

# COMPLETION REPORT

## Review on Ramin Harvest and Trade: CITES Compliance, Tri-National Task Force on Trade in Ramin, Trade Control and Monitoring

### ITTO-CITES PROJECT INDONESIA'S WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2010

Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed timber Species is Consistent with  
their Sustainable Management and Conservation

### EXECUTING AGENCY

Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation  
Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, MoF  
Mangala Wanabakti Building, Block VII, 7<sup>th</sup>. Floor  
Jl. Jend. Gatot Subroto, Senayan  
Jakarta 10270, Indonesia  
Telefax : +62 21 5720227



## **THEMATIC PROGRAM ON ITTO-CITES**

**ENSURING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN CITES-LISTED TIMBER SPECIES IS  
CONSISTENT WITH THEIR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION**

### **STARTING DATE**

May 2010 – April 2011

### **DURATION OF THE ACTIVITY**

8 months, extended to 12 months

### **ACTIVITY COST (US\$)**

ITTO	US\$ 55,000.00
Additional budget (ITTO)	US\$ 3,060.00
GOI (in-kind)	US\$ 17,450.45
Total	US\$ 75,510.45

### **ACTIVITY COMPLETION REPORT**

#### **ACTIVITY TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC STAFF**

##### **Activity Coordinator**

Agus SB. Sutito

##### **Activity Secretary**

Badiyah

Febriany Iskandar

##### **National Expert and Team Leader**

Tajudin Edy Komar

Tukirin Partomihardjo

Faustina Ida Hardjanti

Trio Santoso

Nunu Anugrah

Puja Utama

#### **IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**

Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation  
Directorate of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation  
Manggala Wanabakti Building Block VII, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Jalan Gatot Subroto, Senayan, Jakarta  
Telefax: +62 21 5720227

**Jakarta, April 2011**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Among others, existing discrepancies among international trade under CITES rules and regulations and domestic harvest and trade practices/rules are not supporting overall compliance system for Ramin management and contribute to poor trade monitoring and control. Variation and inconsistency of harvest and trade data base and quota may cause detrimental effect on Ramin population. Effectiveness of a regional mechanism, the Tri National Task Force to combat illegal trade in Ramin (Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia), temporary suspended since 2007, is needed to be reviewed.

To ensure that harvest and trade of Ramin in Indonesia is consistent with sustainable forest management and conservation of CITES-listed timber species, the project is aimed to develop guidance of CITES compliance system and implementation, to enhance regional cooperation and to improve trade data collection, monitoring and trade control.

All the Project outputs are carried out as planned, although the duration of the Project was reduced from 12 months to 7 months. At the end, the project has extended one more month to put further effort in the follow-up of recommendations for more concrete results.

After Activity Completion, current practices of Ramin harvest and trade and CITES compliance system for Ramin sustainable management have been reviewed and their gaps have been identified. Strategic guidelines towards sustainable management and conservation of Ramin have been formulated. Related authorities and stakeholders on Ramin trade at local level, national level and regional level have had a closer look and shared common view on the problems, of which required actions and further steps have been recommended. Strengthening cooperation at all levels in the practices of Ramin harvest and trade are keys to the post-activity sustainability. The CITES Management authority has taken up the Tri-national Task Force issues and proposed some follow-up approaches to strengthen regional cooperation.

Synchronization of rules and regulations as well as data collection, monitoring and control system are highlighted. Some rules and regulations even among related authorities under the same Ministry of Forestry are not harmonized in harvest and trade in Ramin. Stakeholders at local and field levels are not well aware of some incompliance practices that affect the overall data collection, monitoring and control system, which consequently influence the harvest quota and international trade.

Capacity building and dissemination of CITES rules and compliance system to wider scope of stakeholders and field officers help ease implementation synchronization and improvement of database and control system which will contribute to better SFM Practices in Ramin harvest and trade. Formal adoption of the findings and recommendations is vital to effective execution of future actions. Similar activities could be carried out for other timber and plant species listed in Appendix II such as Agarwood for enabling their sustainable management and conservation.

## **1. ACTIVITY IDENTIFICATION**

### **1.1. Context**

The Project location is Indonesia. The Activity addressed issues on Ramin harvest and trade. Logging moratorium and the inclusion of Ramin into CITES Appendix is expected to contribute to the SFM and conservation of the species by determining harvest quota. Since 2001, Ramin as a genus was listed into CITES Appendix III to assist in the trade control by both exporting and importing countries. In 2004, Ramin was up-listed into Appendix II of CITES. Indonesia has imposed a logging moratorium of Ramin since 2001 and only one Concession Company is allowed to harvest Ramin which is located in Sumatra. Other concession areas which have Ramin potentials are not allowed to harvest and trade Ramin before they achieve sustainable forest management (SFM) and certified by recognized certification company. Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore has established a regional forum since 2003/2004, called the Tri-National Task Force in Trade on Ramin to enhance data exchange to reduce illegal trade to the neighbouring countries.

