



Relevance of tracking technologies to CITES

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

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Tree species in CITES

In all listed tree species 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-
www);
 - the **lot identification number, or CITES export permit or re-export certificate number** (e.g. zzzz)

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



Challenges: many involved



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 strengthen CoCs (trust is strengthened and the probability of suspensions 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.



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



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 available and 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 !

