

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



Nineteenth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-21 April 2011

Timber issues

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE JOINT CITES-ITTO TIMBER PROGRAMME

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. In 2006, the CITES and ITTO Secretariats launched a four-year project entitled *Ensure that international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation*. This activity was originally included in ITTO's 2006-2007 Work Programme which allowed a grant proposal for its implementation to be developed and submitted to the European Commission, which agreed, at the end of 2006, to fund 80 % of the nearly 4 million USD original budget. The programme is being managed by ITTO with assistance of the CITES Secretariat and three regional coordinators.
3. Thanks to the very generous contributions from the European Commission, the United States of America, Switzerland, Japan, Norway, Germany, New Zealand and, the private sector, the programme budget now amounts to 4.5 million USD up to date.
4. The programme has benefited recently from private sector interest, with two pharmaceutical firms (Solvay and Indena) providing nearly USD 400,000 to fund programme activities to promote sustainable management of *Prunus africana* in Cameroon. Negotiations are underway with three additional pharmaceutical firms to fund similar work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. All of these pharmaceutical firms were represented at the African regional workshop. Germany and Switzerland also provided funds to the programme in 2010 and Norway has provided some funding through the programme to support the implementation of Decision 15.97 in Madagascar. However, the demand for support still substantially exceeds available resources under the programme, with many eligible activities submitted by countries awaiting financing.
5. Both the CITES and the ITTO Secretariats are very thankful to the donors who have made it possible for eight participating countries (Brazil, Cameroon, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, and the Plurinational State of Bolivia), to strengthen their capacities to conserve, manage and trade in ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), afrormosia (*Pericopsis elata*) and mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), three key timber species listed in CITES Appendix II.
6. Since its inception, the International Tropical Timber Council and, the Conference of the Parties to CITES, have expressed their continuous support for this partnership between the two organizations. Through this programme, participating countries have acquired experience and made progress towards a robust implementation of CITES for these timber species.
7. ITTO was represented at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15, Doha, March 2010), where a side event on the programme was organized and the Parties were informed of progress with implementing this programme. Three regional workshops were organized in 2010-2011 to share

experiences gained under the programme and to plan future actions: in Africa (Cameroon, October 2010), in Asia (Malaysia, December 2010) and, in Latin America (Brazil, February 2011).

8. The CITES Secretary General, Mr John Scanlon, visited the ITTO Secretariat in October 2010 and met with the ITTO Executive Director, Mr Emmanuel Ze Meka, and the ITTO-CITES programme's team. The CITES Secretariat participated in an ITTO side event at CoP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, October 2010). Later on, the CITES Secretariat participated at the 46 Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC, Yokohama, December 2010).
9. The programme has assisted countries in generating the preliminary information needed to make non-detriment findings and establish export quotas for species listed in CITES Appendix II. It has also provided training and other capacity-building assistance on wood identification, timber tracking, conversion factors, legislation, etc.
10. The ITTO Secretariat has developed a website to publish information on the programme (http://www.itto.int/cites_programme/). All activity completion reports are posted on this website, linked to the ITTO website together with a quarterly programme newsletter that is also emailed to donors, participating countries and other interested stakeholders. The latest version of the newsletter is in document PC19 Inf. 8 providing more details of the various activities either underway or already completed.
11. An external evaluation of the programme was completed in early 2010 by an independent consultant, and the resulting recommendations are being used to plan future work. The programme advisory committee met for the third time immediately before CoP15, and its fourth meeting was convened during the 46 ITTC Session (Yokohama, December 2010). At its third meeting, the advisory committee recommended, *inter alia*, that the programme continue to seek funding from donors and that its scope be extended to non-timber tree species listed in CITES and CITES Appendix III tree species.
12. Now that the baseline has been established for biological and trade information on these species, training on various CITES matters has been provided to national authorities and, some of the information that was missing before the programme has been generated. Many channels of communication have been opened among the different participating stakeholders.
13. The strategic alliances are the key to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and, the ITTO-CITES cooperation is an alliance that can benefit many tree species in trade beyond those listed. Both CITES and ITTO have been promoting sustainable management of tropical forests for many years, which is why this partnership is so successful and will hopefully last. The Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber*, calls for this cooperation to continue.
14. The end of 2010, marked the end of the European Commission grant period. However, work under the programme will continue thanks to on-going interest of countries and donors. Furthermore, 2011 has been declared the International Year of Forests by the United Nations and, this year marks the beginning of the joint ITTO-CITES programme 'second phase', where the same species are found and, the project team will start working on other tree species that are being used for other purposes than timber.
15. The Plants Committee is invited to note the information contained in the present document.