

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



Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
The Hague (Netherlands), 3-15 June 2007

Strategic matters

Cooperation with other organizations

COOPERATION BETWEEN CITES AND ITTO REGARDING TRADE IN TROPICAL TIMBER

1. This document has been submitted by the United States of America.

Introduction

2. The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is an intergovernmental organization promoting the conservation and sustainable management of, use of and trade in tropical forest resources. Its 59 members represent about 80 % of the world's tropical forests and about 90 % of the global tropical timber trade.
3. Over the past several years, with the listings in Appendix II of commercially traded timber species such as the bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) and ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), there has been an increase in cooperation between CITES and ITTO to support efforts to insure that these listings are fully implemented. For example, ITTO provided technical and financial support for meetings of the CITES Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group, sponsored a Workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the CITES Appendix-II Listing of Mahogany (in Pucallpa, Peru, in May 2004), and convened an Expert Meeting on the Effective Implementation of the Inclusion of Ramin in Appendix II of CITES (in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in May 2006).
4. Through project activities, ITTO provides direct assistance to its members to enhance their capacity to practice sustainable forest management and to implement CITES listings of tropical timber species. The activities of ITTO that are CITES-related have significantly increased in recent years and are now a major element of ITTO's work programme. ITTO's project and policy activities related to CITES bring together stakeholders from range countries, importing countries, trade organizations, and environmental organizations, and, among other objectives, they also identify cooperative strategies for implementing CITES listings and assisting producer countries to achieve sustainable forest management.

Recommendation

5. The United States recognizes the important role that ITTO has played and continues to play in supporting the efforts of CITES with respect to international trade in tropical timber species at risk of being over-exploited through international trade. We believe that the ongoing cooperation between CITES and ITTO must be strengthened. Therefore, in the Annex to this document the United States has provided a draft resolution aimed at fostering this effort, and recommends that the Parties adopt this draft resolution.

## COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The Secretariat welcomes the initiative of the United States to strengthen the collaboration between the CITES and ITTO Secretariats.
- B. In view of the increasing collaboration between the CITES and ITTO Secretariats, the Secretariat suggests to work on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) through the adoption of the following draft decision:

### *Directed to the Secretariat*

14.XX On the basis of the recognition by the Conference of the Parties of the primary role of ITTO and regional forestry management organizations in forestry management and the role of CITES in regulating international trade, the Secretariat shall work with the ITTO Secretariat on the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CITES and ITTO, to establish a framework for cooperation.

The following terms of reference should guide the Secretariat in carrying out this work:

- a) elaborate provisions regarding future ITTO involvement in the scientific assessment of amendment proposals pertaining to tropical timber species;
  - b) cooperate with respect to capacity building in timber producing countries, in particular efforts centred on the non-detrimental nature of exports and forestry law enforcement activities of mutual interest;
  - c) append to the MoU annexes consisting of workplan listing issues of common interest to both organizations; and
  - d) report on work completed under the MoU at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES and session of the ITTO Council.
- C. The Secretariat is of the opinion that a MoU would be a more robust call for cooperation than a resolution since it would represent an agreement between the two organizations.
  - D. Currently there are four Resolutions that call for cooperation with other organizations [Conf. 10.4 on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention of Biological Diversity, Conf. 11.4 (Rev. CoP12) on Conservation of cetaceans, trade in cetacean specimens and the relationship with the International Whaling Commission, Conf. 12.4 on Cooperation between CITES and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources regarding trade in toothfish, and Conf. 13.3 on Cooperation and synergy with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)]. There are a number of MoUs (with CBD, CMS and FAO) that also establish a formal cooperation with other organizations and, there are two cases (CBD and CMS) where both Resolutions and MoU have been adopted with the same purpose of 'call for cooperation'.
  - E. The Secretariat would like to propose a harmonization of these 'calls for cooperation' and it would like to hear from Parties whether they would support a standard approach in the future when establishing relationships with other MEAs, IGOs and other partners.
  - F. Alternatives for a way forward could be to:
    - a) merge all current Resolutions that call for cooperation with other conventions or organizations into a single resolution with the same purpose, mentioning all of the bodies concerned, and to make any necessary update at every meeting of the Conference of the Parties; or
    - b) adopt a new resolution indicating all of the conventions or organizations with which the CITES Secretariat should develop a cooperative relationship from CoP14 onwards;

If a resolution such as that mentioned in paragraph a) or b) above were adopted, it could give the Secretariat a mandate to develop MoUs with other conventions, intergovernmental organizations or

other partners, and instruct it to consult the Standing Committee in specific cases as considered appropriate.

- G. Finally, the Secretariat finds that the paragraph starting with 'URGES' in the proposed resolution is redundant with Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP13) on Implementation of the Convention for timber species, which already calls Parties to consult with at least four different organizations from a list of 14 that includes ITTO. If the Parties adopt the proposed resolution, the Secretariat recommends deleting this 'URGES'.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber

RECOGNIZING that CITES aims to ensure the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that CITES can play a positive role in promoting the conservation of timber species through trade in accordance with the requirements of Articles III, IV and V of the Convention;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the objectives of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), 1994, include providing an effective forum for consultation, international cooperation and policy development with regard to all relevant aspects of the world timber economy and promoting trade in tropical timber from sustainable sources;

NOTING the important role that the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has played and continues to play with respect to international trade in tropical timber species;

WELCOMING the increase in cooperation between CITES and ITTO and especially the support provided by ITTO for meetings of the Bigleaf Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) Working Group and the Expert Meeting on the Effective Implementation of the Inclusion of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) in Appendix II of CITES, as well as the assistance provided by ITTO to its members to enhance their capacity to implement CITES listings of tropical timber species;

ALSO WELCOMING the successful conclusion to the negotiation of a successor agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

***With regard to international trade in tropical timber***

URGES CITES Parties that are also party to ITTA, 1994, or its successor agreement, and that intend to submit proposals for listing of tropical timber species, to consult ITTO as part of the consultation process recommended in Resolution Conf. 10.13 (Rev. CoP13) on Implementation of the Convention for timber species;

RECOMMENDS that CITES Parties that are also party to ITTA, 1994, or its successor agreement, bring to the attention of the International Tropical Timber Council any concerns regarding the effects of international trade on tropical timber species;

***With regard to illegal logging and associated trade***

WELCOMES the work of ITTO in promoting sustainable management of tropical timber-producing forests and, in that context, promoting efforts to combat illegal logging and associated trade;

DIRECTS the CITES Secretariat to cooperate closely with the Secretariat of ITTO on all matters related to international trade in tropical timber species and sustainable management of tropical timber producing forests; and

ENCOURAGES all Parties and relevant intergovernmental organizations to cooperate to promote improved forest governance and combat illegal harvesting and associated trade in timber and other forest products, including wildlife.