

**ITTO -
CITES**

PROGRAM FOR IMPLEMENTING CITES LISTINGS OF TROPICAL TREE SPECIES – PHASE II

Newsletter



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This Newsletter is issued as activities under the second phase of the ITTO – CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Tree Species are getting underway. Following up on the successful first phase of the program (2007-2011), this second phase will continue work for four more years (2012-2015) on the most important CITES-listed tropical tree species in trade. The program is again majority-funded through a grant from the European Commission, which calls for part of the available funds to be devoted to activities relevant to both the ITTO-CITES Program and the ITTO Thematic Program on Trade and Market Transparency (TMT). The Newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis, in English, French and Spanish, and will be made available to all program stakeholders and other individuals interested in the progress of the ITTO–CITES Program. This first issue covers a summary of program activities during the period up to the end of September 2012.

Suggestions and contributions from program stakeholders are essential to make future issues of this Newsletter as informative and interesting as possible. Please send any correspondence to the relevant contact(s) listed on the last page.

Editorial

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) are pleased to continue, under the current second phase of the ITTO-CITES Program (2012-2015), this quarterly Newsletter which was first issued in March 2009. Through this Newsletter, governments of range States, sponsors, implementers of activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, other stakeholders and interested individuals will be kept informed of the progress of the ITTO-CITES Program and thereby contribute to the development of effective forest regimes that promote and ensure sustainable forest management and timber trade.

The activities under the ITTO-CITES Program reported by this Newsletter in providing assistance to countries throughout the tropics will cover, among others, improved inventory designs for assessing population trends for CITES-listed tree species and knowledge concerning their biology, ecology and management; non-detriment findings (NDF) for CITES-listed tree species based on transparent and scientifically sound methodologies; harmonized regulatory frameworks for aligning forestry and CITES legislation and the work of relevant institutions in relation to forest management and species conservation; enhanced relevant authorities to comprehensive access of timely and reliable information on timber trade through tracking and tracing technologies; capacities required to monitor existing tropical timber markets and develop new markets, including the trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested sources; and enhanced market transparency and to share experiences on trade and trade promotion.

The Program will continue to be managed by the ITTO Secretariat in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat and with the assistance of Regional Coordinators in Africa, Asia and Latin America who work with forest authorities, research institutions, the private sector, academia, and other stakeholders to identify, implement and monitor activities implementation. Program activities are guided by an Advisory Committee.

As the details provided here on Activities being implemented by the Program show, it continues to have an important impact on the implementation of CITES regulations for tropical tree species. Given that the number of tropical tree species included in the CITES Appendices looks set to continue to grow (see News in this issue), we anticipate increased demand for support under the Program. We therefore appreciate the financial support from the EC and other donors, including the USA, Norway, Germany and the private sector, whose combined generosity has made this Program possible.

Steve Johnson, ITTO

Donors



Private sector donors: Abbott-Solvay, Indena, EuroMed and Plavuma

ITTO-CITES Program

The "ITTO – CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Tree Species" aims to ensure that international trade in CITES-listed tropical tree species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation. The specific objective of the program is to assist CITES national authorities and the private sector to meet the requirements for managing and regulating trade in CITES-listed tree species; and to provide capacity-building support and conduct specific studies where information is lacking so as to develop an enhanced global framework for the production, collection and analysis of information related to the biology and management of species and trade in tropical forest products. The main species covered to date are *Pericopsis elata* (afromosia or assamela), *Prunus africana* (pygeum) and *Diospyros* spp. (ebony) of Central Africa and Madagascar; *Swietenia macrophylla* (bigleaf mahogany), *Cedrela odorata* and other *Cedrela* spp. (cedro), *Bulnesia sarmientoi* (lignum vitae or palo santo), and *Aniba roseodora* (Brazilian rosewood) in Latin America; as well as *Dalbergia* spp. (rosewood) in both Africa and Latin America. Those covered in Southeast Asia are *Gonystylus* spp. (ramin) and *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp. (agarwood).

The main range States producing/exporting significant volumes of these species are Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa; Indonesia and Malaysia in Asia; and Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru in Latin America.

The direct beneficiaries of this Program are public authorities and private sector operators in the timber sector in the range States. The indirect beneficiaries are other Parties to CITES that trade in these species, who will benefit through capacity building and awareness-raising.

