

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

Regional matters

Regional reports

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. This document was submitted by Vera Rauber Coradin (Brazil) and Cesar Beltetón Chacón (Guatemala) as members of the Committee.*

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

Reporting Period: May 2017 to May 2018.

The following member countries sent in their reports: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Bolivia, Guatemala, Jamaica, and Peru.

The information was requested through a form following the same recommendations as those used the previous year. This form can be found in Annex 1.

The request for information was sent out in English and Spanish a month in advance to at least two e-mail addresses per country.

This document was prepared with the most important data sent by the countries, in accordance with the request made by the regional representatives.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN DEVELOPMENTS

- a) Review of significant trade

Chile's report mentioned that the National Forest Corporation (CITES Authority) is assessing the need to propose at the next meeting of the Plants Committee the inclusion of the species found in Chile in the review of significant trade.

Bolivia has coordinated the generation of strategic alliances along with Forest and Land Audit and Social Control Authority (ABT) in order to organise the information on forest exploitation and to determine the issue of a Non-detriment Finding for *Swietenia macrophylla*, if applicable.

* 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.

For the consultation period, Peru reported that it did not have any species in the review of significant trade.

b) Periodic review

Peru reported that, during the consultation period, the cedar species *Cedrela odorata*, with a national distribution, is included in the periodic reviews.

c) Non-detriment findings

Argentina carried out several actions and projects focusing on the palo santo (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*). For example:

- i) It has promoted the development of biological information on *Bulnesia sarmientoi*. The following Guided Science and Technology Research Project (PICTO 013) is currently underway “*Estudio interdisciplinario de una especie de alto valor forestal en el Parque Chaqueño semiárido: herramientas para el ordenamiento territorial, conservación y manejo del palo santo (Bulnesia sarmientoi)*” [“Interdisciplinary study for land-use planning, conservation and management of palo santo (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*)”]. This project’s main objectives are: the study of the species’ geographical and environmental range; the study of the genetic and morphofunctional variation; growth study and forest inventory; the development of basic information on the regeneration of *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, in order to apply it to enrichment and conservation plans for the native forest.
- ii) The Second National Inventory of the Native Forest of Argentina is currently being carried out. It will update the baseline status and increase the theoretical range of *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in Argentina.
- iii) Resolution MAyDS N° 869/17 was passed, which established the requirements for exporters, the objectives for obtaining a CITES Certificate or Permit for exporting palo santo (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*) forest timber products. This resolution also established the “Protocol for the control and verification of palo santo (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*) timber products intended for exportation”.
- iv) Resolution MAyDS N°890/17 was passed, which approves the Forestry Administration, Control and Verification System (SACVeFor). It establishes the traceability elements for forest products, considering their multiple destinations and degrees of processing. In an experimental stage, this traceability system, the control of palo santo products will be implemented.
- v) The issuing of all CITES Certificates for forest products from re-categorised properties was suspended, and the local authorities were urged to restore the environments of the Native Forests that had been cleared.
- vi) Within the framework of the CITES Tree Species Programme, Argentina presented the “Bases for the sustainable management of the palo santo *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in the Gran Chaco Region of Argentina”. Its main objectives are: to generate the basic information required for the appropriate management of the species and the drawing up of a Management Plan.

Chile reported that it has a Non-Detriment Finding for the species *Araucaria araucana*, which was drawn up in 2014 by the CITES Scientific Authority for Timber Species in Chile. However, after requests made by the CITES Management Authority for Terrestrial Plants in Chile, given the current status of the species (plant health problems in its natural range) the Forestry Institute updated this finding in February 2018. Moreover, Chile also reported that it wants to carry out a project to draw up findings for other species, giving priority to those listed under Appendix II of CITES, considering it to be very important to exchange information on the preparation and implementation of these findings.

Bolivia considers it to be important to continue with the experience of countries that have carried out reviews and created virtual areas to support the generation of this information. It also reported that it is necessary to build the capacities of its Scientific Authorities in order to issue this tool recommended by CITES.

