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### ENHANCING COOPERATION BETWEEN ITTO and CITES

#### [Decisions 3(XVI), 7(XXXIV) and 2(XXXVII)] [Item 10b of the Provisional Agenda]

This activity was originally included in ITTO's 2006-2007 Work Programme which allowed a grant proposal to be developed and submitted to the European Commission who agreed to fund 80% of the nearly \$4 million budget at the end of 2006. The activity has continued under ITTO's 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 Biennial Work Programmes with the EC funding noted above and additional contributions from the USA, Switzerland, Japan, Norway, Germany, New Zealand, the private sector and the BPF. The programme is being managed by ITTO with assistance from three regional coordinators and the CITES Secretariat.

During 2010 the ITTO CITES programme continued to build capacity in member countries to implement CITES commitments for tropical timber. Activities are well underway in all range states covered (Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bolivia, Brazil and Peru), with several activities already completed. The programme has assisted countries to carry out the non-detriment findings and establish export quotas for species listed in CITES Appendix II and has also provided training and other capacity building on wood identification, timber tracking, conversion factors, etc. The Secretariat is collaborating with CITES and the Chinese CITES Management Authority to produce a user-friendly identification manual for CITES listed species. The Secretariat has been in contact with IUCN regarding a recent update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species that is often used to support CITES listings; the latest update includes high volume timber species such as meranti and keruing. ITTO has requested more information on the criteria used to include (and remove) species from the Red List and is investigating how to become more involved in the assessment process for tropical timber species.

ITTO has developed a programme website which includes information on the programme ([http://www.itto.int/cites\\_programme/](http://www.itto.int/cites_programme/)). All activity completion reports are posted on the ITTO website together with a quarterly programme newsletter that is also emailed to all donors, participating countries and other stakeholders. The latest version of the newsletter is attached providing more details of the various activities underway and completed to date.

ITTO was represented at the CITES COP 15 meetings in Doha in March 2010, where a side event on the programme was hosted and the COP was informed of progress in this programme. Three regional workshops are scheduled to share experiences gained under the programme and plan future actions in 2010/11: Africa (Cameroon, October 2010); Asia (Malaysia, December 2010); and Latin America (Brazil, January or February 2011).

An external evaluation of the programme was completed in early 2010, with the recommendations from this now assisting planning for subsequent work under the programme. The programme advisory committee met for the third time immediately prior to the CITES COP 15 meetings; a fourth meeting will be convened during the forty-sixth ITTC Session. The third meeting of the programme advisory committee recommended, *inter alia*, that the programme should continue to seek funding from donors and that its scope should be extended to non-timber tree species listed in CITES and CITES Appendix III-listed tree species.

A report on programme activities carried out during 2007-2010 will be submitted to the EC under the terms of their grant contribution to the programme at the end of 2010, which marks the end of the EC grant period under their contract with ITTO. However, work under the programme will continue due to the on-going interest of countries and other donors. The programme has benefited recently from private sector interest,

with two pharmaceutical firms (Solvay and Indena) providing nearly \$400,000 to fund programme activities to promote sustainable management of *Prunus africana* in Cameroon. Negotiations are underway with three additional pharmaceutical firms to fund similar work in the Democratic Republic of Congo. All of these pharmaceutical firms were represented at the African regional workshop referred to above. Switzerland and Germany also provided funds to the programme in 2010 and negotiations are underway with Norway to obtain funding through the programme to support CITES listing for timber species in Madagascar (which was called for by a decision at CITES COP 15). However, the demand for support still substantially exceeds available resources under the programme, with many eligible activities submitted by countries pending financing. ITTO requested additional funding of \$1.5 million for the programme through the 2010-11 Biennial Work Programme, of which just over \$500,000 has been obtained to date.

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