How can we benefit from this valuable resource?

Hurricanes Irma and Maria have left thousands of fallen trees in our streets, yards, farms, and forests. One of the most important tasks after a hurricane is to clear the streets and remove downed trees. However, this also presents an opportunity to take advantage of the high economic value that can be recovered by salvaging the tropical wood of our downed trees.

What can you do?

• Evaluate the type of wood, size and condition of the tree to determine whether it is worth saving.
• Contact resources that can orient you with respect to:
  ✓ The value of the wood and options for selling it;
  ✓ The best ways to remove, store, and cut the wood;
  ✓ The availability of artisans, sawmills, and collection centers or people who can receive the wood.
• Take steps to cut and store downed trees in ways that preserve the maximum economic value of the wood.

Which trees have economic value?

Trunks measuring more than 12 inches in diameter and 12 feet long are the most valuable. If the trunk must be cut, recommended lengths are 8’ and 4’. Trunks less than 4’ long are useful to artisans. Most species have economic value. Some examples of valuable trees are:

- Acacia (Albizia spp.)
- Almond, Almendro (Terminalia catappa)
- Bulletwood, Ausubo (Manilkara bidentata)
- Stinking toe, Algarrobo (Hymenaea courbaril)
- Mahogany, Caoba (Swietenia spp.)
- Spanish elm, Capa Prieto (Cordia alliodora)
- White cogwood, Caracolillo (Homalium racemosum)
- Spanish cedar, Cedro hembra (Cedrela odorata)
- Eucalyptus, Eucalipto (Eucalyptus robusta)
- Four-leaf buchenavia, Granadillo (Buchenavia capitata)
- American muskwood, Guaraguao (Guarea guidonia)
- Mango (Mangifera indica)
- Cabbagebark tree, Moca (Andira inermis)
- Antilles calophylum, María (Calophyllum calaba)
- Doncella, Maricao (Byrsonima spicata)
- White cedar, Roble (Tabebuia heterophylla)
- Pine, Pino (Pinus caribaeae)
- Gregorywood, Úcar (Bucida buceras).
How to proceed?

It is important to identify and store the tree trunks so that they maintain value and are not taken to a landfill or chipper. Contact collection centers, artisans and sawmills, or let us know if you have trees to salvage.

If you are clearing and removing woody debris, you should cut trunks into lengths of 4, 8 or 12 feet and store them in a dry area or off of the ground. If you have milling capabilities trunks may be squared to remove the bark and outer wood where moisture, insects and fungi can damage the trunk and reduce the value. Wood may be stored in these conditions for a long time, under a roof and with space for air between timbers.

For more information contact:

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Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry
(787) 764-7718, (787) 308-458; mafigueroa@fs.fed.us

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Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry
(787) 764-7790, wgould@fs.fed.us

Local Sawmills

*Be sure to call before visiting a sawmill to confirm that it is accepting downed trees. If you own a sawmill and would like to be part of this list please contact us.

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<th>Aserradero Nando Otero</th>
<th>Taller Alvarado</th>
<th>Puerto Rico Hardwoods</th>
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<tr>
<td>Javier Otero</td>
<td>Jose Alvarado</td>
<td>Andrés Rúa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ciales</td>
<td>Orocovis</td>
<td>Thirty Vakil</td>
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<tr>
<td>(787) 871-1658</td>
<td>(787) 215-5139</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andres@prhardwoods.com">andres@prhardwoods.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>La Cialesña</td>
<td>Edwin Román</td>
<td>Patillas</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Villalobos</td>
<td>Bo Voladora Moca</td>
<td>(787) 308-4588</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bo Cordillera Ciales</td>
<td>(787) 818-2134</td>
<td>Taller Chiquitín</td>
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<td>(787) 871-2419</td>
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<td>Victor Delgado</td>
<td>Neftali Maldonado</td>
<td>(787) 245-1843</td>
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<td>Lares</td>
<td>Parcelas Vázquez Salinas</td>
<td>Aserradero Río Encantado</td>
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<tr>
<td>(787) 897-4864 (787) 452-2423</td>
<td>(787) 612-6823</td>
<td>José Juan González</td>
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<td>Aserradero Bayaney</td>
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<td>Bo Bayaney Hatillo</td>
<td>Morovis</td>
<td>(787) 447-9550</td>
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<td>(787) 898-5231</td>
<td>(787) 862-0438</td>
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Thanks to Andrés Rúa and Thirty Vakil, Puerto Rico Hardwoods, for sharing information about Puerto Rican Wood.

For more information about Puerto Rico Hardwoods contact: andres@prhardwoods.com, Patillas, (787) 308-4588