

Fifty-fourth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees

5 – 9 November 2018 - Yokohama, Japan

Agenda item - 10. ITTO Biennial Work Programme –

Decision 2(LIII) Progress Report on the Implementation of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme

(a) Enhancing Cooperation between ITTO and CITES – Decs. 3(XVI), 7(XXXIV), 2(XXXVII) and 5(XLVI)

Dr. Milena Sosa Schmidt – CITES Tree Species Programme – Coordinator
CITES Secretariat – Geneva - Switzerland

Dear colleagues, good morning,

It is for me a pleasure to report to you today on the joint activities that CITES and ITTO continue implementing together under the EU-project entitled *Supporting Sustainable Management of endangered Tree Species and Conservation of the African Elephant*. The CITES Secretariat is the implementing agency of that project and, Component 1 of the project become the *CITES Tree Species Programme*.

The specific objectives of the CITES Tree Species Programme are to:

- i. ensure the sustainable management of rare and valuable tree species and their products through improved technical and technological capacity;
- ii. contribute to legal and traceable trade in products from these tree species including technological advances in identification; and
- iii. help improve and strengthen forest governance, policies for forest management, and enforcement capacity and ensure benefit from long-term support for forest management in areas with CITES species.

These first three objectives will help towards a final objective:

- iv. to promote rural development in often remote areas, sustainable economic growth at country level, a healthy private sector, and long-term poverty alleviation.

As many of you already know, the collaboration between CITES and ITTO started in the 90'' although it really took off with the establishment and implementation of the ITTO-CITES Programme that lasted more than 10 years (2006-2016) and that allowed to set the bases of a highly robust and effective interagency cooperation. CITES and ITTO complement each other as perfect partners when it comes to promote sustainable forest management and notably targeting some of the most economically valuable tree species that dominate the international trade with their tree species products. I am not referring only to timber but also to extracts, bark, etc, so we

work on timber and non-timber forest products building bridges for cooperation with all stakeholders concerned.

Following up on the work started during the ITTO-CITES Programme and moving beyond that work in many CITES Parties that are range States of these valuable tree species, the CITES and ITTO Secretariats have signed numerous agreements that today provide the official frame to implement numerous joint activities. In a nutshell these are:

1- Memorandum of Understanding: this agreement aims to strengthen and provides a framework for cooperation between the two organizations noting that one of the key goals of the CITES Strategic Vision through 2020 is to ensure that CITES and other multilateral processes and instruments, such as the ITTA, are coherent and mutually supportive. The MoU further notes the important role that the ITTO has played and continues to play with respect to international trade in tropical timber species. The ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018 calls for ITTO work to enhance capacity to meet CITES requirements and help to increase the contribution of tropical forests to national and local economies, including through international trade. We welcome the long standing cooperation between CITES and ITTO, and the strong synergies developed between the two organizations from 2006 to 2016 in Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, and Peru. In all, both Secretariats intend to be represented regularly in meetings of the Conference of the Parties of CITES, the Council of ITTO, and other meetings covering matters of mutual interest. CITES and ITTO intend to decide on joint activities based on the availability of resources and to (as necessary and appropriate) undertake joint fund-raising to allow for collaborative activities.

In line with the MoU I am happy to report to you today on the following activities:

2- Small Scale Funding Agreement (S-510) on the *CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Asia* (from 1 March 2018 to 31 December 2019):

The ITTO Secretariat will provide support to the CITES Tree Species Programme by undertaking activities in line with the work plan of the Programme, and relevant to Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties concerning the work on CITES listed tree species.

