

**Ensuring international trade on *Pericopsis elata*
(Afrormosia/Assamela) and *Prunus africana*
(Pygeum/African chery) products is not detrimental to
their conservation in Africa**

Donors



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PLAN

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BACKGROUND

- *Pericopsis elata* (Assamela or Afrormosia) and *Prunus africana* (Pygeum or African chery) are classified by the IUCN as endangered and vulnerable species respectively, which led to their listing in the Appendix II of the CITES



Objectives

- to ensure international trade in *Pericopsis elata* and *Prunus africana* is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation in the congo basin;
- to assist national authorities from Cameroon, Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), to meet the scientific, administrative and legal requirements for managing and regulating trade in *Pericopsis elata* and *Prunus africana*

Strategical regional workshop organised at Kribi, Cm, 2-4 April 2008

- A regional workshop was held in Kribi (Cameroon) between 02 and 04 April 2008 on the sustainable trade of *Pericopsis elata*
- The overall goal of this workshop was to **develop a participatory Action Plan to build the capacities of countries to formulate clear Non Detrimental Findings for *P. elata***
- Some thirty participants from producer countries (Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo), consumer/buyer countries (Belgium, France, Japan), international organizations (CITES, ITTO, UNEP-WCMC), logging companies (*Groupe Décolvenaere, Groupement Bois*), NGOs (AMEA from Congo), sub-regional organizations (COMIFAC), regional organizations (European Union) were able to attend this workshop

Strategical regional workshop organised at Kribi, Cm, 2-4 April 2008

- The action plan was developed with five thematic areas, as to cover the overall objective of the ITTO – CITES program:
- I) **Building capacity** of exporting and importing countries on **implementation of CITES**;
- ii) Building capacity of exporting and importing countries to **manage *P. elata* sustainably**;
- iii) Improving the **ecological and silvicultural** knowledge of *P. elata*;
- iv) Promotion of support programmes for **regeneration** of *P. elata*;
- v) **Governance and marketing** issues relevant to *P. elata*

Assistance in formulation of activity proposals

- Missions of the RC in Cm, Congo, DRC to assist in formulation of activity proposals;
- according to national needs and priorities;
- in line with the Kribi action plan and with the national forest policy/action plan;
- Kribi action plan revised at Limbé in October 2010 as to incorporate the concerns on *Prunus africana*

Assistance in formulation of activity proposals

- Cameroon: 2 proposals
- - *management of P. elata in forest concessions (thematic areas II & III of the Kribi action plan);*
- - *management of P. elata in forest plantation (thematic areas III and IV)*
- Congo: 1 proposal: *management of P. elata in a forest concession (thematic areas II & III)*

Assistance in formulation of proposals

- DRC: (2 proposals)
- - *Training workshops in the verification of the CITES permits compliance and the use of 'CITESWOOD ID' (thematic areas I & V);*
- *Dissemination of the CITES convention and its implementation texts (thematic areas I & V)*



Implementation/Monitoring of activities (National Technical Committees)



Global view on Activities Funded

- 17 activity proposals at both regional (3) and country (14) levels were submitted to ITTO for consideration under the Program in phase I (2008 – 2011) and phase II (2012 - ...);
- 9 completed activities including:
 - - 3 at regional level: Kribi, Limbé, Douala
 - - 6 at country levels: Cm (3); Cg (1), DRC (2)
- 3 ongoing activities: Cm (1), Cg (1), DRC (1);
- 5 pending proposals

Global view on Activities Funded

- Completed activities:
 - 996 821.32 \$US (ITTO funds);
 - 102 796 \$US (Counterpart funds)
- Ongoing activities in Cm, Cg, DRC:
 - 215 500 \$US (ITTO funds);
 - 236 550 \$US (total budget)

Agreements between ITTO and Institutions of Range States

- **Cameroon**
 - ANAFOR (Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement des Forêts) – 3 Activities
- **Democratic Republic of Congo**
 - DCN (Direction pour la Conservation de la Nature)/CITES MA for DRC – 2 Activities;
 - ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature)/CITES SA for DRC – 1 activity
- **Republic of Congo**
 - DGEF (Direction Générale de l'Economie Forestière)
 - 1 Activity;
 - CNIAF (Centre National pour les inventaires et aménagement forestiers et fauniques – 1 activity.

Strategy in addressing the NDF concerns in all countries

- Method used to formulate NDF based on the following studies/activity conducted in 2008:
- **BETTI J.-L.** Non-Detriment Findings Report on *Pericopsis elata* (Fabaceae) in Cameroon. *Report prepared for the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings, Mexico, November 17th-22th, 2008. 54 p.*
www.conabio.gob.mx/.../TallerNDF/...CS2%20Pericopsis/WG1-CS2.pdf.

Strategy in addressing the NDF concerns in all countries

- **BETTI J.-L.** Non-Detriment Findings Report on *Prunus africana* (Rosaceae) in Cameroon. *Report prepared for the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings, Mexico, November 17th-22th, 2008. 52 p.*
www.conabio.gob.mx/.../TallerNDF/...CS9%20Prunus/WG1-CS9-S.pdf :
- Report of the Kribi workshop: overall goal being to **develop a participatory Action Plan to build the capacities of countries to formulate clear Non Detrimental Findings for *P. elata***

Strategy in addressing the NDF concerns in all countries

- We know, the scheme to follow for addressing NDFs is still in discussion among CITES experts;
- But whatever be the case, following elements are important for each tree species:
 - - Biological and ecological issues: Phenology (MDRF), habitat, distribution areas, growth rate, dynamic,
 - - Silviculture and management issues: inventories, stand stock, définition of quotas, MED, recovery rates,
 - - Law enforcement, control and monitoring aspects:
 - - Etc...

