

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

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Second meeting of the Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group  
Belem (Brazil), 6-8 October 2003

DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CITES CONCERNING  
THE BIGLEAF MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Decision 12.21 of the Conference of the Parties states that:
  - a) *The Swietenia macrophylla Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group shall be maintained.*
  - b) *The Secretariat shall reconvene the Working Group, subject to the availability of external funding.*
  - c) *The Working Group shall discuss the capacities needed for the implementation of the Appendix-II listing of Swietenia macrophylla, related to sustainable harvest and scientifically based non-detriment findings and shall review the recommendations contained in Annex 3 to these Decisions.*
  - d) *This Working Group shall report to the Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting.*
3. The Recommendations made by the Mahogany Working Group referred to in Decision 12.21, paragraph c), are as follows:
  1. *Noting the discrepancies in the trade data when comparing information provided by importing and exporting countries, the range States concerned should ask UNEP-WCMC to provide annually comparative tabulations so that each can evaluate these for its own trade regulation purposes.*
  2. *Importing countries, detecting illegal or suspicious shipments should immediately inform the country of origin about this.*
  3. *In order to combat illegal trade, countries of export or re-export could consider directly informing the country of destination concerned about permits or certificates issued, or could consider including in their website basic information included in these (e.g. permit number, date of issuance, country of destination, species and volume).*
  4. *Considering that there is not enough information available to estimate the levels of illegal trade between range States and other countries, the Working Group recommends that efforts be made to obtain this information and that the Secretariat looks into the possibility to contract TRAFFIC International to conduct the study.*
  5. *Aware that a non-detriment finding is not required for the export of Swietenia macrophylla specimens, the Working Group believes that population studies are needed to ensure sustainable utilization of the resource and that such studies require substantial financial support. It encourages range States to seek financial assistance actively for such studies through established organizations such as FAO or ITTO.*
  6. *In spite of the great efforts and progress made in countries in the region concerning the management of Swietenia macrophylla, the Working Group requests the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of obtaining funds for facilitating the implementation of CITES in range States with regard to mahogany and other CITES-listed timber species.*

7. *Range States that have developed forest management techniques for forests containing Swietenia macrophylla (e.g. silviculture techniques, regeneration programmes) as well as regulations of harvest, internal transport control and export, should distribute this information as soon as possible to the other range States.*
  8. *Management and Scientific Authorities should work closely together with national and international forestry experts for the purpose of developing procedures or mechanisms to improve trade controls (e.g. training, timber identification, etc.).*
  9. *When specific border control problems exist between neighbouring countries, these should be resolved bilaterally, involving external experts as appropriate, including joint capacity building.*
4. Decision 11.4 of the Conference of the Parties is presented as an Annex to the present document as background information only.

## Regarding conservation of *Swietenia macrophylla*

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### *Establishment of a Mahogany Working Group of the Conference of the Parties*

- 11.4
- a) The Parties agree to establish a *Swietenia macrophylla* (bigleaf mahogany) Working Group. This Working Group should report to the Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting.
  - b) This Working Group shall include all range States for *Swietenia macrophylla*, principal importing countries and a representative to be designated by the Plants Committee.
  - c) The Mahogany Working Group shall:
    - i) review the effectiveness of current and potential Appendix-III listings;
    - ii) analyse legal and illegal trade;
    - iii) review studies of the status of the species;
    - iv) encourage the exchange of information by CITES Management and Scientific Authorities on the implementation of the Convention and import/export controls;
    - v) study appropriate measures to widen the geographic scope of Appendix-III listings;
    - vi) assess and analyse the results of the action specified in paragraphs i) to v) above; and
    - vii) present a report on its findings as well as its recommendations for consideration at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
  - d) The Secretariat shall convene a meeting of the Mahogany Working Group within one year after the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to meet with experts in the species including: representatives from relevant multilateral organizations such as ITTO, IFF, UNFF, and FAO as well as IUCN, TRAFFIC; and other relevant technical experts as appropriate.
  - e) The fulfilment of these Terms of Reference and the convening of any meetings of the Mahogany Working Group shall be dependent on the availability of funding. Interested donor agencies and conservation and trade organizations are encouraged to provide funding to facilitate this effort.