

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Species specific matters

NEOTROPICAL TREE SPECIES

1. This document has been submitted by the Plants Committee.*

Background

2. At its 17th meeting, the Conference of the Parties renewed Decision 16.159 (Rev. CoP17) on *Neotropical tree species*, as follows:

16.159 (Rev. CoP17)

Directed to the Plants Committee

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.

Progress achieved in the implementation of Decision 16.159 (Rev. CoP17)

3. At its 23rd meeting (PC23, Geneva, July 2017), the Plants Committee considered document [PC23 Doc. 25](#) and established an intersessional working group on neotropical tree species ([PC23 SR](#)), with the following mandate:
 - a) The group shall work under the auspices of the Plants Committee;
 - b) 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. External funding would be needed should the working group decide that additional means are required for it to carry out its mandate;
 - c) The group shall act as a hub to circulate and exchange experiences on the sustainable use and management of these species;

* *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.*

- d) The group shall contribute to the strengthening of capacities in range States;
- e) Where necessary, the group shall facilitate full and effective application of the review of significant trade and review of the appendices for the species concerned;
- f) The group shall draft reports on progress made in the management, conservation of, and trade in the species dealt with by this group, as well as on lessons learnt, for submission at the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, which shall agree on how to submit these at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18);
- g) The group shall include, as part of its activities, an analysis of the data received from range States and importing Parties;
- h) The group shall facilitate and foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences relating to the scientific and technical aspects of the inclusion of *Cedrela odorata*, *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, among others, and species of the genus *Dalbergia*, with special emphasis on the latter in the annotation, and likewise any other New World tree species listed in the CITES appendices; and
- i) The Chair of the working group shall submit a written report, on the tasks defined in the previous paragraphs, for consideration at the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, which report shall be submitted to the Secretariat 60 days in advance of the meeting.

The membership was decided as follows:

Chair: the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Beltetón Chacón);

Vice-Chair: Ms. Nuñez (Peru);

Members: the representative of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Ms. Rauber Coradin);

Parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and

IGOs and NGOs: UNEP-WCMC, Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), and ITTO; Center of International Environmental Law, Confederation of European Music Industries, Forest Based Solutions, International Wood Products Association, Martin Guitar, Species Survival Network, and World Resources Institute.

Additionally, the Plants Committee agreed to select as members of the working group on neotropical tree species up to:

- i) Two scientific experts with significant experience in Neotropical tree species;
- ii) Two experts from two non-governmental organizations with experience in the activities mentioned in Decision 16.159 (Rev. CoP17);
- iii) Two representatives from organizations of exporters from the two major exporting countries of the relevant products of these species that are regulated by CITES; and
- iv) Two representatives from organizations of importers from the two major importing countries of the relevant products of these species that are regulated by CITES;

4. At its 24th meeting (PC24, Geneva, July 2018), the Plants Committee considered document [PC24 Doc. 22 \(Rev. 1\)](#) on the report of the intersessional working group on neotropical tree species. The report represents a detailed and updated analysis of implementation of the Convention from twelve neotropical range States' and for the following taxa: *Aniba rosaeodora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia* spp., and *Swietenia macrophylla*. The Plants Committee noted the document and agreed to propose the draft decision included in Annex 1 to the present document.

