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

Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species

PROGRESS REPORT OF PERU

The attached document has been submitted by Peru.*

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL FOREST AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Advances in information management to facilitate control of mahogany and other species in Peru

PERÚ Ministerio de Agricultura
Dirección General Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre

STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL FOREST AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Ministry of Agriculture as CITES Management Authority in Peru, supported by other public entities involved in controlling trade of forest species and wildlife, specially mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla), have been investing financial, logistic and human resources in the following areas:

I. Strengthening the existing National Forest and Wildlife Information System– SNIFFS, which currently becomes easier the record and transparency in monitoring the use of mahogany, among other species.

II. Improving existing control mechanisms for forest and wildlife species.

III. Building a Control Module which will be articulated with a strengthened version of SNIFFS.

The SNIFFS, which has been progressively enhanced, will allow information sharing between the public institutions and forest stakeholders, within a fashion time. Information sharing will be of key data and documentation regarding the management and international trade of Swietenia mahogany as well as for other species in Peru. In parallel, the improvement program for existing control mechanisms has been developed.

Also, given that it is necessary to have a new version of SNIFFS that incorporates specific tool to control and close monitoring of the production process of mahogany and other forest resources, the construction of the SNIFFS Control Module was launched since 2009.

Control Module Building Process

2009

Creation of the Technical Working Group and Interagency Working Group with USFS Technical Assistance

The initiative is led by the Ministry of Agriculture as National Forest and Wildlife Authority and as CITES Management Authority. It has had the participation of other central government entities, regional governments and technical assistance from the US Forest Service / Peru Forest Sector Initiative.

2010

Developing the first mapping of processes of the Peruvian forest sector

At this stage, we elaborated a detailed chart of all stakeholders, activities, tasks, actions, which included their level of importance and frequency. Problems were identified in the processes and the roles of each stakeholder were adjusted 2010 Developing the first mapping of processes of the Peruvian forest sector

2011

Redesigning identified processes

We have redesigned processes in the forestry business chain and standardization of criteria which resulted in detailed sub-processes and procedures.
Likewise, solutions and national standards were established in order to provide an adequate institutional, legal and operational framework to allow optimum control of forest and wildlife resources.

Control Module Benefits

The future implementation of the Module will allow having specific tools to control the forest production process and will ensure that products are exported under applicable international agreements.

Among the main advantages of the construction and implementation of the Control Module are:

- Procedure celerity for users, given the reduction of terms and administrative processes.
- Timely provision of information to institutions and forest stakeholders.
- Improved quality and access to information.
- Information integration between public institutions.
- Increased confidence among forest products consumers, since they will access and provide information on their transactions within a reasonable time.
- Improved forest management.
- Identification and increased use of species that have low commercial value.
- Cost reduction per transaction.

2012

Developing the module prototype

The implementation of the prototype is a pioneering initiative in the country. Due to its complex nature, it would be necessary to add an educational and simple tool that will show the users how it works as well as its value.

Developing the module architecture

It is proposed a module architecture that will reflect the operational form in which the new processes and mapped and optimized procedures would be applied.

Developing the technological solution

This stage includes the development or acquisition of software program which responds to the SNIFFS Control Module's architecture.

2013

Functional Test

A Control Module pilot will be carried out in a given geographic corridor that will cover all forest business chain, from logging to export. It will allow identifying necessary adjustments for subsequent implementation at national level.

2014

Control Module Implementation

Control Module implementation nationwide, in coordination with related institutions thereof.

I. Improvements existing control mechanisms for forest species and wildlife

The National System for Forest and Wildlife Information SNIFFS

Since 2005, the national export quota for mahogany has been progressively reduced. In 2011, it included only 205 trees from a total of about 119,000 to 130,000 specimens, according to a conservative estimation of the species commercial population made by CITES Scientific Authority. Export permits are only granted to timber mahogany products coming from authorized management units included in the national export quota.

It should be noted that despite the wide extension of the Peruvian Amazon, during the last year mahogany has only been exported from Madre de Dios, one of the 25 regions of the country. To establish Mahogany national export quota for 2011, CITES Management Authority has verified the existence at 100% of the mahogany trees included in the 8 Annual Operating Plans for this region.

For 2012, the export quota will be established on the basis of 7 Annual Operating Plans for Madre de Dios, verified 100%.

For forest species management such as mahogany, the current SNIFFS allows statistical information processing, promotes transparency and facilitates public information access.

To date SNIFFS includes the following applications:

Local Application for information entry (SIF-AL)

It is a software designed for information entries and management generated by the Technical Forestry Administration and the regional offices.

This application keeps updated key information such as transport guides, payment receipts, records of issuance, and extraction balances of mahogany and other species.

Application for export permits (SAPE)

Facilitates tracking documents required to apply for export permits within a reasonable period of time, to verify the chain of custody. The information is publicly available through http://cites.minag.gob.pe/.

Forest users can access which verify the legal origin and chain of custody of CITES-listed tree species. The information in this application also allows comparing the amount exported with the corresponding quota, and thereby estimates the annual surpluses. Also provides to information for importing countries for subsequent control legal origin and chain of custody of the purchased mahogany.

