



WORKSHOP

“Sustainable Trade and Management of Mahogany”



Swietenia macrophylla

Working Principles, Findings, Recommendations, and Unresolved Issues

**Co-Hosts: Tropical Forest Foundation and
EMBRAPA Amazonia Oriental**

Belém, Brazil
May 2-4, 2002

Sponsors: International Wood Products Association, Timber Exporters
Association of the State of Para, U.S. AID/U.S. Forest Service
International Programs

AIMEX





Introduction

“Big-Leaf” Mahogany (*S. macrophylla*) is and has for many generations been the most popular exotic tropical timber species in the trade. In recent years, trade in mahogany has become controversial. In May 2002, more than 100 people interested in the species gathered in the heart of the Amazon Basin to assess difficulties related to its management and trade and to look for solutions. The workshop was unusual in that it was designed to feature the participation of the mahogany producers and buyers to which public perception and the future of the mahogany resource is so important. This is a report from that Workshop.



Dr. Ariel Lugo delivered one of the keynote addresses in the opening session in Belém

Panelists and speakers included scientists, government, NGOs, and industry representatives from Latin America, the United States and Europe having a major stake in the management and/or in the trade of mahogany.

The Workshop, “*Sustainable Trade and Management of Mahogany*”, was co-hosted by the Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF) and Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agro-Pecuária (EMBRAPA), and was co-sponsored by the International Wood Products Association (IWPA), the Timber Exporters Association of the State of Para (AIMEX), U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service - International Programs.

The Mahogany Workshop was made possible through the generous funding of U.S. AID, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, the International Wood Products Association, and donations from the following:

- Industry producers and consumers
- American Furniture Manufacturers Association
- Hardwood Plywood Veneer Association
- Architectural Woodwork Institute.

Dr. Ariel Lugo, Director of the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (Puerto Rico) facilitated development of a consensus summary and recommendations from the workshop.

The key Principles, Findings and Recommendations from the Mahogany Workshop are provided for the benefit of those who have a role in the management and trade of mahogany.

Working Principles, Findings, Recommendations, and Unresolved Issues (adopted by consensus of all attendees)



Working Principles

- Conservation and sustainable use of mahogany and of tropical forests is the primary objective of our activities.
- The principle of sustainability should guide all uses of mahogany and of the tropical forest.
- People are part of the resource use/conservation equation and part of the solution.
- Realizing the economic value of tropical forests is consistent with conservation and sustaining biodiversity.
- Sustaining trade activity is part of sustaining tropical forests.
- Active management in the context of sustainability is compatible with conservation.
- How mahogany is managed sets an important precedent for the management of tropical forests in Latin America; it might well dictate the future of these forests.
- Bans on logging and trade activities are generally counterproductive in relation to a sustainable use of forests.
- Scientific information provides the basis for effective management activities.
- Scientists provide scientific information to enlighten and inform debates, policy, management, and decision-making.

Findings: General

- Business as usual is no longer possible in the context of today's social environment.
- The public is receiving significant levels of misinformation about tropical forestry; this promotes myths and confusion.
- A misinformed public endangers the conservation of tropical forests.

- Low impact logging pays off ecologically and economically, but will not alone create proper conditions for abundant regeneration of mahogany.
- Mahogany stands dedicated as “seed reserves” contribute to regeneration and conservation of genetic diversity when scattered over the landscape.

Findings: Technical

- Sufficient technical information is available for managing mahogany stands.
- However, the species functions along multiple gradients of topography, rainfall, temperature, and disturbance, and there is a need for more research and synthesis of available information.
- Mahogany has a complex life history and different size classes appear to have different requirements to advance to larger sizes.
- Forest use and management requires continuous tree inventories to assess forest productivity, regeneration, and sustainability of stocks.

Findings: Commercialization & Trade

- Trade bans, excessive bureaucracy, and punitive—as opposed to incentive-based—regulations hinder trade and reduce the effectiveness of the market.
- These measures penalize and obstruct legitimate businesses while facilitating corruption, criminal activity, and ineffective use of resources.
- All the above create confusion and a negative image for tropical timber in foreign markets and jeopardize the competitive position of tropical woods in the world market.
- Wood from naturally grown large trees has greater commercial value than wood from smaller trees or plantation-grown wood.