Funding

The second phase of the program has received funding from the European Commission, United States of America, Norway, Germany and the private sector. The European Commission will provide funds up to EUR 5.0 million for program implementation, with over EUR 2.5 million to be provided from other donors. ITTO will encourage donors to continue providing funds as requests for support under the program continue to exceed available resources. A recent development has been the provision of funds from several pharmaceutical companies to improve management of and produce an NDF report for *Prunus africana* in Cameroon and DRC. Norway also recently provided funding to the program to assist Madagascar with assessing timber species of conservation concern. A total of over \$800,000 has been provided so far to Phase 2 of the Program by the non-EC donors listed above.

Agreements between ITTO and institutions of range states

ITTO has recently approved four new Activities in Africa, three in Asia and one in Latin America; while one Activity in Africa and two Activities in Latin America approved during Phase 1 of the ITTO-CITES Program continued to be implemented under this current phase of the Program. In addition, 14 Activity proposals, 5 in Africa, 3 in Asia and 6 in Latin America, submitted previously to ITTO are pending approval for funding.

Most of the activities undertaken in the last few months involved the finalization of Agreements for signing between ITTO and the various academic and governmental institutions in Africa, Asia and Latin America. ITTO has signed agreements with the institutions listed in the box below since the inception of Phase 2 of the ITTO-CITES Program.

Cameroon

- ANAFOR (Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Forestier) - 1 Activity

Democratic Republic of Congo

- ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) – 1 Activity with extension

Madagascar

- Ministry of Environment and Forests, Faculty of Science of University of Antananarivo – 1 Activity

Republic of Congo

- CENIAF (Centre National d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement des Ressources Forestières et Fauniques) - 1 Activity

Indonesia

- Government of Indonesia and the Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA) - 1 Activity implemented by the Regional Research Centers of South Sumatra and South Kalimantan

Malaysia

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia (NRE) - 2 Activities implemented by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation and the Forest Department Sarawak

Brazil

- FUNPEA (Foundation for Supporting Research, Extension and Teaching in Agrarian Sciences) - 1 Activity with extension
- IFT (Tropical Forest Institute)/J. Grogan - 1 Activity with extension

Peru

- UNALM (Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina) - 1 Activity

Information about each country Activity (country, Activity document, executing and implementing agency) can be found on the ITTO website (http://www.itto.int/cites_programme). The following section provides brief descriptions and progress of the various activities undertaken by the countries since the inception of Phase 2 of the Program till September 2012. Activities pending funding will be reviewed in the fourth quarter of 2012 with a view to making the most effective use of program resources.

Activities in detail

Africa

Cameroon

Settlement of a Monitoring System for Logging and Processing of Assamela and Training Control Agents on the Use of CITES Tools and Procedures in Cameroon

The Activity started in September 2012 and is expected to be completed in August 2013. The aim of the Activity is to develop an effective monitoring system for logging, processing and trade in Assamela, as well as to train control agents in the use of CITES tools. The expected outputs include (i) the scheme of data flow is developed; (ii) data required are identified; (iii) the architecture of the system is built; (iv) data are gathered and stored; (v) users of the database are trained; and (vi) control agents are trained in the use of CITES tools.

The first meeting of the National Technical Committee (NTC) was organized by the Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Forestier (ANAFOR) on 7 September 2012. The meeting was chaired by the General Inspector of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. In his speech, the Chair of the Committee thanked ITTO, CITES, and their partners for having accepted to assist Cameroon for putting in place a monitoring system for Assamela. Members of the NTC examined the operational Work Plan and the budget allocated for the first semester and approved the proposed specific activities presented by the coordination team (ANAFOR) of the Activity. The Committee recommended that ANAFOR should ensure that the proposed monitoring system be in phase with the current tracking system being implemented through the EU-FLEGT process in Cameroon.



First Meeting of the National Technical Committee of the Activity - Settlement of a Monitoring System for Assamela in Cameroon, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 7 September 2012.

