

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

Proposals resulting from reviews by the Animals and Plants Committees

A. Proposal

To amend the explanation of the current annotation #5 to *Pericopsis elata* and to *Swietenia mahagoni* in section 11 of the Interpretation of Appendices I and II to read: 'Designates logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets'.

B. Proponent

Swiss Confederation on behalf of the Standing Committee.

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxonomy

1.1 Class: Angiospermae

1.2 Order: Fabales

1.3 Family: Leguminosae (Fabaceae)

1.4 Genus and species: *Pericopsis elata* (Harms) van Meeuwen

1.5 Synonyms: *Afrormosia elata* Harms

1.6 Common name: English: Afrormosia, Asamela, Kokrodua

French: Asamela, Kokrodua

Spanish: Afrormosia, Asamela

1.2 Order: Sapindales

1.3 Family: Meliaceae

1.4 Genus and species: *Swietenia mahagoni* (L.) Jacquin

1.5 Synonyms: None

1.6 Common name: English: Cuban or West Indian Mahogani

French: Acajou de Cuba, Acajou des Antilles

Spanish: Caoba americana, Caoba de Cuba

2. Justification

At its first meeting, the Timber Working Group was provided with background information on a proposal submitted by Australia in 1992, and subsequently withdrawn, which was designed to standardize the annotation in the Interpretation of Appendices I and II for all timber species included in Appendix II. The members considered whether or not they agreed with the intention of this proposal and whether a revised proposal needed to be prepared for submission to the Conference of the Parties. It was noted that annotations needed to be determined on a species-by-species basis.

However, during discussions on this subject at the first and second meetings, the members of the Timber Working Group agreed that the terms 'saw-logs, sawn wood and veneers' are relatively broad categories of timber products, which may be interpreted differently, for example, by forest managers and timber traders. It concluded that for CITES purposes a standard definition of the terms would be useful.

The Timber Working Group agreed on the following definitions, related to the relevant codes (as indicated between brackets) of the Harmonised System of the World Customs Organization:

a) Logs

Logs are defined as all wood in the rough (whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood) or roughly squared, for processing notably into sawn wood, pulpwood or veneer sheets.

(HS code 44.03*)

b) Sawn wood

Sawn wood is defined as wood simply sawn lengthwise or produced by a profile-chipping process. Sawn wood normally exceeds 6 mm in thickness.

(HS code 44.06* and HS code 44.07*)

c) Veneer sheets

Veneer sheets are defined as thin layers or sheets of wood of uniform thickness, usually 6 mm or less in thickness, usually peeled or sliced, for use in making plywood, for veneering furniture, veneer containers, etc.

(HS code 44.08*)

The requested amendment is intended to amend the annotation to the species concerned while adopting these definitions.

*HS refers to the Harmonized System of the World Customs Organization describing and coding goods in trade. The codes referred to in this document for timber include the following:

44.03-Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared

44.06-Railway or tramway sleepers of wood

44.07 -Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm

44.08-Veneer sheets and sheets for plywood (whether or not spliced) and other wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed, of a thickness not exceeding 6 mm