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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
(Technical Section)**

**ITTO CONSULTATIVE MEETING
ON AFRICAN TROPICAL LESSER USED SPECIES TO BE PROMOTED
BY ITTO PROJECT PD 58/97 REV.1 (I): "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
DATABASE OF TROPICAL INDUSTRIAL LESSER-USED WOOD SPECIES"**

Libreville, Gabon, 09 – 10 August 2001



*MEETING FUNDED BY
THE INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION (ITTO)*

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ITTO PROJECT PD 58/97 REV.1 (I) "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
DATABASE OF TROPICAL INDUSTRIAL LESSER-USED WOOD SPECIES"
LIBREVILLE, GABON, 09 – 10 AUGUST 2001

TECHNICAL SECTION

PARTICIPANTS

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Dr. Isaac BINDZI
Mr. Achi Kouassi EDI
Mr. Edjidomélé GBADOE
Mrs. Philomène MWAMBA KYUNGU
Mrs. Celestine NTSAME OKWO
Mr. Antoine NDONGOU
Mr. Jacques BOUCAH-ORUMBONGANY
Mr. Nathan MENDOU-MENDOU
Mr. Norbert NGANGA
M. Delphin MAPAGA
Mr. Felix ESSAME
Mr. Polycarpe MASUPA KAMBALE
Mr. Guillaume SILANDE
Mr. Emmanuel SIISI-WILSON
Dr. Álvaro TEJADA
Mr. Afonso ZOLA

For the position and contacts, please refer to the list of participants attached in annex 2.

GENERAL ASPECTS

The project PD 58/97 Rev. 1 is carried out at the Nagoya University Furukawa Museum. The project started in May 1999, with the cooperation of several institutions, among them Nagoya University and the University of Shimane in Japan, CIRAD-Foret in France and the Gadjahmadah University in Indonesia.

One expert panel meeting, to assess the progress of the data compilation and the quality of the presentation (GUI), was carried out from February 26 until the 28th, 2001 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The initial schedule for the project was concluded in May 2001, and from June an extension of the project has been approved in order to include additional information, as well as a Japanese version of the database.

The 30th ITTC session decided to extend the project for six month. Among the activities to be achieved during this extension period, three consultative meetings in the producing regions of tropical timber were planned. That of the African region, after two postponements, has finally taken place in Libreville, Gabon, from 09 to 10 August 2001.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

The aim of this project is to create a comprehensive database of tropical timber species, with special emphasis on species with market potential (Lesser used or alternative species).

TECHNICAL DETAILS

For the data collection, three main 3 regions were considered, tropical and subtropical Africa, tropical America and South East Asia and the Pacific.

The information was stored in different tables according to the subject:

- Scientific and trade names
- Synonyms
- Common names
- End uses
- General information (ecology, characteristics of the tree, geographical distribution)
- Wood properties (grain, texture, color, etc.)
- Technological properties
- Wood drying
- Workability
- Anatomy

In this database, the information concerning on 932 different species (scientific names), 281 from Africa, 270 from Tropical America and 381 from South East Asia, was included. While performing a search (query), the scientific name is the main criteria used for linking all the information in the database.

A total number of 651 trade or commercial names were considered, 191 from Africa, 209 from tropical America and 251 from South East Asia. Some of the trade names are shared by more than one species.

There are 1,828 synonyms or basionyms recorded, 478 from Africa, 586 from Tropical America and 764 from South East Asia.

Additionally, 16,157 common names were included, 5,722 from Africa, 5,379 from Tropical America and 5,056 from South East Asia.

All of the name criteria aforementioned allow the user to carry out queries.

Among the tropical timber species selected, 84 families, 26 of them present in the 3 regions considered, are represented. In general, the most abundant group is the bean family (Leguminosae), followed by the Mahogany group (Meliaceae) and Lauraceae.

