

CITES PRIORITY

TIMBER AND THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CITES, SANTIAGO, CHILE 2002

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UNSUSTAINABLE TIMBER HARVEST AND ILLEGAL LOGGING ARE AMONG SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THREATS FACING THE WORLD'S FORESTS. NOT ONLY DO THEY CAUSE DESTRUCTION TO THE HABITATS OF MILLIONS OF PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES, THEY ALSO CAUSE LOSS OF VALUABLE WATER CATCHMENTS AND OTHER VITAL ECOLOGICAL SERVICES AS WELL AS DENY COUNTRIES THE BENEFITS OF IMPORTANT NATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSETS.

Governments are experiencing dwindling foreign currency exchange and tax revenues due to illegal timber trade; businesses lose millions of dollars to illegal logging operations; and the livelihoods of many local communities that depend upon forest resources for employment and income are being threatened. Strong international demand and prices for certain high-value timber species, in particular, are encouraging individuals to find new ways to evade national forest controls. The effectiveness of these controls is further diminished by the logistical and human resource limitations faced by the authorities tasked to implement them.

Since 1975, CITES has been playing a positive role in the conservation of tree species threatened by trade. Despite the ongoing debate about the appropriateness of including commercial timber species in the CITES Appendices, 49 tree species are already covered by the Convention and they include highly commercial and valuable timbers such as *Aframosia Pericopsis elata* (Appendix II) and Big-leaf Mahogany *Swietenia macrophylla* (Appendix III).

CITES is not a trade ban

The perception that CITES is primarily a trade ban is one of the greatest challenges to wider use of the Convention for ensuring that the international timber trade is based on legally acquired products from sustainably managed harvests. Of the 49 species currently listed in the CITES Appendices, only six are in Appendix I, prohibiting commercial international trade of specimens from the wild.

This misconception was addressed by representatives of the major timber producing countries and industry experts who participated in the CITES Timber Working Group in 1994. This group, which was established by CoP9 to look at the implementation of the Convention for timber, urged Management Authorities to disseminate the message that "international trade and utilization of timber species included in Appendices II and III are generally permitted and can be beneficial" (see Resolution Conf. 10.13).

CITES regulation for sustainable use

Countries should, in fact, consider CITES listings primarily as an international trade mechanism to help address national concerns such as illegal logging, illegal trade and unsustainable management, rather than just a means to restrict international trade in species threatened by extinction. Most governments have national legislation related to sustainable forest management, control of timber harvest, export and import, and trade monitoring. CITES should be seen as a complementary strategy to help implement national laws and policies, and more effectively manage timber resources, rather than as a threat or impediment to trade. Appendix II listings provide strong tools for securing the objective of sustainable trade with the requirement to fulfil two crucial export provisions - that the timber or other products have been legally-obtained and that harvest was not detrimental to the survival of the species. Appendix II provisions, indeed, facilitate the controls, processes, tools and information that will assist countries in managing their timber resources so that species' populations do not reach the point where trade bans may be the only conservation option left. Appendix III listings have increased the transparency of the trade,



Aquilaria malaccensis

The CITES process:**How it addresses sustainable use and illegal trade**

Once a species is listed in the CITES Appendices, the procedures for management and control of international trade are clearly defined in the Convention. These procedures are standardized and apply for all Parties.

For Appendix II-listed species, the CITES Scientific Authority, which can be a forestry department and is appointed by the national government, is required to determine that trade in the CITES-listed species is not detrimental to the survival of the species - in effect, that the species in trade have been harvested at a sustainable level. Scientific Authorities can refer to document Inf. 11.3 *Assistance to Scientific Authorities for making non-detriment findings* from CITES for guidelines on how to carry out non-detriment findings.

The Management Authority appointed by the Party then ensures that the specimen is not obtained in contravention of the laws of the country and issues the CITES export permit.

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helping exporting countries to compare their export volumes with imports reported by consumer countries and providing much-needed trade information. They have also allowed importing country governments to assist range States with export controls by making sure that shipments are accompanied by documents issued by exporting countries.