Working Principles, Findings, Recommendations, and Unresolved Issues

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- There is profit in the commercialization of mahogany seed production.
- The productive sector is undercapitalized and unprepared to properly manage the tropical forest.
- All aspects of the wood industry require clear rules and predictable conditions to facilitate long-term investments.

Recommendations: General

- Land owners, producers, and buyers must actively collaborate to contribute to government policy.
- Expand the conservation dialogue to all sectors of society.
- Develop a new synthesis of the ecological knowledge on mahogany.
- Develop new policies and guidelines for the management of mahogany.
- Assure that mahogany in trade is sustainably produced.
- Implement an education and publicity campaign in favor of sustainable tropical forest management, use of wood, and forest conservation.

Recommendations: Management

- Sustain seed production capacity on logged areas and throughout the range of mahogany.
- Establish at local levels a minimum diameter limit on harvesting of mahogany.
- Promote long-term investments for the management of mahogany in the range states.
- Restore mahogany to deforested sites.
- Regenerate current and previously logged mahogany stands.

Recommendations: Other

- The group expressed unanimous agreement in support of forest cover throughout the range of mahogany.
- Organizers should consider a second workshop in two years.
- A number of participants said they would be interested to participate in a working group to continue the dialogue, with a goal of convening a second workshop in two years.
- Participating organizations should post in their WEB pages or publish in their newsletters these *Working Principles, Findings, Recommendations, and Unresolved Issues*.
- These *Working Principles, Findings, Recommendations, and Unresolved Issues* should be sent with a letter explaining how they were developed (through consensus of participants) and a list of the registered participants to: the governments in the mahogany range, trade associations globally, CITES secretariats globally, ITTO, the investment community, NGO 's, the media, public institutions with interest in tropical forests, and others as required.

Issues That Remain Unresolved

- What constitutes the proper approach to certification of management activities in diverse tropical forests?
- Should public lands be subject to a system of forestry concessions?
- Do we need one strategy for managing mahogany stands and another for managing forests that lack mahogany?
- Is the burden of responsibility for tracking wood from the forest to the buyer on the government, the wood industry, or both? If both, how could this be done?

Addendum I



Official Program

Welcome:

“Sustainable Trade and Management of Mahogany”

- Dr. Adilson Serrao, Diretor do EMBRAPA
- Robert Petterson, President, Tropical Forest Foundation

Industry Welcome:

- Mr. Bruce Frost, President, International Wood Products Association
- The Honorable Elias Salame da Silva, Presidente da AIMEX

Brazilian Host Welcome:

- The Honorable Edmilson Brito Rodrigues, Prefeito da Cidade Belém
- The Honorable Dr. Almir José de Oliveira Gabriel, Governador do Estado do Pará, Represented by Dr. Carlos Antonio Rocha Vicente, Secretario de Extrativismo Floresta, Acre
- The Honorable Jorge Ney Viana Macêdo Neves, Governador do Estado Acre
- The Honorable Dr. Rômulo José Fernandez Barreto Mello, Presidente do IBAMA, Represented by Dra. Selma Melgaco, Gerente Executiva
- The Honorable Dr. Raimundo Deusdará Filho, Diretor, MMA, National Forestry Programme
- Dr. Ubiratan Cazetta, Procurador Regional da República no Pará
- The Honorable Manoel Malheiros Tourinho, Diretor da FCAP
- The Honorable Francisco Macedo, do Director, FIEPA

OPENING SESSION - *“Why are we talking about Mahogany?”*

Keynote Presentations:

1. Evaristo de Moura Terezo – Forest Industry Consultant. *An Industry Overview; Background & Evolution of Trade in Mahogany from Latin America*
2. Dr. Ariel Lugo, Director, USDA Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry - *Progress & Advances in Mahogany Management*

3. Raimundo Deusdará Filho, Director, MMA, National Forestry Programme. *A acao do Ministerio do Meio Ambiente para a conservacao dos recursos florestais da Amazonia: O Programa de Florestas*

4. Carlos Antônio Rocha Vicente, Secretário de Extrativismo Floresta Acre State. *“Mahogany management in Acre”*

PANEL I: Commercial & Scientific Status of Big-Leaf Mahogany

Facilitator: Plinio Sist, Coordenador do CIRAD, CIRAD FORET

Panelist 1: Paulo Gonçalves Barreto, Diretor do IMAZON, *“Mahogany in the Brazilian Amazon: Lessons Learned and Policy Initiatives”*