In the case of African species as well, the most abundant group are the Leguminosae followed by the Sapotaceae and the Meliaceae. In Tropical America also the Leguminosae were the main group followed by the Lauraceae and Moraceae. In South East Asia the Dipterocarpaceae and the Anacardiaceae followed the Leguminosae group.

For handling the information and for preparing the user interface (GUI), the software used was Microsoft Access.

SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION

Three search ways are available at this stage, the first two specifically look for information concerning on a timber species and the third one performs a search of the terms contained in the database:

- Search by Name: looks for information about a species based on a name (trade name, scientific name, common name or synonym)
- Search by Criteria: allows the user to select certain parameters (end use, physical properties, mechanical properties or workability) based on which a query is carried out, giving as a result a species or a selection of species.

In both cases, after selecting one species, the user can access to the detailed information by clicking any of the choices available in the auxiliary menus.

- About Tropical Timbers: includes tropical timber related terms contained in the database.

COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

For the database no new data was created, all the information was taken from literature research. ITTO sponsored project reports, concerning on lesser-used or alternative species, were the main sources consulted for the species selection.

All the images included were prepared from the Nagoya University Furukawa Museum or from Dr. Kikata's wood sample collection. Additional samples from Kyoto University, CIRAD Foret and ITTO projects were also incorporated.

For the market information, the ITTO member countries embassies or consulates in Tokyo were consulted. Nevertheless, the results were not as expected.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

August 9, 2001

9:30 start, opening ceremony, and starting of the morning session.

Moderator: Mr. Polycarpe MASUPA KAMBALE

Welcome words from Mr. Afonso ZOLA, ATO Technical Director, Timber Industry and Trade.

After wishing the welcome to the participants, on behalf of the ATO Secretary-General, he recalled the aim of this meeting in accordance with the terms of reference, elaborated by the Expert Panel meeting held in February 2001 in Kuala Lumpur, attached as annex 1.

He also suggested that the final version of the database on the LUS be translated in other ITTO working languages (Spanish and French).

Opening speech from Mrs. Celestine NTSAME, Technical Counselor of the Minister in charge of Forestry of Gabon.

On behalf of the Minister in charge of Forestry of Gabon, she welcomed the participants in this meeting funded by ITTO to which she expressed the sincere gratitude from member countries.

She stated that the said meeting was in keeping with the growing cooperation between ITTO and ATO in the forestry areas.

Before wishing every success to the meeting, she expressed the wish its results will contribute to the improvement of the database that will be a tool for the development of new strategies enabling the promotion of alternatives species within the sustainable forest management policy.

Objectives of the meeting Dr. Álvaro Tejada Consultant, Project ITTO PD 58/97.

Dr. Alavaro TEJADA recalled the terms of reference of the meeting, which is in annex 1, to the participants.

11:00 Break

11:30 Start

Presentation of the project and demonstration of the database. Discussion with the participants.

13:30 Lunch break

15:00 Afternoon session, start

Quick demonstration of the database and distribution of one copy for each participant.

15:30

Visit to ATO offices to run the database by the participants on the ATO computers.

August 10, 2001

11:00 Start

Presentation, by the representatives of the ITTO member countries, of additional commercial information to be included in the database.

In conformity with the terms of reference for the participants in the consultative meeting for commercially available alternative species, the presentations of the representatives of the ITTO member countries which attended the meeting are summarized hereafter.

