

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



Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

*CEDRELA ODORATA, DALBERGIA RETUSA, DALBERGIA GRANADILLO
AND DALBERGIA STEVENSONII*

1. This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Plants Committee on behalf of the Committee*.
2. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted the Decision 14.146 (Rev. CoP15) and the Annex 4 to the CoP15 Decisions which in its paragraph 3 included the following directed to the Plants Committee:

The Plants Committee shall:
 - a) *establish the relevant methodology and necessary formats for the presentation of the information requested for the implementation of this Decision;*
 - b) *request the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species to incorporate, as a part of its activities and in the context of the present Decision, an analysis of information received on the species concerned, and to facilitate communication and the exchange of information between range States, including knowledge and experience gained as a result of the Appendix-III listing of Cedrela odorata;*
 - c) *receive, analyse and follow up the Action Plan at its 19th and 20th meetings; and*
 - d) *propose the relevant recommendations, such as an Appendix-II listing, for Cedrela odorata, Dalbergia retusa, Dalbergia granadillo and Dalbergia stevensonii prior to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*
3. The Chair of the Plants Committee was consulted by the Chair of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species and the relevant methodology and necessary formats for the presentation of the information requested for the implementation of this Decision was established.
4. The Working Group incorporated the analysis of information received and facilitated communication and the exchange of information between range States, including knowledge and experience gained as a result of the Appendix-III listing of *Cedrela odorata* through of: communications by e-mail; Web site <http://cites.fnvpv.org/> and the organization of a meeting of the Working Group held from 7 to 11 November in Petén, Guatemala (see PC20 Doc. 19.1 Annex 2).

* *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.*

5. The Working Group submitted to the Plant Committee reports following Decision 14.146 (Rev. CoP15) and Decision 15.91 Annex 3 paragraph f) (see PC19 and PC20 summary records) and with the basis of the information received, the Committee analysed and followed out the Action Plan at its 19th and 20th meetings.
6. The Plants Committee agreed that it would be incorporated into the report for CoP16 required under paragraph 1 e) of Annex 3 to the CoP15 Decisions and the results of discussions of the Plants Committee have been included in the Annex of document CoP16 Doc. 69 (Bigleaf mahogany).
7. Regarding Decision 14.146 (Rev. CoP15) paragraph d), the Committee established a working group (PC20 WG7), co-chaired by the regional representative of Oceania (Mr Leach) and the Chair of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species (Mr Beltetón), which comprised only members and alternates of the Committee. The Chair of the Standing Committee was invited to attend. The WG mandate was as follows: Taking account of all available information, the working group shall test the criteria for inclusion of species in Appendix II for *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii*, and evaluate whether the genera meet the criteria or not.
8. Later in the meeting, Mr Leach introduced document PC20 WG7 Doc. 1. Speakers suggested some substantive corrections, to which there were no objections, and concluded that the report fulfilled the requirements of paragraph 3 d) in Annex 4 of the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties.
9. The Committee agreed the document PC20 WG7 Doc. 1 with changes (see PC20 Summary record) and noted the following recommendations of the Working Group 7:

10. *Cedrela odorata*

WG7 concluded that the species fulfils the trade criterion. Data required to fully assess this criterion are still lacking. In particular some of the major exporting countries do not provide data on the conservation status of their populations. In light of this, and under the precautionary principle, Criterion B of Annex 2a might apply. It is noted that only five of the Range States have included the species in Appendix III (Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and Peru).

11. *Dalbergia retusa*

- a) WG7 concluded that the species fulfils the trade criterion;
- b) The main trade is not reflected in the trade data because most trade is in finished products that are not covered by the Appendix III annotations. There is also evidence of illegal trade;
- c) Data required to assess Annex 2a, Criterion B is still lacking. In particular some of the major exporting countries do not provide data on the conservation status of their populations;
- d) In Costa Rica, populations are well protected in designated protected areas but there is fragmentation of non-protected populations. In Guatemala the population occurs throughout 10-20% of the country and is listed as a threatened species;
- e) Whilst there has been progress in the implementation of the Action Plan, some information is still lacking. In particular: information on Forest Inventories of natural populations, harvest zoning, size, coverage and density of population, vertical and horizontal structure occupied by the species and the percentage of volume exported which originates in plantations;
- f) In light of this, and under the precautionary principle, Criterion B of Annex 2a might apply. Only two of the Range States (Guatemala, Panama) have included the species in Appendix III.

12. *Dalbergia granadillo*

This species was included in the action plan owing to its similarity to *Dalbergia retusa*. WG7 concluded that any decision relating to this species is determined by the decision made for *D. retusa*.

13. *Dalbergia stevensonii*

- a) WG7 concluded that the species fulfils the trade criterion;
- b) Data required to fully assess this criterion is still lacking. In particular some of the major exporting countries do not provide data on the conservation status of their populations. There is also concern over the extent of possible illegal trade reported by some Range States;
- c) Whilst there has been progress in the implementation of the Action Plan, information is still lacking: this species has the least amount of information available compared to the others;
- d) In light of this, and under the precautionary principle, Criterion B of Annex 2a might apply. Only one of the Range States (Guatemala) has included the species in Appendix III.

14. General recommendations of WG7

- a) As it does not seem that a proposal from Parties to include these species in Appendix II is going to be presented, the work of the Plants Committee in relation to Decision 14.146 (Rev. CoP15) is considered to be completed;
- b) WG7 encourages ITTO to provide assistance to major exporting Range States to compile national inventories to enable precise objective assessments of whether Criterion B of Annex 2a applies;
- c) WG7 noted that listing on Appendix II or Appendix III could be used as a vehicle to support the acquisition of the necessary biological information and also improve the veracity of trade data. WG7 also noted the difficulty of implementation and enforcement;
- d) WG7 noted that although the species were primarily assessed against criterion Annex 2a, Criterion B, there might be a case to apply criterion Annex 2b, Criterion B ("There are compelling reasons other than those given in criterion A above to ensure that effective control of trade in currently listed species is achieved.");
- e) WG7 also encourages Parties listing these species in Appendix III to facilitate and contribute on permit confirmation requests from importing Parties.

Conclusion

15. The Plants Committee considers that the tasks addressed to the Committee in Annex 4 paragraph 3 to the CoP15 Decisions have been accomplished.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat agrees with the conclusion by the Plants Committee in paragraph 15 of the present document.
- B. The Secretariat believes that the immediate purpose of Decision 14.146 (Rev. CoP15) has been achieved and that much useful knowledge for range States has been generated. The implementation of the Action plan for *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, *Dalbergia granadillo* and *Dalbergia stevensonii* is however quite burdensome for range States, the Secretariat and the Plants Committee. The Secretariat believes that future work on *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia retusa*, and *Dalbergia stevensonii* - and *Dalbergia granadillo* if proposal CoP16 Prop. 61 is adopted - can be achieved through Phase-II of the ITTO-CITES Programme *ITTO-CITES Implementation for Tree Species and Trade/Market Transparency (TMT)* and by the Plants Committee.
- C. The Secretariat therefore recommends that Decision 14.146 (Rev. CoP15) should be deleted.