



Workshops conducted for the Guyana Forestry Commission within the framework of the ITTO-project “Enhancing the Sustainable Management and Commercial Utilisation of the CITES-Listed Species *Cedrela Odorata* (red cedar) In Guyana”

10th – 11th February, 2016

Guyana

Report prepared a part of ITTO Project:

Prepared for the Guyana Forestry Commission within the framework of the ITTO-project “Enhancing the Sustainable Management and Commercial Utilisation of the CITES-Listed Species *Cedrela Odorata* (Red Cedar) In Guyana”, TMT-SPD 014/13 Rev. 1 (M)

February, 2016

INTRODUCTION

As one of the deliverables under the ITTO project “**Enhancing the Sustainable Management and Commercial Utilisation of the CITES-Listed Species *Cedrela Odorata* (red cedar) In Guyana**” the consultant, conducted several sensitisation workshops to ensure that awareness was raised within the sector concerning the developments with respect to CITES listed species and the impact or implications this has for trade for Guyana. Workshops were held in selected areas where there specifically targeted stakeholders are most located in an effort to have as many persons as possible participate in the workshops.

SUMMARY

On the 10th and 11th of February 2016, a consultant and a team from the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) carried out 3 workshops to sensitise stakeholders on Enhancing the Sustainable Management and Commercial Utilisation of the CITES-Listed Species *Cedrela odorata* (Red Cedar) In Guyana. Since the project focused on the species listed on CITES and the implications and impact thereof for trade the stakeholders targeted were the GFC staff (Forest Monitoring and Resource Management divisions), the producers and exporters of Red Cedar and Sawmillers. Workshops were held on 10th February at the GFC in Georgetown facilitating 2 sessions; 1) directed to the staff of the GFC particularly addressing the administrative role and capacity building needs in this area to address the listing of species in CITES; 2) directed to the stakeholders producing and exporting red cedar. On the 11th February another session was held at the forest station complex in Parika, where a large number of sawmills are clustered to address the impact of this current listing on CITES and how to maximize on utilisation and trade of the species.

The consultant made two presentations in each of the three workshops, discussing the following topics:

- Strengthening forest planning and marketing of CITES listed species; a brief overview of the project and CITES requirements
- Resource assessment; discussing the population size, distribution, stand density, size structure, regeneration dynamics of Red Cedar in Guyana and a possible strategy for the sustainable management

The session for the GFC staff included the following presentation in addition:

- Reporting Framework for CITES timber exports; discussing a protocol framework for monitoring international trade of Red Cedar

The session directed to producers, sawmillers and exporters included the following two presentations in addition:

- Market Information and Trade Statistics on Red Cedar; with attention for potential Red Cedar markets both domestically and internationally

A total of 67 persons attended the workshops representing staff of the GFC, other agencies, exporters, sawmillers, traders and producers of red cedar.

DETAILED OVER VIEW OF THE SESSIONS

Each session was opened with welcoming remarks and an introduction and overview of the project was provided with respect to the workshop focus and the origins of the project. Introductions were made of the speaker, Dr. van der Hout, and his role in the project. The project objectives were outlined to the participants: 1) *Resource assessment and forest management plan for Red Cedar*; 2) *Reporting framework for CITES timber exports*; 3) *Support capacity building on CITES and its implication for the forest sector in Guyana*. Two (2) workshop sessions were held in Georgetown and one in Parika to facilitate the various groups and clusters of stakeholders targeted for the workshop. The workshops consisted of four (4) segments as follows:

STRENGTHENING FOREST PLANNING AND MARKETING OF CITES LISTED SPECIES.

An introduction to CITES and its scope was done to ensure participants understood the importance and link between CITES and the listing of red cedar; the impact and implications this has on trade for Guyana. The process and process of listing a species was discussed where it was elaborated how the three CITES Appendices are ranked according to how international trade threatens a species:

Appendix I lists species currently threatened with extinction; trade is permitted only in exceptional circumstances and requires an export and import permit.

