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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 seeking funding for an ITTO-CITES collaborative capacity building programme to be developed. The proposal was submitted to the European Commission which agreed to fund 80% of the nearly \$4 million (3 million euro) 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 managed by ITTO with assistance from three regional coordinators and the CITES Secretariat.

During 2011 the ITTO CITES programme continued to build capacity in member countries to implement CITES commitments for tropical timber. Activities have been undertaken in all range states covered (Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bolivia, Brazil and Peru), with many activities now completed. The programme has assisted countries to carry out non-detriment findings and establish export quotas for important species listed in CITES Appendix II (ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.), afrormosia (*Pericopsis elata*) and mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*)), three key timber species listed in CITES Appendix II. The programme has also provided training and other capacity building on wood identification, timber tracking, conversion factors, etc. in a range of countries. Recent activities have facilitated the re-commencement of trade in *Pericopsis elata* and *Prunus africana* (the latter with assistance from the private sector) following trade suspensions in several African countries due to non-compliance with CITES regulations; produced a market and supply study for *Cedrela odorata* (an Appendix III listed species); and developed an identification guide for CITES listed tree species in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Chinese). Baselines have been established for biological and trade information on all species covered by the program, training on various CITES matters has been provided to national authorities and, some of the information that was missing before the programme commenced has been generated. Many channels of communication have been opened among the different participating stakeholders.

ITTO has developed a programme website which includes information on the programme (www.itto.int/ITTO at [work/CITES/](http://www.itto.int/ITTO)). 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 in Doha (March 2010) and the Plants Committee meeting in Geneva (April 2011), where side events on the programme were hosted and the CITES bodies were informed of progress in this program. The CITES Secretary General, Mr John Scanlon, visited the ITTO Secretariat in October 2010 and met with the ITTO Executive Director, Mr Emmanuel Ze Meka, and the ITTO-CITES programme team. The CITES Secretariat participated in an ITTO side event at CoP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, October 2010) and attended the 46th session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC, Yokohama, December 2010); it will also be represented at the 47th ITTC session. Three regional workshops were convened with the participation of ITTO and CITES Secretariats during the biennium to share experiences gained under the programme and plan future actions: Africa (Cameroon, October 2010); Asia (Malaysia, December 2010); and Latin America (Brazil, February 2011).

An external evaluation of the programme was completed in early 2010. The recommendations of this

evaluation together with the results of the meetings referred to above assisted planning for subsequent work under the program. The programme advisory committee met for the third time immediately prior to the CITES COP 15 meetings; for the fourth time during the 46th ITTC Session in December 2010 and for the fifth time during the CITES Plants Committee meeting in April 2011. The meetings 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 sixth meeting of the advisory committee is planned in conjunction with a meeting of the Mahogany and other Neotropical Species Working Group (to be jointly funded by ITTO, CITES and Guatemala) immediately prior to the 47th ITTC Session.

A report on programme activities carried out during 2007-2010 was submitted to the EC under the terms of their grant contribution to the programme in mid-2011, marking the end of the initial EC grant period under their contract with ITTO. However work under the programme continues due to the on-going interest of countries and other donors. Switzerland, Germany and several private sector pharmaceutical firms became programme donors in 2010-11, adding to the funding made available by the EC, the USA and others. Norway provided funding through the programme to support CITES listing for timber species in Madagascar (which was called for by a decision at CITES COP 15) and negotiations are underway with that country to determine how to assist it most effectively. Negotiations are also currently underway with Germany to jointly fund a workshop for African member countries to consider possible additional tree species of conservation concern that could potentially benefit from CITES listing.

The demand for support still substantially exceeds available resources under the program, with many eligible activities submitted by countries still pending financing. ITTO and CITES have therefore submitted a second grant application to the EC covering the 4 year period 2012-15 for a total amount of 7.5 million euro (about \$10 million). The EC is currently considering this grant application, which, if approved, will require one-third of the total grant amount to be raised from non-EC donors, primarily through ITTO's Biennial Work Programmes for 2012-13 and 2014-15. An appropriate request for donor support has therefore been requested through the 2012-13 Biennial Work Programme.

The ITTO-CITES cooperation fostered through this programme is a strategic alliance that can benefit many tree species in trade beyond those listed in CITES Appendices. Both CITES and ITTO have been promoting sustainable management of tropical forests for many years, which is why this partnership is so successful. The governing bodies of both organizations have recognized the value of the alliance, ITTO through the Council decisions referenced in the title of this document and CITES through its COP Resolution Conf. 14.4 on *Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber*, calling for this cooperation to continue.

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