Courtesy of: Ndzé Brigitte

Democratic Republic of Congo **Non-detriment Findings for *Prunus africana* (Hook.f.) Kalman in North and South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo**

The Activity started in March 2011 under Phase 1 of the ITTO-CITES Program and is now re-scheduled for completion in March 2013. The Activity seeks to assist the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s CITES Scientific Authority (SA) to address the Non-detriment Findings report for *Prunus africana* in the North and South provinces of Kivu and to draft a report for the CITES Secretariat addressing every single recommendation directed to DRC by the Plants Committee in the context of the Review of Significant Trade (STR). It will also request the lifting of the current suspension on exports of *Prunus africana* from DRC, based on the scientific data generated with the implementation of this Activity. The expected outputs are (i) a well-established state-of-the-art database on production, processing, transport and trade in *P. africana* products; (ii) delimitation of *Prunus* forests and estimated abundance/density of *Prunus*, as well as scientifically calculated sustainable harvest quota; (iii) simple management plans elaborated and implemented for each *Prunus* forest; (iv) silvicultural operations promoted; (v) capacity building for CITES Management and Scientific Authorities conducted and control system enhanced; (vi) a well-developed research focus on relevant topics related to the sustainable management of *P. africana* in DRC; (vii) the ban on DRC's *Prunus* is lifted and a Non-detriment Findings report finalized and *P. africana*'s quota defined for the two Kivus; and (viii) results from the Activity are disseminated through various publications.

The Activity encountered many problems in its implementation, namely, the instability/insecurity in the *Prunus* production sites due to the present of many rebel groups, and the long distance that separates Kinshasa, the Headquarter of the Activity (ICCN and the production sites in the North and South Kivu. As a result, it was estimated that the Activity had only completed around one-quarter of its planned activities by September 2012.

In September 2012, the Activity team undertook a one week mission to South Kivu. The objectives of the mission were to identify safe production sites of *Prunus africana* which could be inventoried, and to train local technicians on how to undertake inventories of *Prunus africana*. The mission identified eight production sites of *Prunus africana* in South Kivu. Those sites were selected based on their safety conditions. In October 2012, the Regional Coordinator travelled to Kinshasa to assist the coordination team in planning the development of simple management plans before commencing the harvesting of *Prunus africana* in the former production sites (Ibataama and Mwenda) in North Kivu, and in planning management inventories in additional production sites in South Kivu. After discussions, it was agreed that both management and systematic inventories of *Prunus africana* will commence by mid- November 2012 in South and North Kivu respectively. Future work will include (i) delimiting the first annual plots in each site; (ii) conducting systematic inventory of exploitable stems of *Prunus* in the first annual plots; (iii) putting in place a tracking system for monitoring the harvested bark; and (iv) undertaking management inventories. For details on the lifting of the ban and approval of quota for dry bark of *Prunus africana* from DRC by the European Commission, please refer to the "News" section.

Madagascar

Provision of Taxonomic Information on Madagascar's Precious Timbers and Validation, Standardization and Monitoring of their Sustainable Management

The Activity started in July 2012 and is expected to be completed in September 2013. It is undertaking research on the biology and management of various endemic species of ebony (*Diospyros* spp.) and rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp.) that have been threatened by unsustainable exploitation. One output of the project is the CITES Appendix II listing proposal for a subset of the species being studied that was submitted to the CITES Secretariat in time for consideration at the upcoming CITES CoP 16 (See News section below).

Republic of Congo

Dissemination of the CITES Convention and its Implementation Texts in Republic of Congo

The Activity will start in October 2012 and is expected to be completed in May 2013. The Activity aims to (i) train forest agents posted in different entry and exit points (ports and others) on the control of Assamela and *Prunus* products; and (ii) to disseminate information on CITES and its implementation tools. The specific objectives are to (i) train control agents on the verification of compliance of CITES permits; (ii) promote use of the "CITESWOOD-ID" tool; and (iii) disseminate relevant CITES documents in the country.

Based on work undertaken in Phase 1 of the program, research continued in northern Republic of Congo to extend the non-detriment finding for afrormosia to a wider area of the main Tala Tala FMU (under a concession for timber production issued to SIFCO Inc.) where the pilot study was undertaken in Phase 1. This research can be found at <http://www.globalresearchjournals.org/?a=journal&id=grjabs>.

Asia

Indonesia

The Assessment of Ramin Plantation Requirement and the Establishment of Ramin Genetic Resources Conservation Gardens

The Activity has commenced implementation in September 2012 and

is expected to be completed in August 2013. The objective of the Activity is to contribute to the enhancement of recovery of *Gonystylus bancanus* (ramin) population and habitats, and the conservation of ramin plant genetic resources in Sumatra and Kalimantan in Indonesia. An assessment of the areas and the number of planting materials required for ramin plantation, as well as the establishment of ramin genetic conservation gardens which will also serve as sources of stem cuttings, will be undertaken. The expected outputs are (i) the deforested-degraded ramin habitats to be restored and planted are identified; (ii) the number of ramin planting materials required for plantation establishment predicted; and (iii) ramin genetic resources conservation gardens established.

