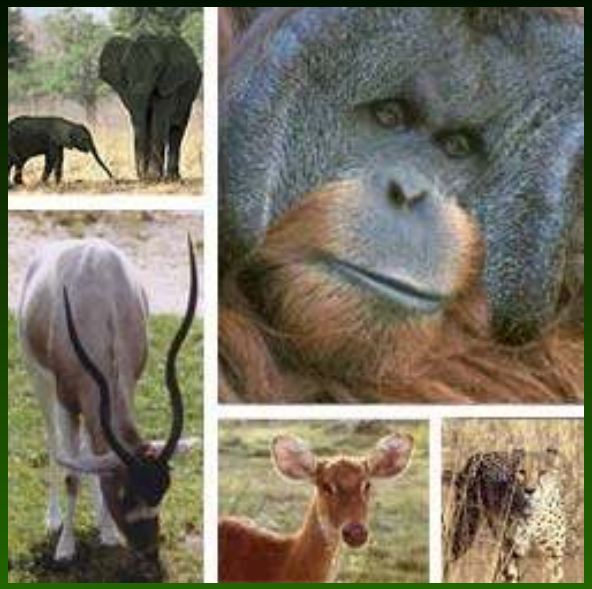
www.CITES.org



Relevance of tracking technologies to CITES

Workshop on Tracking technologies for forest governance; Kuala Lumpur, 15-17 May 2012

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Section contents

- History of tree species listings in CITES
- Main challenges for the implementation
- Relevance of tracking technologies
- Next steps

Tree species in CITES (History)

- **On 1 July 1975, 18 tree species were included in the Appendices**
- **Most of the species that were not in trade have been deleted since, but some still remain from that time**
- **The interest to include tree species in the Appendices increased in the early 90's**

Tree species in CITES (History)

Proposals to include tree species in Appendix II have been usually fiercely opposed and some countries have been using Appendix III as an alternative since the late 90s

Tree species in CITES (History)

- **To date, more than 300 tree species are included in the CITES Appendices, and around 200 of them are used and traded for their timber.**
- **A total of 116 high-value tree species, have been listed over the last two years in CITES Appendix III and, we expect more to follow.**

Tree species in CITES

e.g. *Swietenia macrophylla*

Appendix II requires making a non-detriment finding, requires the assurance of the legal origin of the timber, and has fostered international cooperation (ITTO-CITES cooperation programme).

Tree species in CITES

e.g. *Cedrela odorata*

Appendix III does not require making a non-detriment finding, requires the assurance of the legal origin of the timber, and does not foster international cooperation since its aim is that the listing country monitors its exports.

Tree species in CITES

In both cases, there is a need to know the levels of harvest and trade on these species, so tracking technologies become a very useful tool in order to improve this management

Challenges for CITES implementation

- Identification
- Reservations on the listing
- Industry practice
- Article IV provisions (legal acquisition and non-detriment findings)
- Poor reporting
- Personal effects

Challenges

The challenge of implementing the annotation …

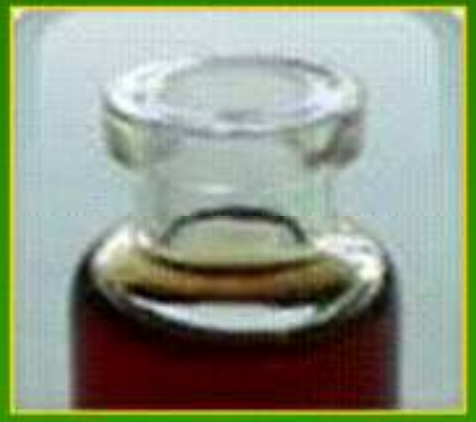
Swietenia macrophylla **only the Populations of the Neotropics are listed in CITES and with annotation #6 that designates logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets, and plywood.**

Challenges…Parts and derivatives

And other annotations can be more complex.

The listing of *Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp. in Appendix II includes **all** parts and derivatives, except:

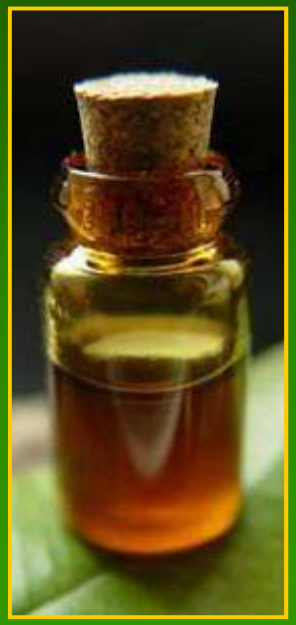
- seeds, spores and pollen (including pollinia)
- seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro, in solid or liquid media, transported in sterile containers and
- cut flowers of artificially propagated plants

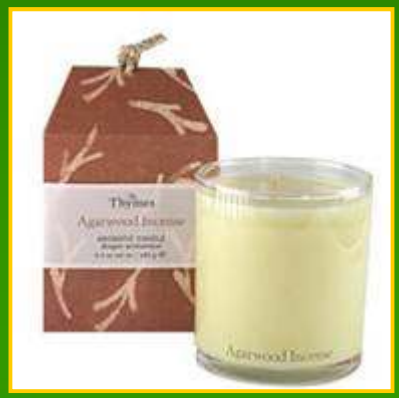


Challenges…Agarwood in trade

- Trunk, branch sections, ‘blocks’
- Chips and flakes (most common)
- Powder / dust
- Oil
- Finished products (perfumes, incense, medicines, etc)