II. Improvements made at control mechanisms

In order to improve forest and wildlife control mechanisms, CITES Management Authority has implemented a set of regulatory, technical and logistic measures, among which are the following:

Implemented improvements

- Progress in determining an indicator to monitor illegal logging.
- Amendments to existing legislation regarding the mandatory use of marks in the logs, the use of the operations forestry book and better management in the use of forest transportation guides.
- Implementation of operations book in digital format required for shipments made through the Internet and data matching.
- Implementation of preventive control by CITES Management Authority through the review of forest transportation guides, administrative rulings and other relevant information in most regions.
- Upcoming implementation of satellite Internet and subsequent interconnection.
- Subscription and execution of the agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Tax Administration - SUNAT. Already signed.

III. Construction of the Control Module -SNIFFS

Peru has multiple mechanisms to control tree species like mahogany, but they were not efficiently articulated within the National Forest and Wildlife Information System – SNIFFS.

As part of the new SNIFFS, a Control Module is now in construction in order to incorporate specific control and close monitoring tools of the forest business chain.

The Control Module will constitute an efficient and modern mechanism that will allow the interconnection between government entities and users as well as exchange of reliable information along the forest production chain.

Therefore, information related to mahogany trade, annual export quotas status, traded amounts, and existing balances will be available within a short time of period.

Context in which the Control Module is developed

The geographic, political and technical scenarios, on which the Control Module is developed, have the following specifications:

Reduced access to technology
According to official statistics provided by the National Institute of Statistics and Data Processing – INEI, only a quarter of households in Peru have at least one computer and in rural areas access to these equipments reach only 3%. Likewise, 18% of households have Internet access and in rural areas, only 0.5% has this service.

Uneven geographical area
The Amazon covers 54% of the Peruvian territory, area where Swietenia macrophylla grows. Its geography is very rugged, crossed by the Andes Mountain Range, which hinders the establishment of roads. Most of the population has to use river transportation, a rather slow and expensive conveyance.

The complicated geography, the limitations on technology and communication make it difficult for computer systems to work in real time on these remote areas of the Peruvian Andes and Amazon. Therefore, the transmission of information between local, regional and national instances take several days.

Interagency coordination in progress
Peru is divided into 25 regional areas that have political, economic and administrative autonomy. The consolidation of the regions was evident as of 2000. Progressively the Regional Governments are assuming forest control functions.

In this framework, it is necessary to strengthen the interagency coordination across all regional and national authorities and build capacities that will facilitate information management.

Progress on the implementation of the Control Module

Up to May 2012, the development process of the Control Module SNIFFS has the following achievements:

Strategic Plan for Developing the Control Module

It was elaborated through a participatory approach; the strategic plan facilitates the articulated work between regional and national authorities involved in forest management.

Technical Assistance Management

US Forest Service/Peru Forest Sector Initiative committed with technical assistance for the all project.

Benchmarking system models

Technical field trips to benchmark technical information systems in Washington DC and Utah (US).

Institutionalization of the Technical Working Group

Technical Working Group with all public institutions involved in forest management. Main functions:

Development of a participatory methodology for the process
Development of regular and extraordinary work meetings
Organization of specific meetings by topics: taxes, security, administration, and others.

Developing the first Peruvian forest sector mapping process

Through a participatory process that included contributions from about 18 key public institutions, all of the activities that are part of the forest production chain were analyzed. This work was possible by using IBM BlueworksLive application.

47 processes were identified and analyzed, which integrate the following stages:

Forest land planning
Granting operating permits
Forest management
Primary transport
Transformation
Secondary transport
Products trading
Granting, renewing and concluding Forest Management Rights.
Forest products destination after sanction processes.

Redesign of identified processes

Processes Redesign through a participatory process including a total of 12 workshops carried out during 2010 and 2011 with the participation of people from: Loreto, Lima, San Martin, Ucayali, Madre de Dios and Piura.

This participatory process allowed getting involved 88 organizations key forest stakeholders in a direct way. As well, with Technical Working Group participation, 6 workshops for validation were carried out during 2010 and 2011. Citizens from Loreto Lima, San Martin, La Libertad and Ucayali attended these meetings.

As from the mapping, the stages of the forest business chain were redesigned, work that allowed the identification of:

371 solutions
97 regulations
47 processes
1.725 activities and events
825 raw materials and products
591 decision points

Currently the solutions defined are under analysis.

Prototype start-up

This tool is being developed by a team formed by software specialists from the US Forest Service, the General Directorate of Forest and Wildlife, and three Amazon regional governments.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

SECRETARY

DGFFS - National Forest and Wildlife Authority
CITES Management Authority
Technical assistance from the US Forest Service

INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN FOREST AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

National Forest and Wildlife Authority
DGFFS

Regional Forest and Wildlife Authorities
Regional Governments

Supervision Agency of Forest and Wildlife-OSINFOR

National Tax Authority-SUNAT

National Service of Protected Areas - SERNANP

STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONS

Ministry of Environment
Scientific Authority CITES

Ministry of Transport and Communication

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ministry of International Affairs

Ministry of National Defense

National Prosecution Authority

Judicial Authority