Malaysia

In Vitro Propagation of *Gonystylus bancanus* (ramin) in Sarawak

The Activity is expected to start in October 2012 and be completed in September 2013. The overall objective of the Activity is to establish effective protocols for *in vitro* propagation of *Gonystylus bancanus* via plant tissue culture technique (micro-propagation) for mass production of the species. The specific objectives of the Activity are to (i) establish effective protocols for the axenic (contamination-free) culture establishment of *G. bancanus* using field-grown planting materials; and (ii) establish protocols for *in vitro* regeneration of *G. bancanus* via direct organogenesis using axenic explants. The expected outputs are (i)

effective protocols for surface sterilization of field grown planting materials; (ii) effective protocol for axenic culture establishment of surface-sterilized explants of *G. bancanus*; (iii) optimum concentrations of cytokinin alone or in combination with auxin for shoot induction of axenic explants; and (iv) optimum explants for shoot induction.

Use of DNA for Identification of *Gonystylus* species and Timber Geographical Origin in Sarawak

The Activity will commence implementation in October 2012 and is expected to be completed in September 2013. The Activity aims to develop a DNA database based on specific haplotypes of chloroplast DNA to identify *Gonystylus* species (ramin) and its timber origin. This is to deter false identification of the species in the production chain and to curb illegal logging activities in order to enhance the sustainable management and conservation of ramin. The objectives of the Activity are to (i) construct a molecular database of ramin for the identification of species and the geographical origin in Sarawak; and (ii) develop a protocol for extracting DNA from ramin timber. The expected outputs are (i) DNA from ramin samples extracted; (ii) chloroplast DNA haplotypes between species and origin determined; and (iii) DNA extraction protocol for ramin timber developed. The results from this Activity will complement those achieved under the Activity on *Development of DNA Database for *Gonystylus bancanus* in Sarawak*, implemented in 2008 during Phase 1 of the ITTO-CITES Program, which used DNA that were extracted from leaf and bark samples.

Latin America

Brazil

Bigleaf Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in the Brazilian Amazon: Long-term Studies of Population Dynamics and Regeneration Ecology towards Sustainable Forest Management

The Activity started in July 2008 under Phase 1 of the ITTO-CITES Program. The support from Phase 2 of the ITTO-CITES Program will allow continuation of the long-term studies for an additional two years, as well as new technical extension and research initiatives. The Activity is scheduled for completion in June 2014. The objective of the Activity is to establish a biological foundation for sustainable forest management systems for bigleaf mahogany across southern Amazonia based on long-term studies of growth, reproduction, and regeneration by natural populations in primary and logged-over forests. Detailed understanding of age- and size-related mortality, growth, and reproductive rates is essential for evaluating current management guidelines and adapting management



One year old mahogany tree at Fazenda Seringal Novo Macapá, Acre state, Brazil. Courtesy of: Sofia Hirakuri

practices to changing environmental and socio-economic contexts across this vast region. By annually re-enumerating protected natural populations and out-planted seeds and seedlings in experimental logging gaps and clearings, questions about regeneration requirements, cutting cycles, and population dynamics under various management scenarios with increasing accuracy and precision will be answered. Under study since 1995 in southeast Pará, Brazil, these mahogany populations are the longest and most intensively studied populations in the Amazonia.

One of the Activity's principal outputs during Phase I, the Big-Leaf Mahogany Growth and Yield Model, available for download at <http://www.swietking.org/model-applet.html>, will be transformed into a Spanish-language interface with a fully translated User Manual for forest managers in Mexico, Central America, and South America. A training workshop in using the Model and modifying it to fit local populations and growing conditions is planned for mid-2013 at a venue to be determined.

The 2012-2013 field seasons will include re-enumerating the mahogany populations in a total area of 2,750 ha with the generous permission of two private landowners in southeast Pará. The 2012 re-enumeration at the Activity's principal field site, Marajoara, will begin in late October. More than 350 adult mahogany trees will be re-enumerated for their survival rate, diameter growth, fruit production, and crown phenology; and several thousand naturally occurring and experimentally out-planted seedlings will also be re-enumerated for their survival rate and growth. At a second field site, Corral Redondo, 70 adult mahogany trees will be re-enumerated. New research initiatives will investigate site and mahogany population histories through the use of dendro-chronological techniques.