Powder and wood chips are usually the type of specimens found on the export quotas





Challenges

We can have

Listings to a species level (e.g. mahogany)

Or

Listings at a higher taxonomic level (e.g. agarwood producing species)

Challenges … Identification

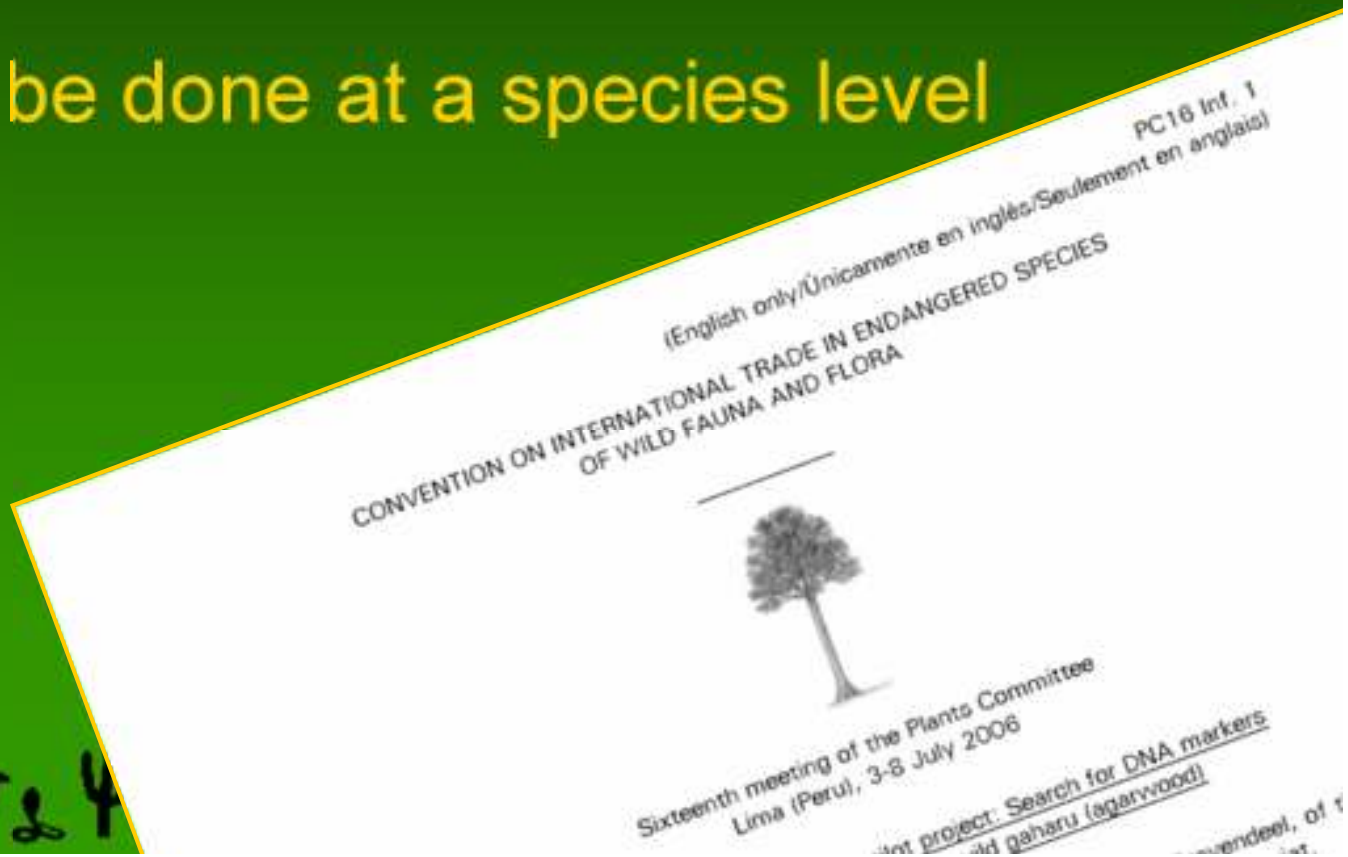
- *Aquilaria malaccensis*
- *Aquilaria beccariana*
- *Aquilaria hirta*
- *Aquilaria microcarpa*
- *Aquilaria cumingiana*
- *Aquilaria audate*
- *Aquilaria brachyantha*
- *Aquilaria urdanetensis*
- *Aquilaria citrinaecarpa*
- *Aquilaria parvifolia*
- *Aquilaria rostrata*
- *Aquilaria crassna*
- *Aquilaria banaense*
- *Aquilaria khasiana*
- *Aquilaria subintegra*
- *Aquilaria filaria*
- *Aquilaria grandiflora*
- *Aquilaria secundana*
- *Aquilaria moszkowskii*
- *Aquilaria tomentosa*
- *Aquilaria bailonii*
- *Aquilaria sinensis*
- *Aquilaria apiculata*
- *Aquilaria acuminata*
- *Aquilaria yunnanensis*
- *Gyrinops versteegii*
- *Gyrinops moluccanna*
- *Gyrinops decipiens*
- *Gyrinops ledermanii*
- *Gyrinops salicifolia*
- *Gyrinops caudate*
- *Gyrinops podocarpus*