Tackling illegal logging and trade

Illegal logging and illegal timber trade undermine both legal trade and conservation, resulting in loss of foreign revenue and currency exchange, uncollected forest-related taxes and depleted forest resources and services. CITES can effectively help governments to tackle the growing problem of illegal logging and illegal timber trade through the verification of permits and the chain-of-custody process that is implicit in CITES provisions. CITES has already shown that it is able to assist governments and legal exporters by requiring that importing country governments to verify that the necessary permits are in place before allowing imports. For example, illegal shipments of *Fitzroya cupressoides*, Ramin, *Gonystylus* spp. and *Swietenia macrophylla* have been detected and stopped.

A flexible tool

CITES is well-suited to complementing other national and international resource management regimes thanks to its flexibility. Recognizing that CITES would need to adapt to accommodate the specific characteristics of the timber trade, the Parties established the Timber Working Group (TWG) at CoP 9. The expert members of this group included representatives from timber importing and exporting countries, including Malaysia, Brazil, Ghana, USA, Japan, and South Korea, as well as experts from ITTO, NGOs and industry (including the International Hardwood Products Association). The TWG recommendations adopted at CoP 10 illustrate CITES' ability to adapt in order to facilitate well-managed trade. For example, the validity of a CITES permit for a timber species can be extended to 12 months (as opposed to the usual 6 months) or the destination changed. This helps traders address potential problems with shipment times and split shipments. CITES also allows for the use of annotations to define the particular parts and products of a tree for which trade controls will be required. For example, the listing of Afromosia and American Mahogany *Swietenia mahagoni* is restricted to 'logs, sawn timber and veneer'. The CITES listing of Red Sanders *Pterocarpus santalinus*, the wood of which is used as a dye as well as in finely crafted products such as musical instruments, is annotated such that CITES controls include wood chips and unprocessed materials.

Complementing other international instruments and initiatives

The management of internationally traded tree species involves a number of national, regional and international bodies. At the international level, some of the more important players are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). These diverse agreements and organizations have different mandates and powers, and serve different constituencies. Recognizing this, and fostering a true spirit of co-operation between these different initiatives is the key to maximizing their impact, individually and collectively, to ensure traded tree species are managed for sustainability and their long-term contribution to national economies.

CITES recognizes the need for co-operation with other multilateral environmental agreements and international timber-related organisations. Both the Parties and the CITES Secretariat are encouraged to seek the views of international organizations that have expertise related to the relevant timber trade and/or forest management such as ITTO, FAO and regional timber organizations such as the Treaty for Amazonian Cooperation, African Timber Organization and Asian-Pacific Timber Trade Organization (See Resolution Conf. 10.13. *Implementation of the Convention for timber species*).

TABLE 1. A COMPARISON OF CITES, APPENDIX II AND APPENDIX III REQUIREMENTS		
CITES Requirements	Appendix II	Appendix III
Parties responsible for implementation	All Parties	All Parties
Authorities responsible for implementation	CITES Management and Scientific Authorities	CITES Management Authorities
CITES documents required for export/presentation on import	Export permit Re-export certificate	Export permit (range States listing the species in Appendix III) Certificate of origin (other range States) Re-export certificate (all countries that re-export)
Standards for document issuance	Management Authority of the State of export is satisfied that the specimen was not obtained in contravention of the laws of that state for the protection of fauna and flora Scientific Authority of the State export has advised that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species (Article IV)	Management Authority of the State of export is satisfied that the specimen was not obtained in contravention of the laws of that State for the protection of fauna and flora (Article V)
CITES annual reporting requirements	All imports, exports and re-exports	All imports, exports and re-exports
Means to secure a listing	Proposal submitted to the Conference of the Parties agreed by 2/3 majority of Parties present and voting	Request by a range State sent to the CITES Secretariat (Resolution Conf. 9.25 provides further guidance)