Since the close of Phase 1, three journal articles, three book chapters, and one technical manual have been published, based on the research undertaken by the Activity. Two additional journal articles are currently under review at scientific journals. A complete list of publications resulting from the ITTO-CITES supported research can be found at <http://www.swietking.org/our-research.html>. New publications include:

- Grogan J, Schulze M. (2012). The impact of annual and seasonal rainfall patterns on growth and phenology of emergent tree species in southeastern Amazonia, Brazil. *Biotropica* 44: 331-340.
- Norghauer JM, Grogan J. (2012). The intriguing case of *Steniscadia poliophaea* (Noctuidae): potent moth enemy of young mahogany trees in Amazonian forests. In: Cauteruccio L (ed.), *Moths: Types, Ecologi-*

cal Significance and Control Methods, pp. 39-74. Nova Science Publishers, Inc., Hauppauge, NY, USA.

- Free C, Landis RM, Grogan J. (2011). User Manual for the Big-Leaf Mahogany Growth & Yield Model. Middlebury, VT, USA. 69 pp.
- Grogan J. (2011). Mahogany, mogno (*Swietenia macrophylla* King). In: Shanley P, Cymerys M, Serra M, Medina G (eds.), *Fruit Trees and Useful Plants in Amazonian Life*, pp. 101-108. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Center for International Forestry Research/People & Plants International, Rome, Italy.
- Grogan J, Peña-Claros M, Günter S. (2011). Managing natural populations of big-leaf mahogany. In: Günter S, Stimm B, Weber M, Mosandl R (eds.), *Silviculture in the Tropics*, pp. 227-235. Springer Verlag, Berlin, Germany.
- Kelty MJ, Cámara-Cabrales L, Grogan J. (2011). Red oak in southern New England and big-leaf mahogany in the Yucatan Peninsula: can mixed-species forests be sustainably managed for single-species production? *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 30: 637-65Norghauer JM, Nock C, Grogan J. (2011). The importance of tree size and fecundity for seed dispersal of a threatened Neotropical timber tree, big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*). *PLoS ONE* 6: e17488 (<http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0017488>).

Ecology and Silviculture of Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King) in the Western Brazilian Amazon

This Activity is a continuation from Phase 1 of the ITTO-CITES Program which started in March 2009 and is now re-scheduled for completion in December 2012. The Activity aims to (i) establish best silvicultural practices that enable harvesting of mahogany in natural forests; and (ii) suggest improvements to the current Brazilian Federal Law (IN No. 07, of August 22, 2003) which requires the preparation of forest management plans for conservation of the species. Specific objectives are to (i) evaluate mahogany populations in logged and unlogged forests, including size class distribution and dynamics, and phyto-sociology and stocking; (ii) test silvicultural techniques for establishing natural regeneration and enhancing volume production in natural forests; and, (iii) support research and extension activities of graduate students. The Activity can be divided into two stages - Stage I, consisting of activities developed before logging, according to the approved forest management plan (pre-harvesting activities, completed under Phase 1 of the ITTO-CITES Program); and Stage II, consisting of activities to be developed after logging (post-harvesting activities). The delay in implementing Stage II of this Activity was due to delays in issuance of the harvesting permit.

The activities of Stage II cover (i) restoration of establishment of Permanent Plots; (ii) measurement of Permanent Plots; (iii) restoration of establishment of Natural Regeneration Plots; (iv) measurement of Natural Regeneration Plots; (v) processing and analysis of data collected in the field; and (vi) preparation and printing of the final report.

Peru Assessment of Regeneration of Natural Bigleaf Mahogany and Cedar Populations in Peru

The Activity started in August 2012 and is expected to be completed in August 2013. In this regard, the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (UNALM) continues with its research on the populations of *Swietenia macrophylla* (mahogany) and the genus *Cedrela* (Cedar), after having completed the ITTO funded Project PD 251/03 Rev. 3 (F) - *Evaluation of Commercial Stocks and Sustainable Management of Mahogany and its Addendum on Cedar Populations* (*Cedrela* spp.) and *Associated Species* in 2010, which proposed a strategy of population recovery of these two valuable species. As a result, there is a need to know whether these strategies have been successful and whether the populations of these species are recovering, as well as whether their natural regeneration is occurring and growing properly. In this context, UNALM submitted this Activity for implementation under Phase 2 of the ITTO-CITES Program which was approved. The Activity is currently in the process of implementation and its operations started in October 2012.