Between 2017 and 2018, Peru made seven Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for four species included in Appendix II of CITES *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Neoraimondia arequipensis*, *Armatocereus procerus* and *Corryocactus brevistylus*.

Guatemala reported that the CITES Scientific Authority coordinated with the NGO Fundación Naturaleza para la Vida–NPV, in the preparation of the project entitled: “*Generación de capacidades y lineamientos técnicos de manejo para elaborar dictámenes de extracción no perjudicial orientados a las especies del género Dalbergia en Guatemala, Nicaragua y El Salvador*” [“Capacity building and technical guidelines for drawing up non-detriment findings for species in the genus *Dalbergia* in Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador”] and that it was funded by the CITES Tree Species Programme. At present, the management process is underway for its implementation in the three countries.

The Scientific Authority of Guatemala, in addition to the previous project, also worked with the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala on the project entitled: “*Análisis integral de las especies arbóreas del género Dalbergia y similares a través del laboratorio forense de maderas para el fortalecimiento de la aplicación de la CITES en Guatemala*” [“Comprehensive analysis of the tree species in the genus *Dalbergia* and similar, through the forensic laboratory for timber to strengthen the application of CITES in Guatemala] and its funding managed by the CITES Tree Species Programme. So, through this project more information will be available for the creation of Non-Detriment Findings for these species.

d) The promotion of training

With regard to this subject, during the period from May 2017 to May 2018 Brazil trained 113 agricultural prosecutors***, 30 technicians from the Institute for the Environment and Renewable Forestry Resources [Instituto de Medio Ambiente y de los Recursos Forestales Renovables – IBAMA], 16 forest engineering students, 11 trainee police officers, and 4 legal technicians in the anatomical identification of timber species. The training was provided by the Forest Products Laboratory.

Chile has developed training programmes related to the Convention and the procedures for applying it. The training has been aimed at professions from different regions of Chile, who perform CITES functions and also to civil servants from other public services, in particular the National Customs Service, the Agricultural and Livestock Service and the Forestry Institute. Moreover, in October 2017, a seminar-workshop was carried out, where one of the topics covered was the taxonomy and the conservation status of non-timber plant species included in the CITES Appendices.

In 2017 and in 2018, Chile's National Forest Corporation (CONAF) participated in various outreach activities to raise awareness about the CITES Convention and also the functions carried out by the CITES Management Authority in matters relating to forest plants.

In 2017, Colombia meanwhile published the action plan for its national plant conservation strategy, which can be found on the following website:

<http://www.minambiente.gov.co/images/BosquesBiodiversidadyServiciosEcosistemicos/pdf/Planes-para-la-conservacion-y-uso-de-la-biodiversidad/PlanAccion-BAJA.pdf>,

In this document forwarded jointly by the CITES Management Authority, the CITES Scientific Authority and the Colombian focal point, on the global plant conservation strategy, actions are considered to promote the sustainable use of plant diversity. In this respect, it is hoped that these actions will help promote CITES-listed species in Colombia. It was also reported that, through this document, an attempt is being made to increase the coordination between the CITES applications and the plants strategy within the framework of the CBD.

Contributing to compliance with the Plan for the study and conservation of orchids in Colombia, a project was finished that aimed to promote the sustainable use of this group of plants in the Department of Cundinamarca. To this end, information was generated on the number of species cultivated in nurseries in the region, as well as the socioeconomic conditions and regulations associated with this productive sector.