Appendix II lists species not necessarily threatened with extinction in the immediate term but in which trade must be controlled

Appendix III lists species that are protected in at least one country that has asked other CITES parties for assistance in controlling trade in those species.

Specific focus was placed on red cedar and its listing in appendix III and the category of products it refers to: restricted to logs, sawn wood, and veneer sheets.

The presentation also focused on the need for documentation particularly for export of the timber which will require a certificate of origin and the process to acquire this.

One of the main interests for the project being undertaken was to ascertain whether or not Guyana should list its national population of red cedar under appendix III. The findings of the project were discussed to recognise that although the species is available in abundance, under the current harvesting guidelines it is not being threatened and the production is still below the allowable annual yield which ensure its continuity.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK FOR CITES LUMBER EXPORT

In the second presentation the focus was on the system of Forest Monitoring and Regulation in the Guyana Forest Sector and CITES management in Guyana. The various documentation procedures and processes were focused on to address how important each was with respect to tracking the timber species to its point of origin. The discussions included some of the limitations in the production data management system in place. Several recommendations were offered up for discussion.

- Improve the production database by including automated reconciliation of Removal Permits with the Production Registers
- Computerize the assessment of royalty based on the associated Production Register data
- Upgrade the Return of Lumber Sawn and Lumber Produced forms and databases to a true Material Accounting Records by including removal document / incoming invoice and outgoing invoice references by job order (batch) or claim period (e.g. month)
- Enforce the requirement to confirm the source of the export product when applying for export of timber produce (Removal Permit and/or receipt numbers)
- Require the exporter to apply for a CITES certificate of origin at the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources at some stage during the preparation for export
- Formal arrangement between the GFC, the Customs and Trade Administration and the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources stipulating the role of each agency (particularly signal the Management Authority that Red Cedar produce is to be exported)

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

This segment of the presentation focused on the population size, distribution, stand density, size structure, regeneration dynamics and possible strategy for the sustainable management of Red Cedar in Guyana. Stakeholders were provided with the results of the research done under the project with respect to inventory, geographic distribution and site preferences of the species, local distribution, the issues pertaining to scarcity of the species in Guyana. Recommendations for raising the minimum cutting diameter were also proposed and discussed with the participants



Some of the conclusions discussed from the research

1. Red Cedar is very rare in Guyana, but current harvesting does not appear to threaten the survival of the species, because:
 - a) 20% of the population occurs along streamside buffer zones, where logging is prohibited in Guyana
 - b) Harvest levels, about 640 m³ per year are less than the estimated national sustained yield level of 800 m³ per year
2. Under the current forest management regulations and harvesting practice there are no clear grounds for including Guyana's Red Cedar population in CITES Appendix III
3. Production from large concessions is low
 - a) Poor knowledge of / interest in the species among concessionaires and inventory teams.
 - b) Large concessionaires do not seek specialty markets for Red Cedar but sell the species as mixed hardwood; i.e. below its intrinsic value
 - c) Better promotion of possibly attractive markets for the species and training of inventory
4. Current harvesting in small concessions possibly exceeds long-term sustained yield levels
 - a) Both the Minimum Cutting Diameter Limit and restriction on felling within buffer zones should be strictly enforced in small concessions.
 - b) Once these measures remain in place, harvest levels will automatically contract in future and will stay within sustained yield limits.
 - c) teams in identification of the species are recommended.

MARKET INFORMATION AND TRADE STATISTICS ON RED CEDAR

This presentation focused on the level of market information available to stakeholder and to build capacity and knowledge on the species itself. The focus was to developing local and international markets for Red Cedar, under the current forest management regulations. Since it is clear that this species is not one available in large volumes like greenheart and other species, there needs to be collaborative effort among the exporters and traders and the producers to ensure that supply can be more efficiently provided and trade can be maximised and more efficiently managed or facilitated.

DISCUSSION SESSION

At each session stakeholders have the opportunity to raise any questions and or make comments pertaining to the topic and or presentations made. Many stakeholders concurred on the level of supply and availability of the species.