The main objectives of the Activity are to (i) design a method to evaluate the natural regeneration of cedar and mahogany populations through analysis and evaluation of tree nurseries' quality and seed dispersal; (ii) determine the area in which these species are found and whether their locations allow knowledge on their spatial distributions to be generated; and (iii) create a tool to enable proper monitoring of the impact of silvicultural practices. The direct beneficiaries will be the CITES Scientific and Management Authorities, the national authorities, forest concessionaries and native communities, as well as all stakeholders seeking to implement a sustainable forest management plan.

Recent events/ initiatives

Regional Workshop on Bubinga and Wengé in Cameroon

A Regional Workshop on Bubinga and Wengé was held in Douala, Cameroon from 6 - 7 June 2012. The Workshop assessed the status of Bubinga (*Guibourtia* spp.) and Wengé (*Milletia laurentii*), two high

value timber species in many countries in west and central Africa, and analyzed their vulnerability and established their conservation status in each country because of the rising concerns on the over-utilization of the species. The Workshop, hosted by the Government of Cameroon through its Ministry of Forest and Wildlife, was jointly sponsored by the German International Cooperation (GIZ), ITTO and CITES.

Some forty participants from Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, consumer/buyer countries (Germany), international organizations (ITTO), logging companies (SIFCO in Congo), research and university institutions (University of Yaoundé I, IRAD), and GIZ attended the Workshop.

The Workshop was conducted in plenary and working groups. At the end of the Workshop, the participants made the following declaration - "Yes, we have preoccupations in the pressure exercised on Bubinga and Wengé in Cameroon, and presumptions of pressure in other countries. However, we acknowledge the fact that there is lack of concrete information to propose a direct registration of these species into CITES Appendices II or III. This information concerns the biology, ecology, distribution area and current potentials in particular. Meanwhile, these studies could be extended to other species like Longhi blanc (*Gambeya lacourtiana*) for the case of Congo, Essessang (*Ricinodendron heudelotti*) and Akossika (*Scohellia klaineana*) for the Ivory Coast. All these studies require financing which could come from several sources notably the concerned states and development partners."

As a result of the Workshop, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo have contacted the CITES Secretariat (or will do so soon) to propose the listing of Bubinga and Wengé in Appendix III of CITES. The report of the Workshop together with the background documents on the conservation status of Bubinga and Wengé in African countries can be found in the ITTO-CITES program website (http://www.itto.int/country_activities/).

Workshop on Tracking Technologies for Forest Governance in Malaysia

ITTO, with funding from the Government of Japan and assistance of the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), as well as collaboration from the CITES Secretariat, the World Bank-Profor and the European Forest Institute-FLEGT Asia, organized a *Workshop on Tracking Technologies for Forest Governance* in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15-17 May 2012. The objectives of the Workshop were to (i) share experience

on applications of tracking technologies for forest governance; (ii) assist in finalizing a compendium on tracking technologies produced by a consultant; and (iii) provide guidance to governments, international organizations and other stakeholders on how tracking technologies could contribute most effectively to improve forest governance.

The Workshop was attended by more than 85 participants from Africa (Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana and Liberia); Asia (Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam); Latin America (Brazil, Guatemala, Guyana, Paraguay and Peru); and Europe (Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the United Kingdom). The Executive Director of ITTO, including the Scientific Support Officer for Scientific Services of CITES and the Regional Coordinator for Asia, also participated. The report of the meeting and the final compendium of tracking technologies (published under ITTO's Technical Series) can be found on www.itto.int.

Project LEAF (Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests)

Project LEAF is led by the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Program and the United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) center in Norway (UNEP GRID Arendal), with financial support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). It is a consortium of forest and climate change initiative on combating illegal logging and organized forest crimes. Preliminary work began in November 2011 with the Project commencing in 2012. It will continue through 2013, with a view that it will become a fully-fledged program after that date.