Challenges … Identification

– Formulation of NDF by the SA (e.g. establishment of harvest/ export quotas)

– Issuance of CITES permits and certificates

Need to be done at a species level

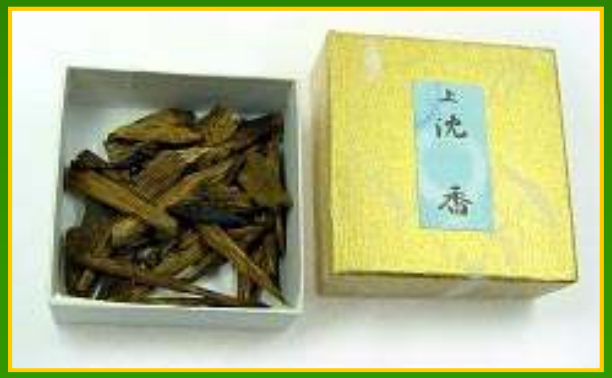


Challenges … Identification

From the compendium:

– Physical products ID methods (paint marking, plastic tags, barcoding, radio-frequency ID)

– Chemical ID methods (DNA sampling, Isotopic sampling)



The labeling system is commonly used in CITES. For certain products the caviar labelling system can be a model

- This label must include, as a minimum:
  - a standard species code;
  - the source code of the specimen;
  - the ISO two-letter code of the country of origin;
  - the year of repackaging;
  - the official registration code of the repackaging plant, which incorporates the ISO two-letter code of the country of repackaging if different from the country of origin (e.g. IT-wwww);
  - the lot identification number, or CITES export permit or re-export certificate number (e.g. zzzz)

PER/W/IR/2001/IT-wwww/zzzz

Challenges: many involved

Country A

Scientific Authority

Management Authority

When applying for a permit, the trader is initiating a (mostly) administrative procedure (white lines) that will be explained in detail in a separate presentation

Copy

Exporter

Customs

Country B

Scientific Authority

Management Authority

There are two situations when the importer may have to apply for an import permit:
-For the import of Appendix-I specimens of wild origin
-When a country has taken stricter domestic measures requiring an import permit for all CITES specimens

Original

Customs

Importer

Challenges: many involved

- **The private sector is playing an increasing role in supporting the work of the MA and the SA**
- **It is possible that traders make strong commitments to show that they are willing to cooperate, e.g. trough the funding of projects, technology, codes of conduct, registers, etc**

Relevance of tracking technologies

+ nr of tree spp in CITES

↓

+ nr of CoP Decs on tree species

↓

+ need to strengthen ID and enforcement on these spp

↓

Many countries are developing timber tracking programmes

Relevance of tracking technologies

- **Marking and tracking improve transparency and strenthen CoCs (trust is strengthen and the probability of suspentions can decrease)**

- **Timber marking and tracking technologies could serve to improve the speed with which countries share enforcement intelligence;**

We all have a role to play on the overall management and trade of these species.

Logging

↓

Sawmill

↓

Wholesaler/Manufacturer

↓

Exporter

↓

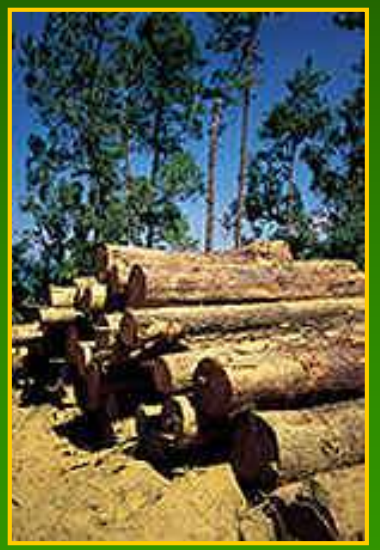
Importer

↓

Consumer

Chain of custody

- Experience shows us that controlling the raw product is the most efficient and simplest thing to do
- If you try to control the finished product, it is probably too late
- Controls should be focused at the early stages of the timber industry



Summing up

- CITES' aim is to ensure that international trade does not threaten the survival of CITES tree species
- We are all responsible and we can all contribute at some point of the production chain to improve market transparency
- The number of CITES listed tree species will most probably increase in the near future
- Identification is one of the main challenges when implementing CITES for timber and timber products

Some final matters to further consider…

- When do we need to use timber and timber products marking and tracking technologies?
- Are these tracking technologies availableand affordable to all timber producing and consuming countries?
- Which is the most appropriate scale to set a tracking technology (region, nation, bi-national, worldwide). When is this more accurate?
- Are there any dangers of setting a single tracking technology?
- Would it be possible to harmonise the use of these technologies in the near future?

Mahogany tree; picture of J. Grogan

thank you very much !