

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

Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Johannesburg (South Africa), 24 September -5 October 2016

Species specific matters

NEOTROPICAL TREE SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Acting Chair of the Plants Committee *
2. At its 16th meeting (Bangkok, 2013), the Conference of the Parties adopted the Decisions 16.159 and 16.160, directed to the Plants Committee and the Secretariat as follows:

Directed to the Plants Committee

16.159 *The Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species shall work under the auspices of the Plants Committee. During its 21st 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 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee. In turn, the Plants Committee shall prepare a report on work completed for submission at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Directed to the Secretariat

15.93 (Rev. CoP16)

The Secretariat, within the scope of its cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization and other bodies, shall seek external funding to support the work of this Working Group, if necessary.

3. At the 21st meeting of the Plants Committee, the Committee established a Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species, decided its membership, and agreed to Terms of Reference in compliance with Decision 16.159. The Terms of Reference as agreed by the Committee are contained within the Annex of document [PC21 Doc. 18.2.1](#). The Committee elected Mr Beltetón (Guatemala) as Chair of the Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species and Ms Núñez (Peru) as its Vice-Chair.
4. The Working Group reported its progress at the 22nd meeting of the Plants Committee ([PC22 Doc. 17.2](#)), mainly the results of consultations to identify and analyse the current situation of the *Dalbergia* genus in the regions of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The working group had sent a request for information, accompanied by a questionnaire, seeking information on: a) Taxonomic validation of species from the *Dalbergia* genus present in the region, using herbarium records, field studies and available literature resources; b) Potential distribution and other biological information; c) Threats; d) Trade information (type of products on the market, trade volume, customs data, importing, exporting and re-

* *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.*

exporting countries, trade levels at the national and international levels, illegal trade); and e) management guidelines for the species and legislation related to the management and protection of the species in each country.

5. In its report, the working group expressed gratitude to the range States that sent information in a timely manner, which included : Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay, Cuba, United States of America, France (for French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Saint Martin) and Netherlands (for Sint Maarten). The working group also extended thanks to international organizations such as the International Tropical Timber Organization, Species Survival Network, TRAFFIC and UNEP-WCMC, which also provided information.
6. The working group report summarized the results from the consultations by country and presented an analysis of the information received. The summary and analysis provide an indication of the situation of the *Dalbergia* genus and represent a first step in fulfilment of the Terms of Reference of the working group.
7. Based on a discussion of the working group report, the Committee agreed to submit the following decision to the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting in order to renew the mandate of the working group on Neotropical tree Species:

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.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that the Conference of the Parties renew the decision proposed in Paragraph 7 above.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat agrees that this working has proven to be very active and has worked well mainly through electronic means. Since the Plants Committee is proposing to continue with the same *modus operandi*, the Secretariat supports the draft decisions in paragraph 7 above. If adopted, this draft decision would replace current Decision 16.159 on the Working Group on Neotropical Tree Species.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

As per the draft decision, the working group shall preferably work through electronic means in order to reduce costs. External sources of funding would be needed should the working group identify other means necessary to carry out its mandate.