool for monitoring mahogany trade". In the context of

regional cooperation, Brazil reported a theoretical/practical capacity-building course that was held at Guatemala University, focussing on the use of NIRS technology and anatomical timber identification, as well as further theoretical/practical capacity-building for 22 participants on anatomical timber identification and the use of NIRS technology. Brazil also indicated that it is able to provide capacity-building courses on anatomical identification of timber species.

Colombia provided information on the action plans in place, and electronic links for consultation.

Peru has a number of online guides for identifying the source of cactus and orchid species. It also has a dendrological and anatomical study on the six species of the genus *Cedrela* most frequently found in the timber trade in Peru.

Chile reported that the National Forestry Corporation (CITES Authority) is able to provide support to third countries on the following matters: forest inventories; traceability of forest species affected by conservation problems; recognition of CITES-listed Chilean timber species; in situ conservation of timber species in Protected Wildlands; procedures for CITES implementation (Manual of Procedures for implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at the National Forestry Corporation).

Guatemala stated that it is able to provide support in the region, through its timber identification laboratory, on matters such as sharing experiences, or the characterization and identification of CITES-listed tree species, and other activities of shared interest.

VII. MEETINGS, COURSES, AND WORKSHOPS

International workshops where countries participated individually

Place and year	Workshop title	Participating countries	Objective	Results
South Africa, 2016	Workshop on CITES and Livelihoods	Brazil	Review of CITES progress and discussion on how to implement the Decisions adopted at CoP17 relating to livelihoods and rural communities.	Brazil did not report the results of the workshop.
Guatemala, 2017	International workshop on CITES-listed tree species.	Argentina, Peru, Paraguay, Senegal, Gabon, Kenya, Thailand, Malaysia, Madagascar, Indonesia, Mexico, Portugal, Canada, United States, Spain, and Guatemala.	a) To strengthen CITES implementation within a framework of international cooperation, thereby ensuring that the trade of products obtained from tree species is legal, sustainable, and traceable; b) To work in coordination with the countries concerned on shared issues; and c) to make recommendations in preparation for the work to be carried out in the intersessional period between	The representative from Guatemala will report on the results at PC23.

Place and year	Workshop title	Participating countries	Objective	Results
			CoP17 and CoP18 to implement the Resolutions, Decisions, new listings, and amendments adopted at CoP17.	

Regional workshops and meetings

Place and year	Workshop title	Participating Countries	Objective	Results
Peru, 2015	Workshop for Authorities and experts in Peru on the electronic identification code for commercially significant Amazonian timber species – capacity-building and experience-sharing.	Brazil, Colombia, and Peru.	Socialization of the pilot electronic code system developed within the ACTO framework as a tool to facilitate timber identification.	Eight participants received capacity building and strengthening on the use of the electronic code.
Chile, 2015	Second edition of the International workshop on "Traceability and cross-border control of products of CITES-listed timber species".	Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala and Peru.	To share the experiences of participant countries with regard to the traceability of products of CITES-listed timber species, and subsequently identify new lines of cooperation for cross-border control of such species, taking into consideration the conclusions drawn from the first edition of the workshop in 2012, also in Chile.	The document provided by Chile includes details of the workshop results and conclusions.
Guatemala, 2016	Preparatory workshop for CITES and CBD representatives for Latin America and the Caribbean for CITES CoP17, and the 13th	GRULAC and Mexico as guest.	Review and prepare the issues on the agenda for CoP17; and for the CBD, review and prepare the issues on the agenda for	

Place and year	Workshop title	Participating Countries	Objective	Results
	meeting of the CBD.		COP13, Cartagena Protocol COPMOP8, and Nagoya Protocol COPMOP2.	
Colombia, 2017	Regional workshop on the UNEP-WCMC trade analysis of CITES-listed species in ACTO countries.		To present and validate the preliminary document from the UNEP-WCMC regional trade analysis.	The analysis provides reference data on trade magnitude and trends in the eight countries, based on the data provided by the countries concerned, and managed by the CITES Trade Database, for the ten-year period between 2005 and 2014, in order to provide information for trade management in the region.
Nicaragua, 2017	Regional training course for national trainers on Macroscopic timber identification, with emphasis on species of the genus <i>Dalbergia</i> .	Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador.	To form a group of regional experts in macroscopic timber identification, with emphasis on species of the genus <i>Dalbergia</i> , through a train-the-trainers programme.	Six people from Guatemala (three from CONAP, and three from the National University) received training.
Guatemala, 2017	Regional meeting of forest scientists with specialized knowledge of the genus <i>Dalbergia</i> .	Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica.	To obtain, discuss, and compile information on the ecology and population, sustainable management, and problems of illegal trade of species of the genus <i>Dalbergia</i> , and also on existing initiatives and programmes aimed at achieving sustainable management throughout the region.	Twenty-four people took part in the meeting, and the results of the meeting were published.

Place and year	Workshop title	Participating Countries	Objective	Results
Peru, 2017	Regional workshop on the practical application of the Guide to making non-detriment findings for tree species.	Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Guyana, Guatemala, Venezuela and Peru.	To review the guide and examine the methods for making NDFs for tree species.	Capacity-building for the use of the 9-step guide to making NDFs was provided for eight countries in the region. Their feedback should be taken into consideration for the next version of the Guide.