### **1.2. Origin and problem**

The harvest quota is determined based on field assessment on population, habitat and potential regeneration, including the performance of concessionaire. There are discrepancies in practices and compliance to the national rules and international regulations for Ramin trade. The elaboration and description (manual and guideline on the CITES compliance system) is yet to be established and well disseminated to the relevant parties in the field, causing insufficient human resources and capacity to support such field assessment.

Monitoring on harvest and trade is still weak resulting in poor statistical data presentation and accuracy resulting in data variation and inconsistency thus it is difficult to control national, international trade both legal and illegal practices. Poor trade monitoring and tracking system has caused impacts to taxes and revenue. The National Workshop held on 24 July 2007 on the evaluation of CITES implementation has also questioned the pricing of Ramin for both domestic and international trade. This Workshop recommended that a closer look on data collection mechanism, monitoring and export control of forest products, including Ramin, needed to be carried out.

The Task Force scheduled to have annual meeting in the member countries. In 2006/2007, the meeting of the Task Force has been temporarily suspended until there is a new insight to demonstrate that the Task Force will be contributing significantly to combat illegal logging and illegal trade of Ramin.

## **2. ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

The proposed activity is expected to contribute to improved management on Ramin through the formulation of roadmap toward the SFM and conservation, improved implementation on CITES, more effective mechanism in tackling illegal trade and improved trade control and monitoring.

Inclusion of Ramin into CITES Appendix II requires assessment to ensure that the harvest will not cause detrimental effect to the survival of the species population and habitat. NDF on Ramin has not been well elaborated and introduced to the field officers and staff, especially to the relevant parties in Sumatra and Kalimantan. This activity is therefore expected to contribute to the improvement of the NDF assessment

and quota determination. In addition to NDF, the activity is expected to contribute to the improvement on the accuracy of statistical data presentation by improving data collection mechanism on the resource base, harvest and trade control and monitoring. The Workshop recommended that a closer look on data collection mechanism, monitoring and export control of forest products, including Ramin, needed to be carried out. This activity is therefore proposed to address the above issues, with specific on Ramin.

Understanding the basis for the inclusion of species into CITES Appendix, determination of harvest quota and Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) are still limited for most field officers of the CITES Management Authority and other relevant stakeholders such as plant quarantine, customs officers and the officers of Customs and Excise offices. This proposed activity is intended to improve capacity of both institutional and human resources in order to enhance the SFM and conservation of Ramin through the establishment of Ramin roadmap for sustainable management, and compliance to the implementation of CITES rules and regulations.

Mechanism in regional cooperation through the Tri-national task Force is not well established and might not respond well to the changing situation. However, roles of regional support for international trade are still considered important. There are needs for review of the ToR, and enhancement of the regional cooperation.

In addition, improved management of Ramin also requires accurate data on resources, harvest and trade. Methods of collection and presentation of trade control and monitoring, including the accuracy and up-dating of data are still poor, especially those on Ramin. Ramin, for which only one concession is allowed to harvest in Indonesia, still has the least accuracy in its statistical data, especially on its harvest and trade due to various factors and barriers. This activity is therefore proposed to identify the barriers and improve data collection, including the accuracy and consistency of trade data.

Specific objectives are

1. To establish a roadmap towards sustainable management and conservation of Ramin and to support CITES compliance practices
2. To review and enhance the regional cooperation, and
3. To improve data collection, trade control and monitoring system

The strategic approaches of inputs are mainly on workshop, training and review on the issues related to the harvest and trade on Ramin. The potential risk may be in the insufficiency of participants willing to participate.

### **3. ACTIVITY PERFORMANCE** (Activity elements planned and implemented)

There are no changes/adjustment on Specific objectives. At the beginning, the duration of the Project January-December 2010 has been reduced to May-December 2010 due to the late contract signed and urges from ITTO to finish all EU funded activities by 2010.

All projects elements were implemented as planned (May-December 2010), except for the regional workshop on the work of the Tri National Task Force on Trade in Ramin which was extended to mid January to accommodate adequate time for inputs from other Parties.

During the wrapping up results in February, the Project has added an additional activity (March-April) to follow up the recommendations of the regional by approaching

for endorsement of Indonesia CITES Management Authority and further communication to other parties. And it is implemented as planned.

The total amount of expenditure is US\$ 56,378 From the ITTO contribution, the Project budget was originally at US\$ 55,000 and there was an additional fund for US\$ 3,060 for the regional Workshop (see Annex 1 and 2). The rest of the expenditure, US\$ 17,450.45 was accounted from in-kind Government contribution (see Annex 3 and 4).

