

National Workshop

“Identification of Information Gaps Towards the SFM on Ramin and Thematic Programs to be Included into 2009 and 2010 Work Programs of the ITTO-CITES Project”

Opening Remarks

by

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Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me to be here on the occasion of the official opening of the National Workshop on “Identification of Information Gaps Towards the SFM on Ramin and Thematic Programs to be Included into 2009 and 2010 Work Programs of the ITTO-CITES Project”. Let me express my most sincere thanks to the organizers for inviting me to deliver a few remarks at this auspicious occasion.

First and foremost, allow me to provide some background on the project in “Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation”. This project was launched in December 2006 with the signing of the European Commission (EC) Grant Application and as a response to calls made at both the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) and CITES Conference of Parties for support to range states for implementation of CITES listings, and in particular to support a work program element of the ITTO and the listing of commercial timber species in CITES.

In fact, this is the first EC project which ITTO has been contracted as an implementing agency to execute the project in collaboration with the CITES Secretariat using a thematic approach. Funding for the project is primarily by the EC with additional support from the USA, Japan, New Zealand and Norway. The total budget of the project amounts to • 3.0 million, with • 2.4 million or 80 percent from the EC and the balance of • 0.6 million or 20 percent from the contributions of the other donors. The project will be implemented over a period of 42 months and is expected to conclude in 2010. However, the ITTO's overall program of work in assisting ITTO producer member countries to implement CITES listing of timber species would continue beyond the current EC funding and timeline contingent on the interest of members and donors.

Implementation of the activities under this ITTO-CITES Project will be guided by an Advisory Committee which meets at least once a year. This Advisory Committee comprises representatives from the ITTO and CITES Secretariats, donors, one or more of the regional coordinators, and at least one primary range state representative from the three tropical

regions. The Advisory Committee will provide guidance and inputs in executing the project, but the final authority for approving program activities rests with the Executive Director of ITTO. In this regard, the first Advisory Committee meeting was held at the ITTO Headquarters, Yokohama, Japan on 31 October, 2008.

Currently, to coordinate, monitor and oversee the activities implemented under the project, three regional coordinators have been appointed, one each in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The latter is also given the responsibility to oversee the activities implemented across the three regions, including the development of a website for the project. In this context, I would like to urge you to visit the homepage developed for the project at www.stcp.com.br/itto-cites.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The overall objective of the project is to ensure that continuing international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation. The specific objective is to assist national authorities to meet the scientific, administrative and legal requirements for managing and regulating trade in *Pericopsis elata* (Afromosia) found in Central Africa, *Swietenia macrophylla* (Bigleaf mahogany) found in Latin America, and *Gonystylus* species (Ramin) found in Southeast Asia and, in particular, to develop guidance to ensure that their utilization is not detrimental to the survival of CITES-listed timber species.

In this regard, the activities that could be considered for support and funding by ITTO in Asia under the project would include the following:

- (i) more in-depth information on the location, distribution, stocking and the management and protection status of Ramin, including forest inventory designs and the use of global positioning system (GPS) and geographical information system (GIS) in tree location mapping;
- (ii) growth and yield studies of Ramin, stand dynamic and their responses to silvicultural interventions, including plantation performance;
- (iii) non-detriment findings, including forest management plans that document the data and criteria used in setting export quotas and levels of sustainable use, both for domestic and export;
- (iv) cost-effective monitoring and tracking systems, including the use of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) identification techniques, for all Ramin products, other than seed, seedlings and genetic material;
- (v) holding of national fora and Regional Working Groups to create greater awareness among all stakeholders on the importance of sustainable use of Ramin and the possible consequences of loss of the species, including assisting in convening meetings of the Tri-National Task Force on Trade in Ramin;
- (vi) conducting training workshops for relevant staff and capacity-building in key CITES compliance areas, including Customs personnel;
- (vii) preparing 'outreach materials' including technical guides and materials constituting a "tool box" for range states and trading partners; and

- (viii) developing an integrated website to disseminate project outputs and findings.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are the public authorities and private sector in the main range states where the CITES-listed timber species occur, namely, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Indonesia, and Malaysia, where the expected benefits are:

- (i) improved management and regulations of trade of the CITES-listed species;
- (ii) improved management and conservation of the CITES-listed species;
- (iii) increased regional cooperation in research, silviculture and compliance; and
- (iv) enhanced coherent policy framework through integration of knowledge on sustainable management and species conservation.

For other countries that are parties to CITES, especially countries where these CITES-listed species occur and/or trade in these species, they will benefit from improved capacity to manage and regulate trade in CITES-listed species, and an increased awareness of and a greater capacity for compliance with CITES, as well as participation in workshops and seminars.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are fully aware, an Agreement between ITTO and the Indonesia Government was signed by the relevant parties in Indonesia in mid-November 2008 and by the Executive Director of ITTO on 9 December, 2008 to implement four activities, including the holding of this two-day National Workshop today. The other three activities which will be implemented over a 12-month period are, namely:

- (i) Inventory Design to estimate Growing Stock of Ramin (*Gonystylus bancanus*) in Indonesia;
- (ii) Assessing Silvicultural System on Ramin: Review on the Current Practice and Re-vitalization of existing Permanent Sample Plots; and
- (iii) Exploratory Assessment on the Population Distribution and Potential Uses of Non-*Gonystylus bancanus* species in Indonesia.

The total budget for the four activities is estimated to be US\$ 440,898 with the contribution from ITTO being US\$ 357,895, while the in-kind contribution from the Government of Indonesia is estimated to be US\$ 83,003.

I am confident that the findings and results of the three activities that are being implemented in Indonesia will provide, among others, the added knowledge, technical know-how and capabilities for Indonesia to better conserve and manage Ramin species, as well as to ensure that its utilization is sustainable in the long term.

More specifically, the improved cost-effective inventory design using satellite technology; the establishment of permanent sample plots to monitor growth and yield of tree species, and the added information on the current growing stock, population and habitats of the other non-*G. bancanus* species, will greatly enhance their conservation and compliance with the regulatory provisions of CITES in the trade of Ramin products in the global market place.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Indonesia and to the Research and Development Agency (FORDA) in particular, as well as the organizers for their excellent arrangements for holding the National Workshop and for allowing me to deliver these few brief remarks at the official opening of this Workshop.

I wish you a fruitful deliberation in not only identifying information needed to better manage and conserve Ramin, including its production and trade, but to also elaborate on the thematic program activities that Indonesia wishes to submit to ITTO for future support and funding, and I am looking forward to receiving them.

Thank you.