Strategy in addressing the NDF concerns in all countries

- Step 1: identification of thematic research areas or specific activities and recruitment of national experts (forest ecology, biology, inventories, policy, socioeconomy,...) ;
- Step 2: establishing the state-of-the-art on the management, exploitation, transport, processing, and exportation of the indicated species (*Pericopsis* and *Prunus*);
- Step 3: verifying/or conducting management inventories according to the national standards;

Strategy in addressing the NDF concerns in all countries

- Step 3: definition of the national quotas on a scientific basis (MED, MDRF, Recovery rate: %Re);
- Step 4: settlement of an ad-hoc scientific expert group composed of researchers from universities, research institutions, and field forest officers to draft the NDF document based on the results obtained from different studies;

Strategy in addressing the NDF concerns in all countries (ad-hoc expert groups in Cameroon and Congo)



Main findings

- NDF reports available for all the three countries and the two targeted tree species including: *Pericopsis elata* in Cameroon and Congo and *Prunus africana* in Cameroon and DRC;
- MED revised for *P. elata* in Cameroon and Congo;
- Sound inventory method proposed for the two species in the three countries;

Main findings

- The ban lifted for the two species in the three countries based on the work done;
- The scheme and method for conducting management inventories and formulating NDF reports well understood by national authorities (see Congo partnership with SIFCO for *P. elata* and Cm partnership with trade companies for *P. africana*);
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Conclusions, lessons learned and challenges

- As it can be observed, activities vary from one country to another.
- While Cameroon and Congo – Brazzaville authorities focused their activities on the ecology, silviculture, management and policy aspects,
- DRC authorities first oriented their activities on the use of CITES documents and tools.

Impact of the project

- National budget (economy): the lift of the bans has a positive impact in the country budget in terms of the taxes paid by trade companies, and also in terms of the price of buying the product (Prunus barks) to the local communities.
- For exemple, since 2010, Cameroon Government has received more than 20 000 US\$ as the regeneration tax.

Impact of the project

- Social & environmental: trade companies have disbursed more than 300 000 US\$ to local communities in the North and South west regions of Cameroon, which encouraged local people to better contribute to the conservation of the species in their forests and farms;

Impact of the project

- Scientific: More than 10 students from different universities prepared their MSc theses;
- Four papers published in peer review journals;
- Many papers still in the process of publication and in preparation

Conclusions, lessons learned and challenges

- Some activities encountered some delays due to the administrative procedures and the security problems;
- The fact of changing continuously persons on the implementing agencies constituted a big problem for the program;
- The lesson to learned is, to formulate an NDF document for a given species, it is good to conduct a fair state-of-the art;

Conclusions, lessons learned and challenges

- We encourage the mobility of experts within different countries:
- for example, one Cameroonian expert was sent to Congo Brazzaville to give a training session on the dissemination of the CITES convention in November 2012;
- One expert from DRC will do the same thing for what concerns the use of CITES WOOD-ID tool at Ouessou in March 2012

Conclusions, lessons learned and challenges



Conclusions, lessons learned and challenges

- Our intention is to continue with this, by sending experts to assist DRC authorities in implementing some specific activities as to avoid delays encountered in past years;
- The glaring development challenge at the background of what precedes is the pressing need to develop specific activities/projects as to implement recommendations formulated in different studies and NDF documents

Conclusions, lessons learned and challenges (DRC)

- For DRC, many delays observed. Future specific activities should focus on:
- management of *P. elata* in forest concessions based on the Cameroon and Congo Brazzaville experiences (see pending proposal);
- develop a fair system of traceability for monitoring logging, processing, transport and trade on *Pericopsis* and *Prunus products*

Conclusions, lessons learned and challenges (Congo Brazzaville)

- Assist more closely local authorities to put in place the two different CITES organs for flora based on the Cameroon experience as to mitigate conflicts of competences (ongoing proposal);
- Develop the silviculture of *P. elata* (pending proposal)

Conclusions, lessons learned and challenges (Cameroon)

- improve knowledge on the
- silviculture of *P. elata*
- (pending proposals);
- develop a database encompassing logging, processing, transportation and trade statistics components (ongoing activity);
- train and sensitize forest and custom officers at different levels on CITES rules through CITES training workshops based on the DRC experience (ongoing activity);



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Conclusions, lessons learned and challenges (all countries)

- For all countries:
- elaborate an arrêté (order) which establishes the list of species;
- integrate the conditions of the management of *Pericopsis elata* in the forest policy.
- increase knowledge of the stock of *P. elata* and *P. africana* in protect areas;
- improve the knowledge on the wood quality of *P. elata*;

Conclusions, lessons learned and challenges

- provide adequate materials and logistics to forest officers for data collection and analysis;
- develop and implement similar projects/activities for what concerns other important timber species such as Bubinga (*Guibourtia* sp), Moabi (*Baillonella toxisperma*), Wengué (*Milletia sanaga*), Johimbé (*Pausinystalia johimbe*)...
- Enlarge the program in other african countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, CAR, Nigeria,

THANK YOU!!!