The specific activities that ITTO will undertake are as follows:

- i. Based on ITTO experience, assess summary and full project proposals submitted for consideration and funding to the Programme, and advise on the implementing capacities of the proponents and trade trends;
- ii. Participate in electronic and physical meetings of the CITES Tree Species Programme Advisory Committee, and provide advice in line with the mandate agreed for that Committee. ITTO's physical participation in these meetings and in other official CITES meetings will generally be covered by the Programme funds;
- iii. Carry out a study on regional trade patterns and routes of CITES tree species in Asia to support the work of the CITES Tree Species Programme in this region, and better

inform the decision-making by Parties, CITES Committees and the Conference the Parties regarding trade in these species;

- iv. In consultation with the Programme Coordinator undertake region-wide support activities in areas relevant to ITTO's expertise, including: the conservation, management and trade in CITES tree species in Asia (notably *Aquilaria*, *Gyrinops*, *Gonystylus*, *Dalbergia* spp.); sharing the results of the study indicated in paragraph iii), and assisting in the follow-up of its findings; informing Parties about techniques to improved silvicultural, ecological knowledge, technical and technological capacity resulting in improved management of CITES-listed tree species; and sharing experiences on CITES tree species identification; and
- v. Support the implementation of Decision 17.197 on *Agarwood-producing taxa* (*Aquilaria* spp. and *Gyrinops* spp.)¹.

Activities to be carried out with no cost to this Agreement:

In countries which have signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU, ITTO will facilitate communications between the CITES Tree Species Programme team and EU-FLEGT facilitators as needed. ITTO will ensure that all stakeholders of related ITTO projects/programmes (e.g. EU-funded Independent Market Monitoring project) are aware of the activities conducted under the CITES Tree Species Programme. ITTO will identify and encourage possible synergies.

ITTO will contribute information (articles, news items, etc.) that may be relevant for the CITES Tree Programme and publication on the Programme's web site, or for use in outreach activities such as electronic newsletters

The ITTO Secretariat will keep and administer funding for CITES-listed tree species work coming through the ITTO Council (ITTC). All project proposals funded under the CITES Tree Species Programme will be approved following the criteria requirements set up by that Programme and in close consultation with the CITES Secretariat

3- Project Cooperation Agreement on *Regional Meetings for Central and South America and the Caribbean and for Africa* (from 1 May 2018 to 30 September 2020):

The ITTO Secretariat will provide support to the CITES Tree Species Programme by undertaking activities similar in nature to those just described for Asia but for the two remaining regions as the title reads. Hence, regarding the region-wide support activities in Africa, this work will focus notably on *Diospyros* spp., *Dalbergia* spp., *Pericopsis elata*, *Osyris lanceolata*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Prunus africana*, and *Guibourtia* spp. In Central and South America and the Caribbean, the target taxa are *Swietenia* spp., *Dalbergia* spp. *Aniba rosaedora* and *Bulnesia sarmientoi*. ITTO will continue participating in CITES Working groups on Neotropical and on African Tree Species and will contribute to the

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work through the Plants, the Standing Committee and to reach debates during the CITES Conference of the Parties.

Last but not least I would like to thank all donors that have made possible the CITES and ITTO joint work between 200 and 2016: the European Union, the United States of America, Switzerland, Japan, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand and the private sector in supporting work under the ITTO-CITES program.

For supporting the work we carry today under the CITES Tree Species Programme, I would like to thank the main donor the European Union and, the United States of America that has contributed through the ITTO Secretariat.

I would like to thank the CITES Tree Species Programme team without which I, as the Coordinator, would not be able to deliver such good quality support to the participating countries and on a daily basis. I would like to thank the Programme Assistant: Eleonora Palmero; the Regional Coordinators: Mr. Jean Lagarde and Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew; the two evaluators who worked with us earlier this year: Mr. Jorge Malleux and Mr. Ian Thompson; the ITTO colleagues Steve and Kanako with who I have the pleasure to work on a daily basis. Without them, this work would not have been possible and I am looking forward to continue our cooperation.

I also would like to thank the participating countries for their dedication, interest and good project proposals in course.

Thank you for your kind attention and support to these efforts to assist CITES Parties and countries Member of ITTO, to strengthen their capacity in implementing CITES effectively for CITES listed tree species.