Panelist 2: Jorge Avila, Camara Forestal de Bolívia, *“Commercial Status of Mahogany in Bolivia”*

Panelist 3: Guillermo Zender, President, Cormadera Peru, *“Commercial Status of Mahogany in Peru”*

Panelist 4: Dr. Julio C. Figueroa Colon, Ecologist, IITF *“Natural Mahogany Density and Stand Structure along an Environmental Gradient”*

PANEL II: Current Forest Management Practices & Problems

Facilitator: Dr. Natalino Silva, EMBRAPA Amazônia Oriental

Panelist 1: Dr. Patricia Negreros-Castillo, Iowa State University *“Latest Advances in Mahogany Management in Mexico”*



Addendum I Official Program

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Panelist 2: Dr. Laura K. Snook, Programme Leader, Sustainable Forest Management Center, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), *“New insights about sustaining mahogany from six years of studies in MesoAmerica”*

Panelist 3: Dr. Steve Jennings, Project Manager, ProForest *“The Density & Size Distribution of Mahogany Before & After Logging”*

Panelist 4: Dr. Jimmy Grogan, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Science, USA/IMAZON, *“Natural Forest Management of Mahogany”*

PANEL III: Changes and Trends in Consumer Attitudes

Facilitator: Wendy Baer, Executive Vice President, International Wood Products Association

Panelist 1: Roberto Smeraldi, Director, Amigos da Terra

Panelist 2: Tasso Rezende, Imaflora, Smartwood Brazil

Panelist 3: Dr. Penelope Bienz, Timber Trade Federation, U.K. perspective

Panelist 4: Philip Duvic, AWI, Architectural Perspective

Panelist 5: Donald A. Thompson, Thompson Mahogany Co.

PANEL IV: Challenges in the Mahogany Trade

Facilitator: Keister Evans, Executive Director, Tropical Forest Foundation

Panelist 1: Perito Garcia, Red Maderias (Brazil)

Panelist 2: Guilherme Carvalho, AIMEX (Brazil)

Panelist 3: Romel Bezerra, Aljoma Lumber Co.

Panelist 4: Larry Cross, J. Gibson McIlvain Co.

Panelist 5: Tom Herga, Intercontinental Hardwoods

Panelist 6: Rodney Newman, Newman Lumber

Panelist 7: Ivens Robinson, Robinson Lumber

Panelist 8: Stewart Sexton, DLH Nordisk

Panelist 9: Tom Dean, Dean Hardwoods

Working Meeting of Closing Session Panelists

CLOSING SESSION/SUMMARY

DISCUSSION/DIALOGUE

Industry’s Role in Achieving a Sustainable Future for Mahogany & Its Trade

What have we heard? What was suggested?

Where do we go from here?

Discussion Summary

Discussion Leader: Dr. Ariel Lugo, Director, International Institute of Tropical Forestry