National workshops, meetings, and courses

Place and year	Workshop title	Objective	Results
Peru, 2016	Workshops on "Socialization of the pilot electronic identification code system for commercially representative Amazonian timber species".	Socialization of the electronic code in the Loreto, Ucayali, and Huánuco regions.	Socialization of the electronic code in the major Peruvian regions for forestry production. Capacity-building was provided for sixty civil servants and agents from the forestry sector.
Peru, 2016	Capacity-building course on CITES for SUNAT Customs personnel at Customs' facilities in Chucuito and Callao.	To build the capacity of Customs officials on CITES-related issues and on the use of the guides to identify the source of cacti and orchids.	Twenty officials attached to SUNAT received training on CITES-related issues and on the use of tools to determine the source (cultivated or wild) of cactus and orchid species.
Guatemala, 2016	Workshop on timber identification using NIRS technology (near-infrared spectroscopy) combined with multivariate analysis.	To learn how to use near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) techniques as a potential tool for monitoring mahogany trade.	Twenty-two participants from government bodies (environmental institutions), the National University, and non-governmental organizations received training.
Guatemala, 2016	Introductory workshop on illegal wildlife trade in Guatemala	a) To analyze the social determinants of illegal wildlife trade in Guatemala, as input for an assessment of threats; and b) to make a gap analysis of implementing agencies in order to address the problem.	Fifty representatives from government bodies (environmental and agricultural institutions, Customs, national civil police), the National University, the Public Prosecutor's Office, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations (OIRSA), and others, received training.

Place and year	Workshop title	Objective	Results
Guatemala, 2016	Workshop on macroscopic timber identification.	To train Customs, forestry, and environmental officials, and officials at protected areas involved in monitoring national and international trade in species, to correctly identify timber in trade, by providing the tools, knowledge, and reference materials for identification.	Sixty people from government bodies (environmental and agricultural institutions, Customs, national civil police), the National University, the Public Prosecutor's Office, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations (OIRSA), and others, received training.
Guatemala, 2016	Workshop on the comprehensive identification of species of the genera Dalbergia, Swietenia, and Guaiacum occurring in Guatemala.	To strengthen the capacities of forestry personnel at government institutions for comprehensive identification of species of the genera Dalbergia, Swietenia, and Guaiacum occurring in Guatemala.	Sixty people from government bodies (environmental institutions, national civil police), the National University, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and non-governmental organizations received training.

FORMULARIO DE SOLICITUD DE INFORMACIÓN**PARA LAS AUTORIDADES CITES, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y CIENTÍFICAS DE LA REGION:
CENTRO AMERICA, SUR AMERICA Y CARIBE****INFORMACION PARA EL INFORME REGIONAL DEL COMITÉ DE FLORA Y DIRECTORIO DE ESPECIALISTAS EN PLANTA**

PERÍODO DEL INFORME: NOVIEMBRE DE 2015 HASTA MAYO DE 2017 (para garantizar el tiempo de envío de informes incluyen datos hasta finales de abril y principios de mayo)

Por favor, esta información debe ser enviada hasta el día 15 de mayo 2017 a: vera.coradin@gmail.com y cesarbelte@gmail.com

PARTE (nombre oficial del país):

I-INFORMACIONES PARA EL INFORME REGIONAL

I: DESCRIPCIÓN GENERAL DE LOS PRINCIPALES DESARROLLOS

- a) Revisión del Comercio Significativo
- b) Revisión periódica
- c) Dictámenes de extracción no perjudicial
- d) Fomento de la capacitación (Cursos de capacitación y otros. Indique si su país puede ayudar proporcionando actividades de capacitación, publicaciones que podrían ser útiles para resolver los problemas de implementación encontrados por otros países.
- e) Otros

-Problemas de conservación

-Cuestiones técnicas –(Es muy importante que las dificultades encontradas en su país sean informadas Esta es la mejor manera de resolver los problemas y ayudar a otros países que pueden experimentar dificultades similares. Informar las dificultades en la implementación de las resoluciones o decisiones de Cites).

II-ACTIVIDADES DE LOS REPRESENTANTES REGIONALES (Para las actividades de los representantes regionales, esto incluye las cosas que hicieron los representantes como representante regional).

III-COOPERACIÓN REGIONAL (Si su país es capaz de ofrecer cualquier apoyo a la implementación de las decisiones o resoluciones, actividades de capacitación, creación de capacidades y publicaciones que podrían ser de utilidad para resolver los problemas de aplicación encontradas por otros países de Cites en la región por favor menciónelas.

IV-REUNIONES Y TALLERES (mencionar reuniones regionales y nacionales indicando los objetivos y resultados)

INFORMACION PARA EL DIRECTORIO REGIONAL DE ESPECIALISTAS EN PLANTAS INCLUIDAS EN LOS APENDICES DE LA CITES

- 1- Autoridad Administrativa o Científica
- 2- Nombre
- 3- Especialidad
- 4- Dirección postal
- 5- Dirección electrónica
- 6- Teléfono (s)
- 7- Fax

DIRECTÓRIO REGIONAL DE LOS PAÍSES DE AMERICA CENTRAL, SUR AMÉRICA Y EL CARIBE**INFORMACION PARA EL DIRECTORIO REGIONAL DE ESPECIALISTAS
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