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ENHANCING COOPERATION BETWEEN ITTO and CITES

[Decisions 3(XVI), 7(XXXIV) and 2(XXXVII)]

[Item 10b of the Provisional Agenda]

This document reports on implementation of the ITTO-CITES Programme for Tropical Tree Species, currently in its second phase. Work to develop this Programme was originally included in ITTO's 2006-2007 Biennial Work Programme (BWP) which allowed a grant proposal seeking funding for an ITTO-CITES collaborative capacity building programme to be developed. The proposal was submitted to the European Union through the European Commission, which agreed to fund 80% of the nearly \$4 million (3 million euro) first phase budget at the end of 2006. The activity has continued under ITTO's 2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 BWPs with EU funding and additional contributions from the USA, Switzerland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, New Zealand, the private sector and the BPF. The Programme is managed by ITTO with assistance from three regional coordinators and the CITES Secretariat, and is guided by a program advisory committee.

Since the demand for Programme support substantially exceeded available resources under the first phase, ITTO and CITES submitted a second grant application to the EU through the EC covering the 4 year period 2012-15 for a total amount of 7.5 million euro (about \$10 million, one-third of which is to come from other donors). This grant application was approved and the first installment of funds was received in early 2012. Additional pledges were received during 2011-13 from Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, USA, and the private sector. These pledges currently make up less than 40% of the non-EC funding required under the phase two grant agreement with the EU through the EC.

Subsequent to the last progress report to Council at its 48th Session, an international workshop on SFM and CITES aimed at sharing experiences gained to date under the Programme was convened in January 2013 in Bali, Indonesia. This workshop brought together over 60 participants from all target countries, donors and other international organizations to help guide work under phase two of the Programme. A regional workshop for Central America and Mexico was convened in July 2013 to introduce the Programme to relevant countries following the listing of several species of *Dalbergia* from the region at CITES CoP 16 in March 2013. Twenty-one country-specific activities have been approved and are now underway in Brazil, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia and Peru as of August 2013, focusing on African species *Pericopsis elata* (afromosia), *Prunus africana* (African cherry), and several *Dalbergia* (rosewood) and *Diospyros* (ebony) species from Madagascar; Asian species *Aquilaria/Gyrinops* spp. (agarwood) and *Gonystylus* spp. (ramin); and Latin American species *Cedrela odorata* and *Swietenia macrophylla*. Activities (focusing especially on the non-detriment findings required under CITES Appendix II and on tracking systems) were being prepared in August 2013 by several countries in liaison with the regional coordinators for possible Programme funding. An additional 10 activities have been submitted by countries and are being evaluated or revised. The Programme advisory committee is scheduled to meet during the 49th ITTC Session. A report on Programme activities carried out during 2013 will be submitted as per the conditions of the contract signed with the EU through the EC by the end of 2013.

ITTO has developed a programme website which includes information on the Programme (www.itto.int/ITTO at [work/CITES/](http://www.itto.int/ITTO)). All activity completion reports and other relevant information are posted on the ITTO website. Three issues of the Programme newsletter have been emailed to all donors, participating countries and other stakeholders since the last quarter of 2012. Various outreach materials have been prepared to provide information on Programme outputs, including three videos highlighting work in each tropical region, brochures, posters, banners, etc. All outreach materials clearly indicate donors to the Programme's second phase. A toolkit containing, *inter alia*, Programme outputs and guidance on NDFs for tree species is under development and will be completed in 2014.

Consultations with the CITES Secretariat have continued throughout 2013 to guide and focus the Programme's activities. The ITTO and CITES Secretariats also continue to organize and attend regular meetings with each other and key donors/stakeholders to discuss the Programme. The ITTO Secretariat was represented at the CITES CoP 16 meeting in Bangkok, Thailand (March 2013), where participants were informed of progress in this Programme and a successful side event was convened jointly with the CITES Secretariat. Representatives of the CITES Secretariat (including Secretary General John Scanlon) visited ITTO headquarters in August 2012 for a planning meeting on future Programme directions. The CITES Secretariat will be represented at the 49th ITTC Session and will brief members on relevant CITES developments. Following the ITTC Session, both Secretariats will attend a meeting of the EU's Scientific Review Group that deals with CITES matters in Brussels.

The ITTO-CITES cooperation fostered through this Programme is a strategic alliance that can benefit many tree species in trade beyond those listed in CITES Appendices. Both CITES and ITTO have been promoting sustainable management of tropical forests for many years, which is why this partnership is so successful. The governing bodies of both organizations have recognized the value of the alliance, ITTO through the Council decisions referenced in the title of this document and CITES through its COP Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber*, calling for this cooperation to continue.

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