CAMEROON / Dr. Isaac BINDZI

1. All commercially available alternatives species of Cameroon, with basic technical information, are encoded in the database.
2. In relation with the above, wood samples were not provided by the representative of Cameroon.
3. Specific information on commercial availability was provided for 26 (twenty six) LUS of Cameroon in tables containing figures on the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) issuing from the results of forest inventories in forest management unit (FMU). Among them, those 9 (nine), with a high volume of Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) in comparison with the volume exploited or exported, would be subject of an immediate promotion, such as: Emien / Ekouk (*Alstonia boonei*), Fraké / Limba (*Terminalia superba*), Dabema / Atui (*Piptadeniastrum africanum*), Diania (*Celtis tessmannii*), Limbali (*Gilbertiodendron dewevrei*), Okan / Adum (*Cylicodiscus gabunensis*), Bahia (*Mitragina ciliata*), Kumbi / Ekoa (*Lannea welwitschii*) et Eyong (*Eribroma oblonga*).
4. Information related to the log export bans, in conformity with the Decree n° 99/781/PM of 13 October 1999, of the following species: Acajou de Bassam/Ngollon, Afrormosia, Aniegre, Bete/Mansonia, Dibetou, Bosse, Bubinga, Douka, Doussié (*A. pachyloba*), Doussié (*A. bipindensis*), Fromager/Ceiba, Ilomba, Iroko, Longhi/Abam, Moabi, Movingui, Ovengkol, Padouk, Pao Rosa, Sapelli, Sipo, Wengue et Zingana/Amuk.
5. The contacts (telephone and fax) of the Ministry in charge of Forestry (central and provincial forestry administration), the technical body (ONADEF) and the association of timber industrialist were provided.

Other information on the forest management (rotation, minimum diameter of exploitation, etc.) is included in the report provided in the representative of Cameroon.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO / Mrs. Philomene MWAMBA

1. All commercially available alternatives species of the Democratic Republic of Congo, with basic technical information, are encoded in the database.
2. In relation with the above, wood samples were not provided by the representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo.
3. Specific information on commercial availability was not provided for 18 (eighteen) LUS, listed in two tables, with concrete figures.
4. Information related to the log export specified that only one third of the volume of logs exploited can be exported, and the remaining two third must be processed in the country. Afrormosia is listed in the Annex 2 of the CITES. The logging of Wengue (*Millettia laurentii*) is conditioned to the obtaining of a national special authorization. The references of the sources of information and dates were not provided.
5. The contacts (post mail address and telephone) of Confederation of Companies of Congo in which the Association of the Timber Industrialists is included and the Congolese Authority of Control.

GABON / Mr. Antoine NDONGOU

1. All commercially available alternatives species of Gabon, with basic technical information, are encoded in the database.
2. In relation with the above, wood samples were not provided by the representative of Gabon.
3. Specific information on commercial availability was not provided with concrete figures for LUS listed in three tables.
4. Additional commercial information was not provided.
5. The contacts (post mail addresses, telephone, fax, etc.) of the trade-related associations and relevant governmental institutions were not provided.

Other information on the forest management (forest inventories and forest management plan) is included in the report provided in the representative of Gabon.

GHANA / Dr. Andrew OTENG-AMOAKO

1. All commercially available alternatives species of Ghana, with basic technical information, are encoded in the database, with the exception of Okure (*Trilepisium madagascariensis*) which is in the category "other

pink star” of the Ghanaian classification of timber species. This species shall be integrated in the database as soon as Ghana will provide basic technical information.

2. In relation with the above item, the representative of Ghana shall forward wood samples of this species to the Consultant.
3. Specific information on commercially availability was not provided with concrete figures for LUS of Ghana.
4. Additional commercial information was not provided.
5. The contacts (address, telephone and fax) of the trade-related associations and relevant governmental institutions were not provided, with the exception of the Forest Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG).

14:00 Lunch break

15:45 Afternoon session, start.