Supporting sustainable forest management

For over a decade, sustainable forest management (SFM) has been a key focus of many timber-producing countries. SFM is aimed at ensuring that countries, industry and communities continue to enjoy the benefits of forest resources. It demands a high level of performance against environmental and long-term economic indicators. ITTO has developed SFM guidelines for tropical timber that are to be adopted by all ITTO member countries. In the medium term, expanding the proportion of forestry operations under SFM plans clearly represents the most powerful tool currently available for promoting sustainable management of the world's forests. Certification is another tool that is gaining momentum largely because of market incentives such as the potential price premiums and growing consumer preference in some countries for timber certified as legal and sustainable.

CITES listings have already shown that they can help provide information and indicators by which Parties can monitor their progress in achieving sustainable forest management.

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Additional permits and licences may also be required by the country's laws. The CITES permit and shipment are then inspected by Customs or other designated authorities on export.

CITES is one of the few treaties that incorporates a dual checking mechanism to detect illegal trade. In the country of export, local authorities and Customs will have checked for the legality of the permit and shipment.

At the importing country, Customs inspect the shipment against the CITES permit that accompanies it.

All imports and exports are recorded in national CITES annual reports, which are sent to the CITES Secretariat and compiled in a central database.

The data are available to any Party for analyses.

This increased transparency in the trade can help governments better monitor the industry and extraction from the forest and hence increase the flexibility for adjusting their management regime accordingly.

TRAFFIC SPECIES CURRENTLY LISTED IN THE CITES APPENDICES

Appendices	Scientific Name Common Name	Year listed	NOTES (Uses)	
Appendix I	<i>Abies guatemalensis</i> Guatemalan Fir	1975	(Timber)	
	<i>Araucaria araucana</i> (Popn of Chile) Monkey-puzzle Tree	1975	(Timber, horticulture) Originally listed in Appendix II, Chilean population transferred to Appendix I in 1979; remaining populations in 2000	
	<i>Dalbergia nigra</i> Brazilian Rosewood	1992	(Timber)	
	<i>Fitzroya cupressoides</i> Alerce	1975	(Timber) Chile coastal population transferred to Appendix II in 1983 and back to Appendix I in 1987	
	<i>Pilgerodendron uviferum</i> Parlatore's Podocarp	1975		
	<i>Podocarpus parlatorei</i> Parlatore's Podocarp	1974		
	Appendix II	<i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i> Agarwood	1995	(Medicinal/Fragrance/ Flavouring)
		<i>Caryocar costaricense</i> Aji	1975	(Timber)
		<i>Guaiacum officinale</i> Commoner Lignum Vitae	1992	(Timber, medicinal, flavouring)
		<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i> Holywood Lignum Vitae	1975	(Timber, medicinal, flavouring)
<i>Oreomunnea pterocarpa</i> Caribbean Walnut		1975	(Timber) Originally listed in Appendix I, ; transferred to Appendix II in 1992	
<i>Pericopsis elata*</i> Afromosia		1992	(Timber)	
<i>Platymiscum pleistachyum</i> Quira Macawood		1975	(Timber) Originally listed in Appendix I; transferred to Appendix II in 1989	
<i>Prunus africana</i> African Cherry/Stinkwood		1995	(Timber/ Medicinal)	
<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i> Red Sanders		1995	(Timber/Dye/ Medicinal)	
<i>Swietenia humilis</i> Mexican Mahogany		1975	(Timber)	
Appendix III	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i> American Mahogany	1992	(Timber) *logs, sawn timber only	
	<i>Cedrela odorata</i> West Indian Cedar	2001 2002	Peru Colombia	
	<i>Gonystylus spp.</i> Ramin	2002	(Timber) Indonesia = 27 species (Timber)	
	<i>Podocarpus neriifolius</i> Yellow Wood	1975	Nepal	
	<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> Big-leaf Mahogany	1995 1998 1999 2001 2002	(Timber) Costa Rica Bolivia, Brazil Mexico Peru Colombia	

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