



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

ITTC(LIII)/4
5 September 2017

Original: ENGLISH

FIFTY-THIRD SESSION
27 November – 2 December 2017
Lima, Peru

ENHANCING COOPERATION BETWEEN ITTO and CITES

[Decisions 3(XVI), 7(XXXIV), 2(XXXVII) and 5(XLVI)] [Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda]

(a) Listing of Internationally Traded Tropical Tree Species in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

No proposals for listing tropical tree species in CITES appendices have been received by the Secretariat in the period from the Fifty-second Session of the ITTC in November 2016 to early September 2017.

(b) Report on the implementation of the ITTO-CITES program to improve country capacity to implement CITES listings of tropical tree species

Pursuant to Decision 5(XLVI) on “Multi-Donor Mechanism to Facilitate Enhanced Cooperation between ITTO and CITES”, ITTO successfully completed implementation of a second grant of approximately US\$6,200,000 (EUR5,000,000) from the European Union (through the European Commission) in 2016. Matching contributions from other donors of over US\$3,000,000 were received by ITTO during the four-year EU/EC grant period. There has been a delay in the final payment from the EU/EC due to auditing required by the EC after financial impairment of the Organization but this audit work was completed in early June 2017 and the final payment to cover funds already expended by ITTO is expected soon.

Work to develop this program was first included in ITTO’s 2006-2007 Biennial Work Program (BWP) which allowed a grant proposal to be developed seeking funding for an ITTO-CITES collaborative capacity building program. The proposal was submitted to the European Union through the European Commission, which provided 3 million euros for a first phase running from 2007-2011. The large-scale funding from the EU/EC was extended to 2012-16 under an additional grant of 5 million euros to ITTO, to be matched by the equivalent of 2.5 million euros to be raised from other donors. The activity therefore continued under ITTO’s 2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2015-2017 BWPs, primarily with EU funding but with additional contributions of over \$3 million from the USA, Switzerland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, New Zealand, China, the private sector and ITTO’s BPF. The work was managed by ITTO until the end of 2016 with assistance from three regional coordinators and the CITES Secretariat, and guided by a program advisory committee.

The ITTO-CITES program completed implementation of more than 40 activities under its second phase from 2012-16. Country-specific activities were completed in Brazil, Cameroon, China, Congo, DRC, Guatemala, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia and Peru, focusing on African species *Pericopsis elata* (afro-rosalia), *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*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Dalbergia retusa* and *D. stevensonii*. Eight activities were funded and completed under the Trade and Market Transparency thematic program based on a provision of the EU/EC funding grant calling for 20% of the EU funds provided to be directed to activities with objectives relevant to both the TMT and CITES programs.

The ITTO-CITES cooperation fostered through this program has been a strategic alliance that benefits many tree species in trade beyond those listed in CITES Appendices. Sustainable management of tropical forests is a key goal of both organizations. Both ITTO's and CITES' governing bodies 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 assisting members of both organizations to implement CITES listings of tropical tree species.

As reported under this agenda item at ITTC 52, the EU/EC in 2016 decided to provide further significant funding for work on CITES-listed tree species directly to the CITES Secretariat due to its inability to provide new money to ITTO in the aftermath of the financial impairment. The representative of the CITES secretariat will provide more information to Council on the new CITES trees program they will implement. ITTO has continued to actively collaborate with the CITES secretariat in the initial implementation of the new funding grant they have received from the EU/EC, with consultations ongoing between the two secretariats on modalities for work and resource sharing under the new arrangement. Other ITTO donors are encouraged to continue to support ITTO's CITES-related work by pledging funds to the relevant activity under the 2018-19 BWP.

From ITTC 54 onward, progress in implementing ITTO's CITES-related work (including utilization of any new donor funding received) will be included in the Council agenda item reporting on implementation of the BWP.