COTE D'IVOIRE / Mr. Achi Kouassi EDI

1. Most commercially available alternatives species of Côte d'Ivoire, with basic technical information, are encoded in the database, with the exception of the following seven LUS: Rikio (*Uapaca* sp.), Bala (*Chidlova sanguinea*), Tchebuessain (*Xylia evansii*), Guepizou (*Calpocalyx aubrevillei*), Akuadeao (*Afrosersalisia afzelii*), Abrahassa (*Ochtocosmus africanus*) and Moussangoue (*Scytometalum tieghemii*).
2. Wood samples of these species were not provided by the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, but he can forward them to the consultants, if need be.
3. Specific information on basic technical aspects (physical and technological properties, end uses, etc.) and on commercial aspects was provided for 27 (twenty seven) LUS of Côte d'Ivoire. It was proposed that 5 (five) LUS be immediately promoted: Abale / Essia (*Petersianthus mocrocarpus*), Adonmoteu / Kibakoko (*Anthonota fragrans*), Aniouketi (*Pachypodanthium staudtii*), Lati (*Amphimas pterocarpoides*) and Loloti (*Lannea welwitschii*).
4. Information related to the log export bans, in conformity with the Decree n° 95-683 of 06 September 1995, of the all species.
5. The contacts (address, telephone and fax) of four governmental institutions (High School of Agronomy, SODEFOR, General Directorate of Forestry / Ministry of Forestry, Forestry Specialization School of Banco), and of seven associations of timber industrialists (SPIB, SENBCI, SYNGOPIB, FNISCI, SYNGEFCI, UNEMAF and SEPBA) were provided.

TOGO / Mr. Edjidomele GBADOE

1. All commercially available alternatives species of Togo, with basic technical information, are encoded in the database.
2. In relation with the above, wood samples were not provided by the representative of Togo.
3. Specific information on commercially availability was not provided.
4. Additional commercial information was not provided.
5. The contacts (post mail addresses, telephone, fax, etc.) of the trade-related associations and relevant governmental institutions were not provided.

The case of Togo is very special, as this country is a net importer of timber products from mainly neighbouring countries.

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 Last session, start

Recommendations and closing.

DATABASE OF TROPICAL TIMBERS

1. The database should link each species with the country information. Thus, after following the link, a list of countries connecting to the commercial information should be the first to appear for the selected species.
2. A classification between commercial and alternative species should exist, but it should be included in such a way not to have a negative psychological effect on the potential user (ie species more exploited instead of commercial timbers, following the star system of classification used in Ghana –see the ATO Bulletin N 5, September 1997-).
3. The search tools should include the possibility to offer, easily, alternative species to the well-known commercial species.
4. In many regions in Africa, it is difficult to have access to the Internet or even to a computer with the right configuration. Considering these restrictions, a hard copy of the database should be made available as well within the close cooperation between ITTO and ATO.

ITTO

1. ITTO should support activities tending to the grouping of timber species, as it is for Southeast Asian timbers. Grouping of species would facilitate the promotion of several species instead of stressing on some few ones, with the economical as well as the environmental advantages implied.
2. For those species with high potential, like those considered as the green star in Ghanaian classification system, ITTO should support the research leading to obtain the basic technical information to allow its promotion.

Annex 1

Criteria and Terms of Reference for Participants in the Consultative Meeting for Commercially Available Alternative Species

The participants will discuss and identify commercially available alternative species from their respective countries, that is, lesser-used and lesser-known species in commercial quantities that ITTO member countries are currently promoting or planning to promote. The participants will provide additional country-specific information for incorporation into the database. The participants will include one member from each ITTO producer member country. Each country participant is expected to provide the following for the meeting:

1. A complete list of all the lesser-used (and lesser-known) species which are in commercial quantities and are being promoted or plan to be promoted by member countries. The selected species shall not be currently listed in the ITTO Annual Review.
2. It is expected that the participants will provide up-to-date information on selected species identified in TOR item 1 above, including wood samples which preferably measure at least 1cm x 7cm x15 cm in size.
3. Specific information on commercial availability, technological properties, information on restrictions and country-specific data including information such as specific country restrictions, tariffs, annual allowable cut, etc., shall be collected and provided by the participants at the meeting.
4. The participants should also provide information on trade restrictions such as CITES listings and other country-specific restrictions (e.g., log export bans and possible tariffs or lack of tariffs). The source of this information should be the responsible agencies located in the respective countries.
5. A list of trade-related associations and relevant government institutions and their addresses which are currently facilitating the trade in tropical timber within the specific countries shall also be provided by the participants.

All information provided at the Consultative Meeting should be the most currently available with relevant dates associated with specific data and information.

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

1. Représentants des Etats membres de l'OIBT

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