



## INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

22 November 2012  
Ref. No. L.12-0343

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 16 November containing details of proposals to list several tropical timber/tree species in the CITES Appendices at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to CITES next March in Bangkok. We were pleased to have Ms. Milena Schmidt from the CITES Secretariat at the recently concluded 48<sup>th</sup> ITTC Session. During the regular ITTC agenda item on reporting on new CITES listing proposals, the details of the listing proposals contained in your letter were conveyed to ITTO's members. There were no substantive comments on the proposals, all of which were acknowledged to have emanated from range states of the concerned species. One or two country representatives had questions about the *Dalbergia* species proposals given the global range of this genus. These countries were informed that the listing proponents were urged to consult with all other range states of the species in question prior to the COP. We will let you know if we receive any additional comments or feedback on any of the listing proposals from ITTO members prior to the COP.

I also note in this regard that ITTO was contacted by officials from Belize, Madagascar and Thailand regarding their proposals, all dealing with different species of *Dalbergia* (and, in the case of Madagascar, with the various other species listed in your letter). As you are aware, the Madagascar listing proposals have been at least partly facilitated by a project funded under our joint ITTO-CITES program. In our response to all of these proponents we provided comments on the trade statistics quoted in the proposals (based on our trade database) and urged the proponents of the various *Dalbergia* proposals to consult with each other or at least to make mention of the fact that this genus was coming under pressure in other parts of the world as evidenced by the multiple proposals for listing of different species of the genus from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

I attach the limited trade statistics we have in the ITTO database for the species proposed for listing at COP 16. As you can see, the data we have indicate there is only limited officially recognized trade in any of these species, although our data confirms the relatively high values for products from these species (note that we believe that the data on Brazil's import volumes of *Senna* spp. are erroneous due to the low unit values, we have queried this but have not received a response). Unfortunately we have not received a recent breakdown of China's imports by species so if we obtain information on imports of any of these species by that important importer we will let you know.

Regarding the proposals to amend annotations of current listings of *Aniba roseaodora* and agarwood species, we have no comment on the former (which seems straightforward) but question whether Management Authorities would be easily able to ascertain the percentage content of agarwood in samples.

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Mr. John Scanlon  
Secretary-General  
CITES Secretariat  
International Environment House  
11 Chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva  
Switzerland  
E-mail: [john.scanlon@cites.org](mailto:john.scanlon@cites.org); [Elena.KWITSINSKAIA@cites.org](mailto:Elena.KWITSINSKAIA@cites.org)