The specific objectives of the Project include (i) providing an overview and review of extent, primary geographic locations, routes, causes and structure of networks involved in illegal logging, corruption, fraud, laundering and smuggling of wood products; (ii) supporting countries in improved enforcement efforts; (iii) providing training and operational support and insights into the way organized criminals organize their activities; and (iv) developing best practices for combating REDD-related and forest-related corruption.

Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL)'s DNA Barcoding and Endangered Species

In August 2012, the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL), US National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, had at the request from Google Foundation prepared a pre-proposal to develop and promote a DNA barcoding system of IUCN Red List and CITES-listed species that can be used by national

enforcement agencies. The project will involve the implementation of a scalable and cost-effective system of detection and enforcement based on DNA barcoding through designing and building of a public and freely accessible database of reference DNA barcodes for endangered species; and in engaging government agencies through outreach and training in using the reference library for border inspection, courtroom prosecutions, and other enforcement measures.

The project will concentrate on the US, viewed as the leader among industrialized CITES countries, and eleven key 11 biodiversity-rich developing countries, namely, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Namibia, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, China, India, and the Philippines that are politically influential in their respective regions and have been involved in CBOL's barcoding activities in the past. A sum of US\$4.74 million is required for the three-year implementation period. The expected benefit of the project is that the risk of extinction will be reduced for potentially hundreds to thousands of endangered species which will set in motion a political chain reaction leading to adoption of DNA barcoding as the standard tool for species identification used by all national governments and international organizations, such as CITES, IUCN and INTERPOL.

Upcoming events

Training workshop on CITES Tools in Republic of Congo

A *Training Workshop on CITES Tools* is planned to be held in Ouesso, Republic of Congo in November 2012.

Sixth ITTO-CITES Program Advisory Committee Meeting

The Sixth ITTO-CITES Program Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting will be held in Yokohama, Japan on 6 November 2012, coinciding with the second day of the Forty-eighth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTO). The role of the AC is to review progress, assess gaps and to provide guidance to Regional Coordinators for the implementation of activities under the ITTO-CITES Program. AC Members include representatives of the ITTO and CITES Secretariats, government representatives of program donors and target countries, and representatives of ITTO's trade and civil society advisory groups.

International Meeting on Sustainable Forest Management in CITES in Indonesia

An *International Meeting on Sustainable Forest Management in CITES* is planned to be held in Bali, Indonesia from 8-10 January 2013, hosted by ITTO and CITES with

the support of the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, CITES Management Authority of Indonesia. The primary objective of the meeting is to exchange and share experiences in implementing CITES provisions for CITES-listed tropical tree species through sustainable forest management practices and trade, especially the results arising from the Activities implemented under Phase 1 of the ITTO-CITES Program on *Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation* from 2007-2010. The other objective is to identify gaps in CITES implementation for the currently listed tree species and make proposals and recommendations on how these can be addressed more effectively, including through Phase 2 of the ITTO-CITES Program.

CITES Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The CITES Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3-15 March 2013. CoP16, which will also feature a celebration of the 40th anniversary of CITES, will review Proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II, including the proposals for tropical tree species listings shown in the next section. A side event on the ITTO-CITES Program will be convened by ITTO and CITES during CoP16. Documents related to the meeting are available at <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/16/doc/index.php>.

News

Lifting the Ban and Granting Quota on *Pericopsis elata* to the Republic of Congo

Based on the work conducted within the Activity - *Assessment of Afrormosia in a Production Forest to Ensure its Sustainable Management in Congo-Brazzaville* which was implemented under Phase 1 of the ITTO-CITES Program, CITES granted an annual export quota of 863,561 m³ to the Congolese authorities which comprises 319,837 m³ of logs and 543,724 m³ of sawnwood.

Lifting the Ban and Granting Quota on *Prunus africana* to Cameroon

Based on the work conducted within the Activity - *Non-detriment Findings for Prunus africana* (Hook. f.) Kalman in Cameroon which was implemented under Phase 1 of the ITTO-CITES Program, CITES published and the Scientific Group (SRG) of the European Commission granted a quota of 634,763 kg of dry bark of *Prunus* to Cameroon for 2012. The SRG encourages the partnership between the Cameroon Government and the ITTO-CITES Program which allowed the lifting of the ban. However, there is a need to put in place a better system for implementing the proposed simple management plans, and to develop an effective tracking system for *Prunus* products from Cameroon. Some important results from the Phase 1 program on *Prunus africana* in Cameroon can be found at <http://www.academicjournals.org/AJPS/abstract> and at <http://www.academicjournals.org/ijbc/abstract>.