Later, genetic and population information was generated, as were data on in vitro and traditional propagation. Most of the project's results can be consulted in the following publications:

Publications

Brazil and Guatemala

- Determination of the country of origin of true mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King) wood in five Latin American countries using handheld NIR devices and multivariate data analysis. Diego C. Silva, Tereza C.M. Pastore, Liz F. Soares, Filipe A.S. de Barros, Maria C.J. Bergo, Vera T.H. Coradin, Alexandre Bahia Gontijo, Mirna Herrera Sosa, Cesar Belteton Chacon and Jez W.B. Braga. <https://doi.org/10.1515/hf-2017-0160>

Brazil and USA

- Potential field-deployed NIRS identification of seven *Dalbergia* species listed by CITES. –Filipe A.S. de Barros, Jez W.B. Braga, Diego C. Silva, Alex C Wiedenhoeft, Adriana Costa, Richard Soares, Vera T.R. Coradin, and Tereza C.M. Pastore. *Article accepted for publication in the journal Wood Science and Technology.*

Colombia

- Orquídeas de Cundinamarca. Conservación y aprovechamiento sostenible [Orchids of Cundinamarca. Conservation and sustainable use]. <http://repository.humboldt.org.co/handle/20.500.11761/34287>
- Guía para la identificación y el cultivo de algunas especies de orquídeas nativas de Cundinamarca [Guide for the identification and cultivation of some native orchid species of Cundinamarca] <http://repository.humboldt.org.co/handle/20.500.11761/34286>

Peru

- Orquídeas del Perú y herramientas para su identificación [Orchids of Peru and tools for their identification]. Lima, Peru. 116 pp. MINAM, 2017. Guide that covers aspects such as the identification, origin, management and control of trade in Peruvian orchids.

e) Other issues

Conservation problems

Chile is collecting background information on the conservation of the species *Jubaea chilensis* (Mol.) Baillon (Chilean wine palm) and the associated trade, in order to present this information to the National CITES Committee and coordinate work at a national level to check whether it meets the criteria required to be included in the CITES Appendices in order to increase the level of protection granted to the species.

Colombia reported that it is implementing a series of actions to promote the conservation of species in the genus *Zamia*, through initiatives aimed at ensuring that the legal use of some of these species can have a sustainable productive alternative, which helps the conservation of the wild populations as well as the conservation of their habitats.

Another initiative that Colombia has been moving ahead with is the characterisation of natural populations and the identification of potential markets for some species of *Zamia*, as part of the results that have been obtained there is visual material on the following website <http://cycadascolombia.org/>.

Other projects related to the reinforcement and management of information on plant species in Colombia include the official launch of the German Development Bank KfW project, financed by the German Agency for International Technical Cooperation (GIZ) as part of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO). This project aims to bridge the information gaps in the Amazon region by strengthening the region's biodiversity databases and inventories. Amazonian Herbarium, through the Sinchi Institute as a Scientific Authority. All the information will be entered into the Biodiversity Information System [Sistema de Información en Biodiversidad, SIB], and it will help strengthen the traceability system in terms of genetic aspects and provide support for the implementation of management plans for mahogany, cedar, Colombian mahogany, Brazilian rosewood and rosewood.

Jamaica meanwhile reported that the resources are insufficient to ensure the proper implementation of conservation measures, such as an effective monitoring programme for the

protected areas system. The system is representative of endemic and native species, some of which are considered endangered or threatened with extinction (Appendix I or II of CITES).

Peru reported that it had observed the loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitats, caused by change in land use, agricultural expansion, extractive activities (deforestation, illegal mining, forest clearances), uncontrolled urban development and forest fires.

– Technical issues

Chile reported that, in accordance with the contents of the regional report corresponding to the period 2016-2017, at that time, the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), had no major difficulties in applying the Convention, or problems that affect the conservation of timber species included in the CITES Appendices (*Araucaria araucana* (Molina) K. Koch, *Fitzroya cupressoides* (Molina) I.M. Johnst. and *Pilgerodendron uviferum* (D.Don) Florin). In turn, with regard to the non-timber plants and, a little over one year since the entry into force of Law 20.962, which implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Corporation is still improving the application. So, the formal designation of the Scientific Authorities is still pending. Thus, contingency protocols have been developed to apply the CITES resolutions and decisions.

