

**PROJECT PROPOSAL TO THE
INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANISATION (ITTO)**
Submitted by Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism of the Democratic
Republic of Congo and
the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon

**Pilot Implementation of a DNA traceability system for *Prunus africana* in Prunus
Allocation Units in Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).**

SUMMARY

This activity seeks to demonstrate that, using DNA techniques, *Prunus africana* bark can be traced back to specific trees from controlled Prunus Allocation Units (PAUs). The proposed DNA traceability system will secure controlled supply chains, detecting substitution of illegally harvested bark and allowing for timely corrective actions to be implemented.

This activity supports the ITTO-CITES project output of a cost-effective regulatory system for the trade in CITES listed tree species. The main outputs are: (1) development of genetic markers for *Prunus africana* suitable for DNA fingerprinting of bark, (2) Capacity building and training of local teams in DNA sample collection and storage, (3) Implementation of DNA traceability in two controlled supply chains from pre-harvest to the factory and then to point of export

EXECUTING/IMPLEMENTING AGENCY Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MECNT), Democratic Republic of Congo
Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Cameroon

COLLABORATING AGENCIES Double Helix Tracking Technologies, Singapore
Syndicates of Industries in charge of Harvesting, Processing, and Exportation of Special Products (SIHPESP) in Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo

DURATION 18 months

START DATE March 2014