Lifting the Ban and Granting Quota on *Prunus africana* to the Democratic Republic of Congo

Based on the work conducted within the Activity- *Non-detriment findings for Prunus africana* (Hook. f.) Kalman in North and South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo which was implemented under Phase 1 and continues to be implemented under Phase 2 of the ITTO-CITES Program, CITES published and the Scientific Group (SRG) of the European Commission granted a quota of 70,000 kg of dry bark of *Prunus africana* for the two harvesting sites where project work has established sustainable production levels, namely, Ibothaama and Mwenda.

Proposals for New Listings

Formal consultations have been undertaken with ITTO by Belize, Madagascar and Thailand on proposals on tree species submitted by the Parties to be considered at CoP16 as shown under items 1, 7, 8 and 12 below. The Madagascar proposals have been developed under the Activity funded through the ITTO-CITES Program as described above in the Activities in Detail section. The following proposals on tropical tree species have been received by the CITES Secretariat (full proposals available at www.cites.org).

	Proponent	Species	Common name	Proposal
1.	Belize	<i>Dalbergia retusa</i> and <i>Dalbergia granadillo</i>	Black rosewood and Granadillo rosewood	Inclusion in Appendix II
2.	Belize	<i>Dalbergia stevensonii</i>	Honduras rosewood	Inclusion in Appendix II
3.	Brazil	<i>Aniba rosaeodora</i>	Brazilian rosewood	Modify annotation #12
4.	China, Indonesia, Kuwait, Thailand	<i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp.	Agarwood	To delete annotation to the listing of <i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp. in Appendix II, and replace it with a new annotation as provided in proposal
5.	Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania	<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>	East African sandalwood	Inclusion in Appendix II
6.	Madagascar	<i>Cyphostemma laza</i>	Laza	Inclusion in Appendix II
7.	Madagascar	<i>Dalbergia</i> spp.	Madagascar rosewoods	Inclusion of population of Madagascar in Appendix II, and limited to material such as logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets in an annotation
8.	Madagascar	<i>Diospyros</i> spp.	Madagascar ebony woods	Inclusion of population of Madagascar in Appendix II, and limited to material such as logs, sawn wood and veneer sheets in an annotation
9.	Madagascar	<i>Operculicarya decaryi</i>	Jabihy	Inclusion in Appendix II
10.	Madagascar	<i>Senna meridionalis</i>	Taraby	Inclusion in Appendix II
11.	Mexico	<i>Yucca queretaroensis</i>	Queretaro yucca	Inclusion in Appendix II
12.	Thailand, Viet Nam	<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Thailand rosewood	Inclusion in Appendix II

Program monitoring

In order to ensure the transparency of the ITTO-CITES Program, regular monitoring of field implementation will be conducted in Africa, Asia and Latin America by the respective Regional Coordinators. External mid-term and ex-post monitoring will also be conducted as per the terms of the grant agreement with the EC and ITTO's rules and procedures.

In this context, a staff of the Regional Coordinator for Latin America, Ms. Sofia Hirakuri, undertook a field monitoring mission from 6-10 August 2012 to Acre State, Brazil, to monitor the Program Activity implemented

by the Federal Rural University of the Amazon (UFRA). She was accompanied by the Activity coordinator, Prof. Paulo Contente of UFRA, and three members of the IBAMA-CITES Technical-Scientific Committee. The objective was to monitor Phase II of the Activity- *Ecology and Silviculture of Mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla King) in the Western Brazilian Amazon*, mainly the post-logging activities to be developed, namely, (i) application of silvicultural prescriptions; and (ii) monitoring experimental performance, which are planned to be conducted in November 2012. In this regard, it was verified that all the "pre-logging activities"

implemented under Phase I of the Activity were successfully completed.

Details of the monitoring of and assistance to the DRC *Prunus africana* Activity were provided in the section on Activities in Detail. Several monitoring missions in all three regions are currently being planned and details of these will be provided in the next issue of this Newsletter.



Mahogany tree seeds collected in August 2012, Acre State, Brazil.
Courtesy of: João Olegário

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Readers can download this Newsletter from http://www.itto.int/cites_programme. Let us know using the contact details above if you have any suggestions on how we can improve the Newsletter or if there are topics you would like to see covered.