CLOSING - Workshop Chairman:
Robert Petterson, TFF
President

Addendum II

Registered Participants



Speakers/Panelists

Jorge Ávila, Camara Forestal de Bolívia
Wendy Baer, International Wood Products Association
Paulo Gonçalves Barreto, IMAZON
Romel Bezerra, Aljoma Lumber Company
Dr. Penelope Bienz, Timber Trade Federation (U.K.)
Guilherme Carvalho, AIMEX
Dr. Ubiratan Cazetta, Procurador Reg. da República no Pará
Dr. Julio C. Figueroa Colon, Ecologist, IITF
Larry Cross, J. Gibson McIlvain Company
Tom Dean, Dean Hardwoods
Philip Duvic, Architectural Woodwork Institute
Keister Evans, Tropical Forest Foundation
Dr. Raimundo Deusdará Filho, MMA, Nat. Forestry Program
Bruce Frost, IWPA (Frost Hardwood Lumber Co.)
Perito Garcia, Red Maderas
Dr. Jimmy Grogan, USA/IMAZON
Tom Herga, Intercontinental Hardwoods
Dr. Steve Jennings, ProForest
Dr. Ariel Lugo, USDA Forest Service, Int'l Inst. of Tropical Forestry
The Honorable Francisco Macedo, FIEPA
Dra. Selma Melgaco, IBAMA
Dr. Patricia Negreros-Castillo, Iowa State University
Rodney Newman, Newman Lumber Company
The Honorable Jorge Ney Viana Macêdo Neves, Gov. do Estado Acre
Robert Petterson, Tropical Forest Foundation (Caterpillar Inc.)
Tasso Rezende, Imaflora, Smartwood Brazil
Ivens Robinson, Robinson Lumber Company
The Honorable Edmilson Brito Rodrigues, Prefeito da Cidade Belém
The Honorable Elias Salame da Silva, AIMEX
Dr. Adilson Serrão, EMBRAPA
Stewart Sexton, DLH Nordisk
Dr. Natalino Silva, EMBRAPA Amazônia Oriental
Plinio Sist, CIRAD, CIRAD FORET
Roberto Smeraldi, Amigos da Terra
Dr. Laura K. Snook, Sustainable Forest Management Center, CIFOR
Evaristo de Moura Terezo – Forest Industry Consultant.
Donald A. Thompson, Thompson Mahogany Company
The Honorable Manoel Malheiros Tourinho, FCAP
Dr. Carlos Antonio Rocha Vicente, Sec. de Extrativismo Floresta
Guillermo Zender, Cormadera Peru

Attendees

Paulo Adário, Greenpeace
Suely Agostinho, Caterpillar Inc.
Mauricio Almeida
Paulo Amaral, IMAZON
Claudia de Azevedo
Ubiran Messias de Andrade Costa, SAGRI
Mario de Assis Menezes, Ações Estratégicas
Anadilza Baima, EMBRAPA
Ramiro Bentes, Pará State
John van Blommestein, Inter-Continental Hardwoods
Art Blundell, USAID Global Forest Team
Armando Borges, AIMEX
Drago Bozovich, Bozovich Timber Products
René Capriles, ECO-21
José do Caremo Lopes, EMBRAPA
Martinho Arnaldo Campos Carmona, Assembléia Legislativa
Paulo Chaves, EMBRAPA
Nelson Cintra, CIKEL Brasil Verde
Eriel Cruz, EMBRAPA
Milo Davila, Greenpeace
Andresa Dias, AMAZON

Renato Dedini, Bozovich Timber Products
Wilson Diaz, Thompson Mahogany
Michael Duncan, Caterpillar Inc.
Jon Fabian, Berlion Ltd
R. A. Ferguson, Terra Novaco
José Severino Filho, Madenorte
Carl Gade, The Penrod Company
Marcos Cipriano Cardoso Garcia
William von der Goltz, Downes & Reader
Emmanuel Gonçalves Matos, Secretário de Estado
Robert Hendricks, U.S. Forest Service International Programs
Gustavo Hernández, CATIE
Kemel Kalif, IPAM
Milton Kanachiro, IBAMA
Jonathan Kingdom
Sandro Marcelo Correa Lages, Madenorte
Roberto Leão, Aljoma Lumber, Inc.
Ruy Lima, Maginco
Carmo Lopes, IBAMA
Lyn Loveless, IBAMA
Joao Carlos Malinski, Serraria Marajoara
Marcelo Marquesini, FSC-Brasil
Christian Matthiesen, J. Gibson McIlvain Company
Nagib Matni, DLH Nordisk, Inc.
Rui Guilherme Mendes, SOTREO
Raimundo Moraes, Ministério Público Estadual
Rosa Moraes, Caterpillar Inc.
Mirtes Morbach, AIDAI
Marcelo Moreira, Evergreen Hardwoods, Inc.
Joe Morelli, Diamond Hardwoods
Orlando Ohashi, FCAP
Delcia de Fátima Menezco Picanco
Luiz Pinto de Oliveira, Pará State
Mário Grande Pousa Jr., Tapajós Timber
Mário Grande Pousa Neto, Tapajós Timber
Luiz Carlos Pinagé, WWF Brasil
José Carlos Prado, IBAMA
Roberto Pupo, AIMEX
Antonio Queiroz, SAGRI
Rod Reader, Downes & Reader Hardwood Co., Inc.
Danilo Remor, President, FIEPA
Ruth Rendeiro, EMBRAPA
Alcir Riberio, CIKEL Brasil Verde
Kevin Russom, Berlion Ltd.
Leandro Raul Rymysza, Lamapa Laminados de Madeiras do Pará S/A
Nilma Macedo Sarmento, IBAMA
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Danilo Edson Silva, Sotreq S.A.
Manoel Silva, CIKEL Brasil Verde
Phil Sitman, Greenpeace
Antonio Solano, Jr., Caterpillar Inc.
Leônidas Ernesto de Souza, AIMEX
Eric Stoner, USAID/Brazil
Paulo Sérgio Soares, SAGRI
Erik Svane-Knudsen, DLH Nordisk, Inc.
Patrick Symmes, Outside Magazine
Nabiek Nakgeuris Tourinho
Juan Valle, C.I.C. do Brasil
Jorge Villanueva, Villasa Exportadora e Importadora Ltda.
Laércio Pereira Vulcão, Pará State
Jorge Yared, EMBRAPA
Daniel Zalewski, C.I.C. do Brasil
Newton Jordão Zerbini, MMA
Johan Cornelis Zweede, FFT



