



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

April 18, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/DMA PLA 7-12

Dear U.S. Importer / Re-exporter of Bigleaf Mahogany Wood:

We were provided with the name of your business by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) as an importer and/or re-exporter of bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) wood. We wish to inform you that the neotropical populations of bigleaf mahogany have been listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This listing was adopted by the CITES Party nations at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP12), which was held in November 2002. The listing will regulate logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and plywood, but not any other parts or derivatives of mahogany. The listing becomes effective November 15, 2003.

The neotropical populations of bigleaf mahogany have been listed in CITES Appendix III since November 16, 1995, with the listing annotated to include logs, sawn wood, and veneer sheets, but not plywood or any other parts or derivatives. U.S. imports and re-exports of such mahogany that have occurred since that time have been in accordance with Appendix-III requirements. The Appendix-III listing will remain in effect until November 15, 2003, when the Appendix-II listing becomes effective. Below we have outlined the two basic differences in the CITES requirements between the current Appendix-III listing and the future Appendix-II listing. The first is not likely to have any effect on U.S. mahogany importers and re-exporters. The second will have an impact on U.S. importers and re-exporters of bigleaf mahogany plywood:

- The first difference regards the issuance of CITES export documentation by the mahogany range countries. The Appendix-II listing imposes an additional requirement of a non-detriment finding by the range countries. Once the Appendix-II listing takes effect, for legal import into the United States from a range country, each shipment of bigleaf mahogany must be accompanied by a CITES Appendix-II export permit issued by the Management Authority in the range country. Prior to issuing such a permit, that country's Management Authority will be required to make a determination that the mahogany wood was legally acquired, and the Scientific Authority of that country will be required to make a determination that the export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. This second determination is the new requirement imposed by the

CITES Appendix-II listing for mahogany range countries issuing export documents.¹ This new requirement will impact exporters of bigleaf mahogany in the range countries but will essentially bring about no procedural change in the CITES requirements for U.S. importers, since in both the case of Appendix III and Appendix II, a CITES document issued by the exporting country must accompany each bigleaf mahogany shipment upon import into the United States.

- The second difference regards the inclusion of plywood in the Appendix-II listing. Plywood is not included in the current Appendix-III listing. Its inclusion in Appendix II will affect U.S. importers and re-exporters of bigleaf mahogany plywood, as CITES documents will now be required to accompany such shipments.

The other CITES requirements for Appendix-II mahogany will be the same as they are now for Appendix-III mahogany. As with Appendix III, any shipment of Appendix-II mahogany to be imported into or re-exported from the United States must go through an APHIS designated port for timber, where the shipment is cleared prior to entering or leaving the United States. Also as with Appendix III, for legal import into the United States from a mahogany re-exporting country, a shipment of Appendix-II bigleaf mahogany must be accompanied by a CITES re-export certificate issued by the CITES Management Authority in the country of re-export, and for legal re-export from the United States, a shipment of Appendix-II bigleaf mahogany must be accompanied by a CITES re-export certificate issued by this office. Domestic sales and purchases (commercial transactions within the United States) of bigleaf mahogany will not be affected by the Appendix-II listing.

The steps taken by the CITES authorities in both the range countries and the United States to implement the requirements of the Appendix-II listing for bigleaf mahogany should help to assure mahogany producers, exporters, importers, wholesalers, retailers, and consumers that trade in this species is legal and based on sustainable harvests. They will also help to ensure the continued survival and commercial availability of this important species. The Appendix-II listing is not a ban or a boycott and should not be misconstrued as such. To the contrary, Appendix-II documentation that demonstrates that mahogany was legally acquired and produced sustainably (through the determinations of legal acquisition and non-detriment) should serve as a positive marketing tool in the face of environmental awareness in consumer purchasing.

In voting for the Appendix-II listing, the United States made clear that the listing was not designed to discourage trade but rather to promote the future trade in bigleaf mahogany based on sustainable harvests. After the proposal was adopted, the United States stated its commitment as the largest importer of bigleaf mahogany to making the listing work and its intention to collaborate with the range countries to support their actions to implement the listing. This letter is part of our ongoing efforts to

¹ Under Appendix III, for legal import into the United States from a range country, each shipment of bigleaf mahogany must be accompanied by a CITES export permit or certificate of origin issued by the Management Authority in the country of export. For those range countries that listed the species in Appendix III (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Peru), each of their Management Authorities is required to make a determination that the mahogany wood was legally acquired prior to issuing a CITES export permit. For the other mahogany range countries, each shipment of Appendix-III mahogany must be accompanied by a CITES certificate of origin.

carry out this commitment, which is one element of the President's Initiative Against Illegal Logging.

