

## TRAFFIC Recommendations on the Proposals to Amend the CITES Appendices at CoP15

	Species	Comment	Recommendation
42	<i>Bulnesia sarmientoi</i>	<p>CoP15 Prop. 42 [Argentina] Inclusion in Appendix II, with the following annotation: "#11 Designates logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, plywood, powder and extracts."</p> <p>Palo santo <i>Bulnesia sarmientoi</i> is a slow growing hardwood tree, endemic to a limited region at the junction of Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil, the Gran Chaco. It grows in isolated or continuous stands. There is no artificial propagation of the species. The timber is hard, durable and of high commercial value. The extracted oil and resin are traded for the cosmetic and paint industries.</p> <p><i>Bulnesia sarmientoi</i> is impacted by two factors: destruction of habitat as a result of deforestation of the Gran Chaco and land-use change, and selective logging, especially for export markets, as reported from Paraguay and Argentina. Although there has been a sharp increase in timber exports in recent years, it seems unlikely that regulation of trade is necessary to ensure that the harvest of specimens from the wild is not reducing the wild population to a level at which its survival might be threatened by continued harvesting. Land conversion, on the other hand, is clearly reducing the habitat and population of <i>B. sarmientoi</i>. Argentina listed the species in Appendix III in 2008 and, while this has produced positive effects in terms of trade control, there are continuing concerns over illicit trans-boundary trade and listing the species in Appendix II could assist in controlling this. The benefits observed for Argentina's population of the species, following its listing under CITES, may accrue to all range States if the whole species is listed in Appendix II. Despite significant harvesting pressure, there is no clear evidence that the Appendix-II listing criteria are satisfied. However, there would appear to be clear conservation and management benefits from trade regulation under CITES for this valuable resource. Attention should be paid to potential identification difficulties between this species and <i>B. arborea</i>.</p>	<b>ACCEPT</b>