Addendum III Recommendations - AIMEX

Recommendations of Timber Exporters Association of the State of Para, Brazil (AIMEX) for Mahogany Production in Brazil

1. Assist, with the available data and information, in the procedures to implement economic and ecological zoning in forest production areas.
2. Establish and maintain a fund originated from Mahogany products, to be managed by BASA and AIMEX, directing the use of the financial resources exclusively for forest inventory and associated research.
3. Support the efforts of the Brazilian Government towards finding a country to finance a Mahogany and other species forest inventory, which was approved by ITTO and waiting financing.
4. Implementation by MMA/IBAMA of a specific system for control of Mahogany logging, through logging quotas, where assigned volumes would be based on the authorized volumes in the Sustainable Forest Management Plants, thus providing transparency to all interested parties of all the procedures carried through in logging activities.
5. Conduct the necessary technical and scientific research to support the Brazilian proposal for Mahogany in the next CITES Conference.
6. MMA/IBAMA and similar agencies must establish policies for the adequate use of the Mahogany existing in private properties, National Forests and Indian Reservations.
7. MMA/IBAMA must provide proper conditions to carry on the necessary discussions with producers and the civil society, as well as the legal framework to regulate Mahogany production before issuing new Regulations.
8. Discuss with the competent agencies all industry's policies aiming to the sustainable production of Mahogany, including legal land ownership.
9. Allow awareness and participation of private companies or their representatives, when inspecting the production, manufacturing or trade of Mahogany.
10. All companies who produce, manufacture or trade Mahogany must carry on large-scale reforestation of the species and publicize the results of their efforts wherever possible.

About the Organizers

The Mahogany Workshop was organized by a planning committee under the auspices of the Tropical Forest Foundation. The planning committee included the following individuals:

- **Wendy Baer**, Executive Vice President, International Wood Products Association
- **Keister Evans**, Executive Director, Tropical Forest Foundation
- **Robert Hendricks**, Senior Policy Analyst, USDA Forest Service, International Programs
- **Stewart Sexton**, President, DLH Nordisk
- **Les Whitmore**, Tropical Forest Foundation Board Member, President of the International Society of Tropical Foresters.

The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (**Embrapa**)'s mission is to provide feasible solutions for the sustainable development of the Brazilian agribusiness. To date, EMBRAPA has generated and recommended more than nine thousand technologies for Brazilian agriculture, reduced production costs and helped Brazil to increase the offer of food while, at the same time, conserving natural resources and the environment and diminishing external dependence on technologies, basic products and genetic materials.

IWPA, the **International Wood Products Association**, is the only group organized in the United States to represent and serve the

interests of the imported wood products industry. Membership is comprised of U.S. wood product importers, overseas producers and exporters, manufacturers, buyers, sellers and businesses offering services allied to the industry.

The **Tropical Forest Foundation** was founded ten years ago to address issues of conserving tropical forests through sustainable forestry. The Tropical Forest Foundation has become widely recognized for establishing demonstration models and training schools to show the advantages of sustainable forest management applying the principles of Reduced-Impact Logging (RIL).

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