

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE BIGLEAF MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP  
(Agreed by the Plants Committee at its 15th meeting)

The Plants Committee, at its 15th meeting (PC15, Geneva, May 2005), adopted the following final text for the Terms of Reference of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group and its functioning:

The Plants Committee has been extremely concerned about the poor implementation of Article IV of the Convention after the inclusion of the bigleaf mahogany in Appendix II at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Santiago, 2002), as well as of the priority actions identified by the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group (see document PC14 WG7 Doc. 1) and adopted as Decision 13.58, paragraphs a), b), c) and e), by the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting (Bangkok, 2004).

Consequently the Working Group on Significant Trade which convened during the 15th meeting of the Plants Committee (PC15) concluded that bigleaf mahogany should be included in the Review of Significant Trade. Nonetheless, in accordance with Decision 13.55 which states that the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group works under the Plants Committee, and taking into account Decision 13.56 which directs the Plants Committee to present a report at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress made by the Working Group, the Plants Committee has agreed to the following:

1. Terms of Reference of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group:
  - a) promote the preparation and official adoption, as a priority, of mahogany management plans at national and subregional level;
  - b) promote the conduct of forest inventories, as well as progress, and promote programmes to determine and monitor the distribution, population size and conservation status of mahogany;
  - c) facilitate and promote the development of capacity-building programmes in monitoring and management relating to CITES procedures and documents. To this end, if considered appropriate, it may request assistance from the Plants Committee and the Secretariat;
  - d) facilitate and promote the submission by the Parties concerned of reports on progress in the implementation of Decision 13.58, which establishes that such reports must be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 90 days before the 16th meeting of the Plants Committee, so that the Secretariat may include them in a report that it will present at that meeting; and
  - e) facilitate the organization and establishment, if considered necessary, of working groups.
2. In order to facilitate the fulfilment of those Terms of Reference, the Plants Committee has decided, in accordance with Decision 13.55, to establish the Working Group with at least the following members:
  - main bigleaf mahogany exporting Parties (Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru);
  - main bigleaf mahogany importing Parties (the Dominican Republic, the Member States of the European Union and the United States of America);
  - members of the Plants Committee (both representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean, and both representatives of Europe);
  - a member of the CITES Secretariat; and
  - a member of each of the following organizations: FFI, TRAFFIC and WWF.
3. The Working Group shall conduct its work intersessionally (between PC15 and PC16), mainly through remote communication (email, fax or phone) and shall present at PC16 substantive results in accordance with the Terms of Reference mentioned above. Should the Committee consider after analysing these results that progress is not sufficient, it will include bigleaf mahogany in the Review of Significant Trade.

4. The Plants Committee welcomed the offer to chair the Working Group made by Peru in the letter [reference No. 125-2005-INRENA-IFFS-J (DCB)] from Mr Leoncio Álvarez Vásquez, Head of the National Institute of Natural Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture, to the Chairman of the Plants Committee. The Plants Committee requests from Peru that it send the *curricula vitae* of three candidates to chair the Working Group. This communication should be sent to the CITES Secretariat before 15 June 2005 to be circulated to the members of the Plants Committee, who will select the most suitable person for chairman before 25 June 2005.
5. The Plants Committee considered it helpful to support the chairman of the Working Group with a vice-chairman selected amongst the importing countries and welcomed the offer made at PC15 by the United States to fulfill this role. The Plants Committee therefore requests from the United States that it send the *curricula vitae* of three candidates to vice-Chair the Working Group. This communication should be sent to the CITES Secretariat before 15 June 2005 to be circulated to the members of the Plants Committee, who will select the most suitable person for vice-chairman before 25 June 2005.
6. Once selected, the chairman and vice-chairman shall start their work as soon as the beginning of July, contacting the members of the Working Group and initiating the work specified in the Terms of Reference mentioned above.
7. The CITES Secretariat shall send to the concerned Parties (range States and importing countries), on behalf of the Plants Committee, the present agreement right after the end of PC15, for general information and required action.