We have enclosed for your information the addresses of the current CITES Management and Scientific Authorities in the major bigleaf mahogany exporting range countries (Enclosure Set 1) and sample copies of the CITES export permit forms currently issued by the Management Authorities of those countries (Enclosure Set 2). We have also enclosed a copy of a brochure entitled *CITES and the Wood Products Trade*, prepared by the United States in 2000 as an educational tool on trade in CITES timber species. If you need an application for a CITES certificate for the re-export from the United States of bigleaf mahogany logs, sawn wood, or veneer sheets (or plywood, effective November 15, 2003), you may download it from our Website at <http://forms.fws.gov/3-200-32.pdf>.

We look forward to working with you on the implementation of this listing. We are in the process of developing additional mahogany outreach materials and a Web page on CITES timber listings, with a focus on mahogany. Please watch for the new Web page at <http://international.fws.gov>. As we compile additional information about the Appendix-II listing of mahogany or such new information becomes available to us, we will post it on this Web page.

If you have any questions, please contact me at: tel: 703-358-2093, fax: 703-358-2281, or Email: managementauthority@fws.gov. If you have specific questions about APHIS designated ports for CITES-listed timber, or other mahogany enforcement matters, please contact Mr. Bud Petit de Mange, with APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine, at: tel: 301-734-7839, fax: 301-734-5269, or Email: bud.petitdemange@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Peter O. Thomas, Chief
Division of Management Authority

Enclosures

cc: International Wood Products Association
Hardwood, Plywood and Veneer Association

ENCLOSURE SET 1

CITES MANAGEMENT AND SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES FOR BIGLEAF MAHOGANY IN THE MAJOR MAHOGANY EXPORTING COUNTRIES

As of April 17, 2003

BELIZE

Management Authority:

The Chief Forest Officer
Forest Department
Ministry of Natural Resources
Belmopan, Belize
tel: (5018) 22079; 22630; 22711
fax: (5018) 22333; 22083
Email: conservation@mnrei.gov.bz

Scientific Authority:

None designated

BOLIVIA

Management Authority:

Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible y Planificación
Viceministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Av. Mariscal Santa Cruz, No. 1092
Casilla No. 12814
La Paz, Bolivia
tel: +591 (2) 312075; 312522; 310966
fax: +591 (2) 330540; 310966

Scientific Authority:

Museo Nacional de Historia Natural
Calle 26, Cota Cota, Campus Universitario
Casilla de Correo No. 8706
La Paz, Bolivia
tel: +591 (2) 795364
fax: +591 (2) 770876
Email: mnhn@mail.megalink.com;
iecbf@ceibo.entelnet.com

BRAZIL

Management Authority:

Sr. Antônio Carlos Hummel - Director
Edifício sede do IBAMA
Av. L4 Norte SAIN s/n
70800-200, Brasília, Brazil
tel: (5561) 2254443; 3161475
fax: (5561) 2236410
Email: antonio.hummel@ibama.gov.br

Scientific Authority:

Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis - IBAMA
Departamento de Recursos Florestais - DERE/DIREN
IBAMA - Edifício Sede
SAIN - L4/Norte
70.800-200 - Brasília - DF, Brazil
tel: (5561) 3161257; 2262081
fax: (5561) 2268711

GUATEMALA

Management Authority:

Lic. Noé Adalberto Ventura Loyo
Secretario Ejecutivo
Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas
5ta. ave 6-06, Z.1
Edificio IPM, 7mo. nivel
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
tel: +502 5180290 (mobile)
Email: seconap@guate.net

Scientific Authority:

Licda. Mygdalia Luz Garcia Reyes
Directora de Vida Silvestre
Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas
5ta. ave 6-06, Z.1
Edificio IPM, 6to. nivel
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
tel: +502 2381188; 2380000
fax: +502 2534141
Email: migdaliagarcia258@hotmail.com

HONDURAS

Management Authority:

Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería
Despacho Ministerial
Boulevard Centroamérica
Avenida La FAO
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
tel: +504 (2) 397603; 398851
fax: +504 (2) 311547; 325375
Email: gperez72@sigmanet.hn

Scientific Authority:

Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Forestales (ESNACIFOR)
Departamento de Investigación

MEXICO

Management Authority:

Dr. Fernando Clemente Sánchez
Director General de Vida Silvestre
Subsecretaría de Gestión para la Protección Ambiental
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)
Av. Revolución No. 1425, Nivel 1
Col. Tlacopac
Delegación Álvaro Obregón
01040 Mexico City, D.F., Mexico
tel: +52 (55) 56243306/07/08/09
fax: +52 (55) 56243642
Email: fclemente@semarnat.gob.mx
Web: <http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/vs/>

Scientific Authority:

Dr. Jorge Soberón Mainero
Secretario Ejecutivo
Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)
Liga Periférico-Insurgentes Sur 4903
Col. Parque del Pedregal
14010 Mexico City, D.F., Mexico
tel: +52 (55) 55289101
fax: +52 (55) 55289131
Email: jsoberon@xolo.conabio.gob.mx

NICARAGUA

Management Authority:

Lic. Leonardo Chavez
Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARENA)
Kilómetro 12 1/2 Carretera Norte
Apartado No. 5123
Managua, Nicaragua
tel: +505 (2) 632595; 331173; 331994
fax: +505 (2) 632595
Email: cites@ibw.com.ni

Scientific Authority:

Lic. José Vicente Morales Molina
Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARENA)
Kilómetro 12 1/2 Carretera Norte
Apartado No. 5123
Managua, Nicaragua
tel: +505 (2) 632595
fax: +505 (2) 632595
Email: cites@ibw.com.ni

PANAMA

Management Authority:

Licdo. Ricardo Rivera J.
Director Nacional de Patrimonio Natural
Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente
Apartado 08 43 zona C
Balboa, Ancón, Panama
tel: (507) 3150855 (ext. 176)
fax: (507) 3150573

Scientific Authority:

Escuela de Biología
Universidad de Panamá
Panama, Panama
tel: (507) 2640582; 2636133 (ext. 319)

PERU

Management Authority:

Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA)
Calle Diecisiete No 355 (Los Petirrojos)
Urbanización El Palomar
San Isidro - Apartado Postal 4452
Lima 27, Peru
tel: +51 (1) 2243298; 2259809
fax: +51 (1) 2243218; 2259809
Email: inrenadcb@viabcp.com
mprieto@inrena.gob.pe

Scientific Authority:

Universidad Nacional Agraria - La Molina (UNALM)
Facultad de Ciencias Forestales
Av. Universitaria s/n
Apartado Postal 456
La Molina
Lima 1, Peru
tel: +51 (1) 3492041
fax: +51 (1) 3492041
Email: feforestales@lamolina.edu.pe

VENEZUELA

Management Authority:

Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales (MARN)
Director General del Recurso Forestal
Torre Sur, 22o piso
Centro Simón Bolívar, El Silencio
Caracas 1010, Venezuela
tel: +58 (212) 4081553/85/86
fax: +58 (212) 4081254
Email: rsilva@marn.gov.ve;
sramirez@marn.gov.ve

Scientific Authority:

Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales (MARN)
Consejo Nacional de la Fauna Silvestre (CONAFASI)
Torre Sur, 6o piso
Centro Simón Bolívar, El Silencio
Caracas 1010, Venezuela
fax: +58 (212) 4083912

ENCLOSURE SET 2

SAMPLE COPIES OF THE CITES EXPORT PERMIT FORMS CURRENTLY ISSUED BY THE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES OF THE MAJOR BIGLEAF MAHOGANY EXPORTING RANGE COUNTRIES

As of April 17, 2003

This enclosure set is available upon request from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Management Authority at:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Management Authority
4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700
Arlington, Virginia 22203
Tel: 703-358-2095
Fax: 703-358-2298
Email: managementauthority@fws.gov

BROCHURE ENTITLED “*CITES AND THE WOOD PRODUCTS TRADE*”

This brochure, prepared by the U.S. Government in 2000, can be accessed on the U.S. Forest Service’s Website at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/global/aboutus/policy/multi/bind.htm#1>