However, Chile considers that given the increase in the scope of action, since plant species included in Appendix II of CITES were included, corresponding to the families *Cactaceae*, *Dicksoniaceae*, *Euphorbiaceae* and *Orchidaceae*, it might be very useful to exchange information on the identification of these species, in order to support the services on the border.

Colombia has identified as a challenge the coordination of actions to tackle the illegal trafficking with neighbouring countries and raised difficulties related with***: 1) The identification of species in danger of extinction; 2) the recognition of species removed from their natural habitat in nurseries; and 3) the strengthening of the monitoring of the inventory of native species in nurseries.

Brazil and Colombia informed that, in previous years, with the support of the Amazonia Regional Programme (BMZ/DGIS/GIZ), the Scientific Authorities of Colombia (Amazon Institute for Scientific Research, SINCHI) and of Brazil (Brazilian Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory) developed a pilot scheme for the Key to the Electronic Identification of Timber-species of Amazonia. In order to disseminate the scope of this wood identification tool, the “One app for Amazon Wood Identification” video was created. This video explains simply the importance of this tool and help professionals in the environmental sector and the forestry services of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO) Member Countries to integrate this initiative, in order to expand the universe of recorded species in order to improve the identification of Amazonian wood species, considering new information technologies.

The video can be watched in English and Spanish on the following websites:

In English: <https://vimeo.com/261202242> (password: CLAVEPRA2018)

In Spanish: <https://vimeo.com/264519775> (password: CLAVEPRA2018)

Bolivia has difficulties in recognising wood species when they are exported. In this respect, it is important to create rapid and appropriate identification guides for the most frequently exported timber products. On the other hand, important regulatory tools have been developed for the management of Forests as strengths: The comprehensive and sustainable management of forests and the comprehensive and sustainable handling of forests.

Jamaica, meanwhile, reported that it has limited experience in areas such as taxonomy and the payment for carbon sequestration. It also added that the country lacks the financial capacity and resources for completing an extensive study to assess the populations for all the species included in the CITES Appendices.

Peru reported that it did not have any difficulties in implementing the resolutions for CITES-listed plants. However, national procedures need to be established for the issuing of certificates of origin for some CITES-listed species (Appendix III).

Peru indicated in its report that Resolution Conf. 11.11 on the regulation of trade in plants, should review the definition of artificial reproduction, in order to link it to forest plantations. It added that if this was not done, it would be possible to recommend a proposed resolution on the application of forest plantations in the implementation of CITES.

Also in its report, Peru considered that the updating of the CITES-listed species database on the website was essential as long as the updating process does not make it difficult to issue Export and Import Certificates.

– Application of CITES Procedures

Chile reported that in addition to the Manual for the Application of CITES, the Contingency Protocol for Terrestrial Plants was drawn up. It constitutes a guide for the implementation of the Convention in Chile, for the plant species included in Appendix II of CITES, when the implementation of the law that applies the CITES Convention in Chile is totally regularised.

In its report, it also added that in 2017 inspections were carried out on the *Araucaria araucana* “Jardín Pehuén” (code P-CL-1001) and the “Las Palmas de Botalcura” (code P-CL-1003) nurseries, assessing their compliance with the requirements set out in Resolution 9.19 (Rev. CoP 15), on the register of nurseries that reproduce artificially specimens of plant species included in Appendix I for export purposes and in Resolution 11.11 (Rev. CoP 17) on the regulation of the trade in plants. This year, inspections of the abovementioned nurseries continue to be carried out. In 2017 the inventory corresponding to the pre-convention stocks of *Fitzroya cupressoides*, was carried out, notified to the Parties through document N°2014/002. In September of this 2018, the inventory will be carried out again, considering the possibility of eliminating this stock as pre-convention, given the quality of the wood.

Bolivia reported that it is important to have better regional communication, in order to issue information in the appropriate manner and to comply with the CITES Resolutions. Perhaps the creation of a Calendar with the annual activities that are disseminated at the start of the year through the CITES website could support planning and compliance with the regional reports.

