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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, 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 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, and is guided by a program advisory committee.

Since the demand for programme support substantially exceeded available resources under the first phase, ITTO and CITES 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, one-third of which is to come from other donors). This grant application was approved by the EC and the first installment of funds was received in early 2012. Additional pledges were received during 2011-12 from Germany, Switzerland, USA, and the private sector. These pledges make up approximately 26% of the non-EC funding required under the new EC grant agreement.

Shortly after receipt of the first installment of EC funds regional coordinators for Asia, Africa and Latin America were appointed. An African regional workshop was held in Cameroon in June to discuss progress under the first phase of the ITTO-CITES programme and new species for potential CITES listing. Country-specific activities had been approved and were underway in Brazil, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia and Peru as of August 2012, focusing on *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Pericopsis elata*, *Prunus africana*, *Gonystylus* spp and several *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species from Madagascar. Activities were being prepared in August 2012 by Brazil and Bolivia in liaison with the regional coordinator for possible programme funding. More than 10 activities have been submitted by countries and are being evaluated or revised. Consultations with the CITES Secretariat have continued throughout 2012 to guide and focus the programme's activities. An international workshop on SFM and CITES aimed at sharing experiences gained to date under the programme is scheduled for January 2013; planning for this workshop is currently underway by the Secretariats, the Asian regional coordinator and host-country (Indonesia). The programme advisory committee is scheduled to meet during the 48th ITTC Session. A report on programme activities carried out during 2012 will be submitted to the EC under the terms of their grant contribution to the programme at the end of 2012.

ITTO has developed a programme website which includes information on the programme (www.itto.int/ITTO at work/CITES/). All activity completion reports from the previous phase are posted on the ITTO website together with previous issues of the quarterly programme newsletter. Publication of the programme newsletter (that is emailed to all donors, participating countries and other stakeholders) will recommence in the last quarter of 2012, coinciding with updated information on the programme on both Organizations' websites.

The ITTO Secretariat was represented at the CITES Plants Committee meeting in Dublin (March 2012), where participants were informed of progress in this programme. The CITES Secretariat will be represented at the 48th ITTC session and will brief members on relevant developments.

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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