Comments were raised concerning the level of marketing of the species. Due to the lack of consistent supply in volume, the species is not generally marketed as it is in the other countries such as Brazil and Peru. In Guyana, the species is generally undervalued and sold below its intrinsic value.

Some stakeholders were unaware of the CITES listing requirements or the need for certificates of origin particularly since many produced and sold to the local market. Exporters and traders were more cognisant of this but again due to limited supply only few people traded or dealt specifically or exclusively with trade of this species.

At the end of the session information brochures designed and printed specifically under this project were provided to all participants. Participants were thanked at the close of the session and welcomed to address any further questions to the GFC at any time.

The sessions were successful in broadening awareness and building sensitization across main stakeholder groups on CITES and Red Cedar, various aspects of reporting and management that this involves and what the requirements for trade encompass.

ATTENDANCE LISTS

Session directed to the staff of the GFC

Venue: Georgetown

| GFC Staff | Division |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Name | |
| Ria Bisnauth | FRMD |
| Stefan Razac | FRMD |
| Faizal Khan | FRMD |
| Clive Ryce | FRMD |
| Davindra Satnarine | FRMD |
| Anya Cornette | FMD |
| Jainel Bowen | FMD |
| Rawle Inniss | FRMD |
| Anthony Ramsay | FRMD |
| Garvin Douglas | FMD |
| Shaquille Smith | FMD |
| Anthonio Yham | FRMD |
| Rondell D' Andrade | FRMD |
| Keilon Sullivan | FMD |
| Quintin Patrick | FMD |
| Alan Carmichael | FMD |
| Benny Layne | FMD |
| Gordon Lommer | FMD |
| Don Stoll | PDD |
| Leroy Wilson | FMD |
| Lenford Frazer | FMD |
| Luann Nero | FMD |
| Keevin Glasgow | FMD |
| Ganram Manoo | FMD |
| Shuba Soamandaugh | FMD |
| Dian Downer | FMD |
| Donette Mc Farlane | FMD |
| Antoney Ramsay | FRMD |
| Lorrence Lorrimer | FRMD |

FRMD- Forest Resources Management Division

FMD – Forest Monitoring Division

PDD- Planning and Development Division

Session directed to Georgetown Stakeholders

Venue: Georgetown (GFC building) – Stakeholders

| Company | Name or designation |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| WTTP | Cecil Persaud |
| Cummings Wood Products | Joshua Cummings |
| Iwokrama | Raquel Thomas |
| FPDMC | 4 representatives |
| Rong an Inc | Keindra Tularam |
| Demerara Timbers Ltd. | 3 representatives |
| Forestry Training Centre | 5 representatives |
| Variety Woods and Greenheart Ltd. | 2 representatives |
| Forest Products Association | 5 representatives |

WTTP- Willems Timber and Trading Company

FPDMC- Forest Products Development and Marketing Company

Session directed to Parika Stakeholders

Venue: Parika Forest Station

| Company | Name or designation |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| K. Mangal and sons sawmill | T. Rea |
| Mohamed Alli Sawmills | J. Budoo |
| Mohamed Alli Sawmills | R. Bess |
| Parika Sawmills Limited | V. Oudhram |
| L.S Harridat Sawmills | Jullian Ramnauth |
| Sandra Chaitranjan and sons | S. Chaitranjan |
| Sandra Chaitranjan and sons | G. Sukhnandan |
| R. L Sukhram and sons sawmills | L. Russel |
| C &S Mohabir and sons sawmills | Savitree Mohabir |
| C &S Mohabir and sons sawmills | Gomattie S. Mohabir |
| Bhola's Sawmill | Salomie Bhola |
| R. Ruben sawmill | Steffany Shiykuma |
| A. Khan sawmills | Bibi Seeraj |
| K. Mangal and Sons Sawmill | K. Mangal |
| Specialty woods | Nicholas Ramcharan |