Jamaica meanwhile reported that it has insufficient capacity for developing manuals and guidance materials for identification and to supply updated information on the aspects of the implementation of CITES for plants.

4. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The representative Vera Rauber Coradin is the co-president of the Wood Identification Working Group along with the Canadian representative. This working group was established during PC23 and its continuity, between sessions, was recommended in order to deal with the elements in Decision 17.167. In addition to co-presiding over the group's work, the representative is also collaborating with her practical knowledge in the anatomical identification of wood, as well as in curating the collection of different types of wood in Brazil. The representative César Beltetón Chacón, meanwhile, co-presides over the Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species.

Both representatives, Vera Rauber Coradin and Cesar Beltetón Chacón took part in the preparatory meeting for the 23rd Meeting of the Plants Committee with the ACTO member countries, held in Brasilia, Brazil in June 2017.

5. REGIONAL COOPERATION

Brazil reported that the Brazilian Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory has the technical capacity to offer training courses in the identification of timber, particularly Amazon Tropical timber.

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation –ACTO– countries are carrying out a Regional Project for the Management, Monitoring and Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Species Endangered by Trade (KfW/ACTO project): the project will be supported by teams, materials and consultancies for the execution of the work.

Colombia and Brazil have the ability to offer identification courses for Amazon Tropical timber, using an electronic identification key they created jointly.

Chile is able to support third countries in the following areas: Forest inventories; the traceability of forest species with conservation problems; the recognition of Chilean plants included in the flora CITES Appendices; the in-situ conservation of species through the Protected Wild Areas [Áreas Silvestres Protegidas]; procedures for the application of the CITES Convention (CITES law; Manual of Procedures for the Application of the Convention on International Trade in Wild Species of Endangered Flora and Fauna (CITES) in the National Forest Corporation; Contingency Protocol for Terrestrial Plants).

Chile also reported that, given the increase in the scope of action with plant species being included in Appendix II of CITES corresponding to the families Cactaceae, Dicksoniaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Orchidaceae, it might be very useful to exchange information on the identification of these species, in order to support the services on the border.

Jamaica meanwhile, as a member of the Network for the Observation and Application of the Central American and Caribbean Wildlife Regulations (ROAVIS), collaborated in the preparation of the Report on Invasive Alien Species, 2017, produced by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Peru, through the CITES Scientific Authority, offered other Parties technical dialogue for the formulation of Non-Detriment Findings on plantations of big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King.).

1. MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

NATIONAL MEETINGS				
Country	Name of workshop	Place and date	Objective	Results
CHILE	Reinforcement of CITES initiatives in Chile, Terrestrial plants component	La Serena October 2017	To acquire knowledge and share experiences, regarding non-timber species in the CITES Convention, including diverse technical knowledge and procedures.	Professionals from the participating Institutions were assimilated from the CITES procedures, regarding Law 20.962, which applies the CITES Convention, this in turn led to the generation of contact networks for future consultations.
PERU	First Symposium on CITES-Listed Species.	Lima, 22 November de 2017.	To disseminate research into flora and fauna species included in the CITES Appendices.	Seven talks were given on several species, such as: <i>Switenia macrophylla</i> , <i>Cyathea arborea</i> , <i>Phragmipedium warsezewiczianum</i> , <i>Cattleya máxima</i> , <i>Corryocactus brevistylus</i> and other orchids included in the CITES Appendices. Moreover, posters were presented on scientific works related to the genera <i>Lepanthes</i> and <i>Corryocactus</i> Britton & Rose and the species <i>Haageocereus acranthus</i> .
PERU	Annual workshop organised by the CITES-Peru Wild Plants Committee.	Lima, 23 and 24 November 2017.	To create an area for the exchange of scientific information on CITES-listed species and on the implementation of the CITES Convention; and to build the capacities of the members of the CITES Plants committee.	The main progress and research made on CITES-listed species generated by the CITES-Peru Scientific Authority were presented.
PERU	Workshop on the drawing up of the CITES Biennial Work Programme for 2018-2019.	Lima, 22 February 2018.	To reinforce the implementation of CITES in Peru, carrying out priority activities and improving the coordination between the CITES authorities and the observation organisations for the optimal application of the Convention in Peru, through the CITES Biennial Work Programme (BWP).	The BWP for 2018-2019 was drawn up in a participatory manner and is made up of 3 components, 14 guidelines and 107 activities.
PERU	Training the staff at SUNAT. National training meeting at SUNAT-Callao-Lima	Lima, 29 May 2017	To carry out training on control and inspection work within the regulatory framework related to the conservation and protection of species of wild flora included in the CITES Convention appendices.	The participants were the Customs Offices of Tacna, Puno, Madre de Dios, Iquitos, Callao Maritime Terminal, and the Customs, Air and Postal Management and Control Office

