

Peter/Andrea: Many thanks for this readout? Did you all get any inkling that the Peruvians were thinking of setting quotas on mahogany?

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter_Thomas@fws.gov [mailto:Peter_Thomas@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 10:28 AM
To: LeeHS@state.gov
Cc: Andrea_Gaski@fws.gov
Subject: Mahogany Update from Plants Committee

Harvey --

Peter is at the Trilateral in Mexico this week and I am his Acting. For an update on mahogany ---

Roddy, who is at the Plants Committee in Geneva, sent us a quick email indicating that Peru (person not named) showed up to the meeting late. Peru sent a letter to the Secretariat indicating that they wanted to be the chair of the Mahogany Working Group (MWG) and would help insure that the range countries would do all that was asked for them to do by the Parties in the Mahogany Working Group decisions. (The MWG will be doing all of its work electronically.) Peru also made a brief statement also about how hard they are working on mahogany and indicated that they have set a quota for mahogany and that it would be published in a Notification by the Secretariat. It has not been posted today. Anyway, Roddy asked the EU if they knew what the actual amount of the quota was and the EU wasn't sure -- they guessed it was 27,000 cubic meters.

Margarita Clemente, the Chair of the PC from Spain, was very stern and strong about the whole mahogany situation, the possibility of mahogany going on sig trade, and the MWG work. She indicated that there is a need for demonstratable progress from Peru or the PC will put mahogany on the sig trade process at PC16 -- in one year. [Margarita was just down in Peru for a training session and may have had a chance to get the unofficial word from the government about the situation and maybe talked to NGOs on this -- I am speculating.] Roddy speculates that Margarita's strong words supported by the whole Plants Committee will give the Peruvian Management Authority the international cover it needs to take action and fight against corruption, intimidation, and any threats from the industry.

Margarita said that Peru should submit the CVs of three people to Chair the MWG and the PC would decide who will do it. She also asked that the U.S. be Vice Chair and has to provide the same information. All these submissions have to be done by June 15th. Roddy speculates that she is doing this so the PC has control who the Chair is or isn't, i.e. not someone in the hands of the industry, etc.

If I hear anything more, I will pass it on. I will be passing this info on to IWPA as Peter requested. So if I heard anything from them, I will let you know. They were the one that told us last week that Peru had set a quota -- they heard it from industry sources in Peru.

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