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SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY 'CITES'
SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY IN REGARD TO
***SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA* SPECIES (MAHOGANY)**

HISTORY.-

In December of the last year Peruvian CITES authorities issued a communication on the actions which were being performed to implement the inclusion of *S. Macrophylla* into the appendix 11 of Cites.

There, it was indicated the application of a code of purchase under responsibility of the exporters, which among other things included the fact of no purchasing timber coming from agricultural zones, which is one of the main sources of the illegal timber.

Established forests for permanent production have been awarded by public tender for a period of 40 years. The territories of the native communities remain under their control, however, pursuant to the Peruvian law and regulations, all the transported timber must come from areas with Forest Management General Plan and with respective Year Operative Plans, and their plots must be of annual felling. Both plans must be duly approved and controlled by the competent forest authority. This

action contributes to the forest care and is aimed to ensure its permanence including the *S. Macrophylla*.

Besides, the concessionaires and the communities are bound by law to leave uncut 10% of tree population broader than the minimum felling diameter, that is the seed trees. This would ensure the species regeneration in the working zones provided the necessary conditions for their planting and further growth.

The existing information on population under 75 cm diameter at chest level, has not been gathered, however, a project aimed to measure the available species stock is being implemented.

In the Peruvian Protected Natural Areas, the mahogany species is widely spread and is protected in a representative manner in relation to tree populations countrywide.

ACTIONS IN EXECUTION

Verification actions of the forestry concessions have begun. This will allow to quickly outline the present state of the populations within the concessions and the wood volumes which may be moved without significantly affect the existing mahogany populations and the species' future.

The said operation is performed with INRENA's logistics support and in each task force there is a University's representative as a scientific authority. In Madre de Dios the operation has already begun, is now running, and will be completed on early March. At that stage we will have available a very accurate information on the situation of the populations within the concessions and their future assurance. After that, we will proceed with Ucayali, which is the other region with a considerable production of *S. Macrophylla*, and afterwards we will continue with the rest of the regions.

The Yearly Operative Plans corresponding to 2005–2006 harvest are to be worked during March and April, so that it allows to control *S. Marcophylla* populations from the very beginning and with trees standing, regulating as efficiently as possible the exploiting operations.

The next months, backed by ITTO, the project to know the current and actual state of *S. Marcophylla* populations will be going to start. This action should allow to determine the prospective production of the whole country at national and regional levels. The project covers an extensive zone of the country.

As it can be appreciated, in March there will be as much information as to state on the situation of the populations of said species and we will have new, more reliable elements which would provide such sound ground as to enable the Scientific

Authority to give its opinion. If necessary, we could provide much ground and widen our report personally at your next meeting.

La Molina, February 11, 2005