REGIONAL MEETINGS				
Name of workshop	Place and date	Participants	Objective	Results
Workshop for building the capacities of Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean	Kingston – Jamaica 18-22 September 2017	Caribbean Island States	To achieve Aichi Target 9 on Biological Diversity	No information provided
Preparatory Regional Meeting for the 23th Meeting of the CITES Plants Committee.	Brasilia, Brazil 20-23 June 2017	The ACTO member countries and regional representatives of the Central and South American and Caribbean Plants Committee.	To create an area for technical dialogue between the ACTO members countries in order to facilitate the exchange of information on issues of regional interest.	The documents on the Agenda of the 23th Meeting of the Plants Committee were reviewed, determining and establishing a position on issues of interest for countries in the Amazon region.
Exploratory Regional Workshop to establish an Amazon Network of CITES Authorities, judges and prosecutors to combat the illegal wildlife trade And Preparatory Regional Meeting of the Convention's 69 th Standing Committee on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)	Lima, Peru 7-9 November 2017	Participation of ACTO member countries, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela	To promote technical dialogue in the ACTO Member Countries to disseminate information on the three pillars of legality, sustainability and traceability, and then to explain the requirements that each of the Parties should meet in order to authorise the use and international trade in wild fauna and flora. To establish an area for technical dialogue between the ACTO member countries in order to facilitate the exchange of information on issues of regional interest.	No information provided

APPENDIX 1. INFORMATION REQUEST FORM FOR THE CITES MANAGEMENT AND SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES IN THE CENTRAL AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION

INFORMATION FOR THE REGIONAL REPORT BY THE PLANTS COMMITTEE AND THE PLANT SPECIALISTS DIRECTORY

REPORTING PERIOD: **MAY 2017 TO MAY 2018** (to guarantee there is sufficient time for sending the reports including data up to the end of April and beginning of May)

Please send this information by **4 May 2018** to: vera.coradin@gmail.com and cesarbelte@gmail.com

PARTY (official name of the country):

INFORMATION FOR THE REGIONAL REPORT

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN DEVELOPMENTS

- a) Review of Significant Trade
- b) Periodical review
- c) Non-detriment findings
- d) Capacity building (training courses, etc.). Indicate whether your country can help provide training activities, publications that may be useful for solving any implementation problems that other countries might come across.
- e) Other

- Conservation problems

- Technical issues - (It is very important that any difficulties encountered in your country are reported. This is the best way to solve the problems and help other countries that might experience similar difficulties. Report any difficulties with the implementation of CITES resolutions or decisions).

- II. **ACTIVITIES BY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES** (For the activities carried out by regional representatives, this includes things that the representatives carried out as regional representatives)
- III. **REGIONAL COOPERATION** (If your country is able to offer any support for the implementation of decisions or resolution, training activities, the creation of skills and publications that may be of use for solving problems that other CITES countries in the region may come across, please mention them).
- IV. **MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS** (mention regional and national meetings indicating the objectives and results).