Overall Project budget were spent as planned. Adjustment for the use of fund were conducted twice, at the beginning when the project duration was reduced to seven months and at the end of the Project to use remaining fund for additional activity stated above.

#### **4. ACTIVITY OUTCOME, TARGET BENEFICIARIES INVOLVEMENT**

Major achievement/impacts of the specific objectives are elaborated below:

1. A roadmap toward sustainable management and conservation of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp) is published to be distributed to stakeholders for its application.
2. A review on trade data collection, monitoring and trade control and its workshop proceeding are published to be used as references for responsible authorities and stakeholders. Recommendations are to be followed-up.
3. The paper on *Aturan dan Ketentuan CITES Terkait Ramin (Gonystylus spp) dan Jenis Tanaman Lainnya* (CITES rules and regulation on the listing of Ramin and other plant species) is published to be used as references and training materials. Recommendations are to be followed-up.
4. A training Workshop Proceeding on CITES rules and regulation on the listing of Ramin and other plant species is published for references.
5. Responsible officers, related stakeholders and field officers gain more understanding on the CITES rules and regulation and plan to adopt/adjust their practices for CITES compliance implementation and to improve Ramin harvest and trade monitoring and control.
6. A review of TOR of Tri National Task Force and its regional workshop proceeding are published for references.
7. Recommendations from the regional workshop are taken up by the CITES Authority of Indonesia and the Authority has proposed Malaysia Authority to call for next annual meeting to discuss on the matter.

The primary beneficiaries of the Activity(the Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia (MoF), CITES – MA/CITES – SA, research institutions, universities and forest concession companies) have been actively involved in various discussions during the implementation of the Activity. As for regional cooperation parties, representatives from Malaysia, and Singapore have supported by review the draft ToR, attended the regional workshop and actively provided inputs and information.

Through active sharing opinions and discussion, the discrepancies of CITES compliance practices among related stakeholders on harvest and trade are in clearer picture, the weak points and corrective measures are shared. Many emerging creative initiatives and efforts to adopt/adjust and improve their practices are responded positively.

For the Project sustainability, many results are needed to be endorsed for legal/formal basis in future actions/measures, such as the roadmap toward sustainable

management and conservation of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp), recommendations on trade data collection, monitoring and control, recommendations on CITES compliance practices. The Authorities could then take follow-up actions. Related authorities within the Ministry of forestry have already agreed to arrange internal meetings on some relevant recommendations to synchronize related regulations.

Co-ordination and regular communications among responsible authorities and stakeholders are vital to the continuity of the impacts. Capacity building to provide more understanding to related stakeholders is not less important.

Future discussions in the next annual meeting of tri-national task force proposed by Indonesia also enhance regional cooperation.

## **5 ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS**

From the realized Project performance and outcome it can be seen that the Project Activity has been adequately designed through identification, strategies, plan and resources and is able to create impacts to the right targeted beneficiaries.

Institutions involved are actively responsible in their roles and contribute support to the Project when necessary. Time and project inputs are also quite adequate, although a little bit tight at the end of the year when most offices have long holidays.

Overall, the Project has not faced significant problems in management, monitoring and control, effectively meets the targets and efficiently spending the expenditure.

## **6. LESSONS LEARNED**

Keys of success of the Activity lie on the active roles of field operators that yield enormous insights on the problems and existing discrepancies in practices. Also, elements on the adoption/endorsement of the findings should be included in the future Project design.

It should be noted that role of ITTO Regional representative is important to the success of the Project. The activity have gained many inputs in adjusting the budget and upgrade the planned national workshop on ToR of Tri-national Task Force into Regional Workshop and supports in the provision of additional budget as needed in the adjustment.

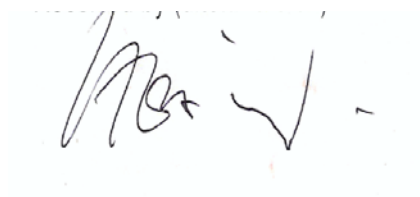
## **7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The activity is conducted successfully as planned and contributes important findings and recommendations through effective and efficient Project design and inputs. Supports from ITTO Regional Representative are credited on the matter. Some recommendations for future similar projects are:

- Involve roles of field offices/operators in the design
- Avoid important activity at the yearend
- Include elements of adoption/endorsement in the design
- Similar projects for other timber/plant species are recommended, such as agarwood and merbau.



**Responsible for the Report**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Agus SB Sutito', is written on a light blue background. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Name: Agus SB Sutito,  
Date: 30 April 2011

Position held: Project Leader