

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



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 20, 21 and 23-26 July 2018

Strategic matters

Non-detriment findings

DRAFT VERSION OF THE "INFORMATION GUIDE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES AND STANDARDIZED TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS FOR
HARVESTING MAHOGANY (*SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA*)
UNDER CITES"

1. This document has been submitted by the CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico (CONABIO). *

Background

2. The Neotropical populations of mahogany have been included in CITES Appendix II since 2003 under Annotation #6, which specifies the specimens regulated by the Convention, i.e., logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and plywood. Thus, in accordance with Article IV of the Convention, exports of such specimens of mahogany require a CITES permit, based on a Non-detriment finding (NDF), and should be controlled at entry and exit points.
3. Due to the excellent characteristics of its wood, mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King) is one of the most valuable species in Tropical Mexico and the most important commercial species in Latin America; the species has been intensively harvested for centuries for domestic and international trade. The most recent assessment of the species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List Criteria classified mahogany as vulnerable (VU); nonetheless, this assessment should be updated since it dates back to 1998. In the case of Mexico, mahogany is not classified as a threatened species at a national level (NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010).

Objective of the Information Guide and progress achieved

4. The objective of the Guide is to provide the specific technical information that should be included in Forestry Management Plans to enable the CITES Scientific Authority in Mexico (CONABIO) to determine that the harvesting and export of mahogany are not detrimental to the survival of the wild populations, and issue non-detriment findings (NDFs).
5. The guide is based on an analysis of the information required for making NDFs for mahogany, and includes references to domestic and international laws, detailing basic information on the species and forest harvest site, sampling method, field data and calculation report, harvesting rate, and species management, as well as specific instructions on how to submit the information.

* 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.

6. In order to contribute to the implementation of Decision 17.31 on Capacity-building, the draft Information Guide can be found in an information document, which the Parties should review and subsequently provide feedback to the Mexican Scientific Authority for improving the Guide.

Recommendations to the Animals Committee

7. The members of the Plants Committee are invited to:
- a) Note Mexico's progress in developing the Guide as a tool for reinforcing the development of NDFs for mahogany;
 - b) Invite the Parties and other relevant players to review the Guide, and send their feedback to the Mexican Scientific Authority CONABIO), before 28th September: ac-cites@conabio.gob.mx;
 - c) Request the Secretariat to publish the latest version of the Guide in the section on NDFs on the CITES website; and
 - d) Invite the Parties and the extended CITES community to cooperate in translating the final version of the guide to English and French once it becomes available.