Recommendation

5. The Conference of the Parties is invited to:
- a) adopt the draft decision on Neotropical tree species included in Annex 1 to the present document; and
 - b) delete Decision 16.159 (Rev. CoP17) since it has been implemented.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The draft decision on *Neotropical tree species* proposed by the Plants Committee retains the *modus operandi* specified in Decision 16.159 (Rev. CoP17), but with a clearer mandate. In order to make the most of the expertise of the intersessional working group, and with the intention to focus its discussions on priority issues related to these taxa, the Secretariat proposes amendments to the draft decision, as reflected in Annex 2.
- B. The Secretariat's amendments to the draft decision in Annex 2 are built upon the following considerations:
- i) The term "neotropical" refers to a biogeographical realm comprised by tropical areas of the Americas, from Mexico to Argentina¹. The Appendices include a wide array of species of neotropical tree species, such those under the genera *Cedrela*, *Dalbergia*, *Guaicum* and *Swietenia*. It is therefore advisable for the intersessional working group to identify which subset of these tree species will be prioritized in their CoP18-CoP19 discussions;
 - ii) In this process, it is important to frame the mandate of the intersessional working group taking into consideration the amendments to the Appendices that might be adopted at the present meeting, as well as the mandates of Resolutions and Decisions relating to neotropical tree species and addressed to the Plants Committee; and
 - iii) Another prioritization "layer" for the intersessional working group discussions could be to consider those neotropical tree species that have proven to be a challenge for the implementation of the Convention. For example, Neotropical tree species that have been selected for the Review of Significant Trade (or other compliance mechanisms), or for which the needed information to formulate non-detriment findings is known to be lacking or insufficient, or which could benefit from the development of new or updated identification tools.
- C. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decision, as amended in Annex 2.

¹ Morrone J.J. 2017. *Neotropical Biogeography: Regionalization and Evolution*. First Edition. CRC Press.

Draft decisions on Neotropical tree species²

18.XX Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) re-establish the intersessional working group on neotropical tree species to work by electronic means to:
 - i) exchange experiences, information and skills between countries in the neotropical tree species' range on sustainable use and management, especially to support the countries that are in any stages of the Review of Significant Trade; and
 - ii) report on progress made in the management and conservation of and trade in neotropical trees, as well as on lessons learned, including on the generation of studies on the status of the populations of neotropical trees, with an emphasis on those recently listed in the CITES Appendices; implementation of traceability and chain of custody systems, which strengthen the transparency and sustainable trade in timber species; and creation of materials for identification and training in the different existing methods, with an emphasis on those that can be used easily by authorities; and
- b) review the progress reported by the intersessional working group and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19), as appropriate.

² Draft decision as agreed by the Plants Committee at its 24th meeting ([PC24 Com. 9](#))

Draft decisions on Neotropical tree species, as amended by the Secretariat

(New text is underlined and deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~)

18.XX Directed to the Plants Committee

The Plants Committee shall:

- a) re-establish the intersessional neotropical tree species working group to work by electronic means to:
 - i) agree on a priority list of CITES-listed neotropical tree species, and decide on associated activities that will most significantly contribute to the implementation of the mandates in Resolutions relating to neotropical tree species and that are addressed to the Plants Committee;
 - ii) in the process of developing the priority list referred to in paragraph i) above, special consideration shall be given to neotropical tree species-listings in effect since the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; to neotropical tree species that are currently under the Review of Significant Trade (or other compliance mechanisms of the Convention); as well as those that are known to represent implementation challenges particularly in matters related to the formulation of non-detriment findings and identification of specimens in trade;
 - iii) exchange experiences, information and skills between countries ~~in~~ on the priority Neotropical tree species' range on sustainable use and management, especially to support the countries that are in any stages of the Review of Significant Trade; and
 - iv) report on progress made in the management and conservation of, and trade in, priority neotropical trees species, as well as on lessons learned, including on the generation of studies on the status of their populations of neotropical trees, ~~with an emphasis on those recently listed in the CITES Appendices;~~ implementation of traceability and chain of custody systems, which strengthen the transparency and sustainable trade in timber species; and creation of materials for identification and training in the different existing methods, with an emphasis on those that can be used easily by authorities; and
- b) review the progress reported by the intersessional working group and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) as appropriate.

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

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding. The authors of this document propose the following tentative budget and source of funding.

The Secretariat, at the request of the Plants Committee, included considerations related to tentative budget and source of funding. Since the intersessional working group mentioned in the proposed draft decision will work through electronic means, the Secretariat is of the view that there are no financial implications anticipated for this.