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ITTO-CITES

PROGRAM FOR IMPLEMENTING CITES LISTINGS OF TROPICAL TREE SPECIES – PHASE II

Newsletter

In this Issue:

Program Donors

Private sector donors: Abbott-Solvay, Indena, EuroMed and Plavuma

This Newsletter is issued as initial activities under the second phase of the ITTO-CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Tree Species are well underway. Following up on the successful first phase of the program (2007-2011), this second phase continues work for four more years (2012-2015) on the most important CITES-listed tropical tree species in trade. The program is again majority-funded through a grant from the European Union (through the European Commission), which calls for part of the available funds to be devoted to activities relevant to both the ITTO-CITES Program and the ITTO Thematic Program on Trade and Market Transparency (TMT). The Newsletter is published on a quarterly basis, in English, French and Spanish, and is made available to all program stakeholders and other individuals interested in the progress of the ITTO–CITES Program. This issue covers a summary of program activities during the period November 2012 - February 2013.

Suggestions and contributions from program stakeholders are essential to make future issues of this Newsletter as informative and interesting as possible. Please send any correspondence to the relevant contact(s) listed on the last page.

Editorial

The 16th Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP16) will take place from 3 - 14 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. This Conference of the Parties is a special meeting for the Parties to CITES. We celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The Text of the Convention was signed on 3 March 1973 following its adoption at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C., USA, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered into force.

The number of tree species included in the CITES Appendices has grown from 18 in 1975 to more than 350 today. In total, 115 high-value timber species have been listed over the last two years and, we expect more to follow.

The CoP16 will discuss 13 proposals to list taxa comprising more than 200 species of trees for listing in Appendix II. If agreed, these new listings will have a big impact on the joint workload of CITES and ITTO. Since Phase I of the ITTO-CITES Program, the demand to participate in this Program has always exceeded the available funding. Thanks to the ITTO-CITES Program the Parties to CITES have witnessed, and others have benefited from, concrete support from the international community to help implementing CITES for listed tree species.

The listing in Appendix II requires that the Scientific Authorities make a non-detriment finding (NDF) and, that the Management Authority confirms the legal acquisition of the goods to be exported. During Phase I, the ITTO-CITES Program focused on the first element: the NDF. Phase II will now also assist range States on their efforts to build robust chains of custody. This is the reason why the ITTO and the CITES Secretariats teamed-up in 2012 to produce a first report on timber tracking technologies. In January 2013, the report (ITTO Technical Series 40, "Tracking Sustainability") has been made available in the three languages of both ITTO and the Convention.

This Program stands out as a model of effective cooperation between an implementing entity and a Convention Secretariat. We are eager to continue working with the Parties to CITES and with the Members of ITTO that so enthusiastically participate in the ITTO-CITES Program for CITES listed tropical tree species. Finally, we also hope that donors will maintain their generous contributions that have already made a difference in the way CITES is implemented to strengthen sustainable forest management worldwide.

Milena Sosa Schmidt, **CITES Secretariat**

ITTO-CITES Program

The "ITTO – CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Tree Species" aims to ensure that international trade in CITES-listed tropical tree species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation. The specific objective of the program is to assist CITES national authorities and the private sector to meet the requirements for managing and regulating trade in CITES-listed tree species; to provide capacity-building support, and to conduct specific studies where information is lacking so as to develop an enhanced global framework for the collection and analysis of information related to the biology and management of species and trade in tropical forest products. The main species covered to date are *Pericopsis elata* (afrormosia or assamela), *Prunus africana* (pygeum) and *Diospyros* spp. (ebony) of Central Africa and Madagascar; *Swietenia macrophylla* (bigleaf mahogany), *Cedrela odorata* and other *Cedrela* spp. (cedro) in Latin America; as well as *Dalbergia* spp. (rosewood) in both Africa and Latin America. Those covered in Southeast Asia are *Gonystylus* spp. (ramin) and *Aquilaria* spp/*Gyrinops* spp. (agarwood).

The main range States exporting significant volumes of these species are Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Republic of Congo in Africa; Indonesia and Malaysia in Asia; and Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru in Latin America. The direct beneficiaries of this Program are public authorities and private sector operators in the forest sector in the range States. The indirect beneficiaries are other Parties to CITES that trade in these species, who will benefit through capacity building and awareness raising.

Funding

The second phase of the program has received funding from the European Union, United States of America, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, and the private sector. The second pre-financing of EUR 1.2 million is currently being processed by the European Commission. Contributions of USD 180,000.00 from the United States of America and USD 70,000.00 from the Netherlands were received during the 48th ITTC Session in November 2012. ITTO will encourage donors to continue providing funds as requests for support under the program continue to exceed available resources.

Agreements between ITTO and institutions of range states

ITTO has approved four new Activities in Africa, three in Asia and one in Latin America under Phase II of the Program; while one Activity in Africa and two Activities in Latin America approved during Phase I of the ITTO-CITES Program continued to be implemented under the current phase. In addition, 15 Activity proposals, 5 in Africa, 4 in Asia and 6 in Latin America, submitted to ITTO are pending approval for funding with agreements set to be finalized for several of these as soon as the second pre-financing from the EU is received.

ITTO has signed agreements with the institutions listed in the box below since the inception of Phase II of the ITTO-CITES Program.

Cameroon
- ANAFOR (Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Forestier) - 1 Activity

Democratic Republic of Congo
- ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) – 1 Activity with extension

Madagascar
- Ministry of Environment and Forests, Faculty of Science of University of Antananarivo – 1 Activity

Republic of Congo
- CENIAF (Centre National d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement des Ressources Forestières et Fauniques) - 1 Activity

Indonesia
- Government of Indonesia and the Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA) - 1 Activity implemented by the Regional Research Centers of South Sumatra and South Kalimantan

Malaysia
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia (NRE) - 2 Activities implemented by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation and the Forest Department Sarawak

Brazil
- FUNPEA (Fundação de Apoio à Pesquisa, Ensino e Extensão em Ciências Agrárias) - 1 Activity with extension
- IFT (Tropical Forest Institute)/J. Grogan - 1 Activity with extension

Peru
- UNALM (Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina) - 1 Activity

Information about each country Activity (country, Activity document, executing and implementing agency) can be found on the ITTO website (http://www.itto.int/cites_programme). The following section provides brief descriptions and progress of the various activities undertaken by the countries since the inception of Phase II of the Program until February 2013. Activities pending funding will be reviewed in the first quarter of 2013 with a view to making the most effective use of program resources.

Activities in detail

Africa

Cameroon

Settlement of a Monitoring System for Logging and Processing of Assamela and Training Control Agents on the Use of CITES Tools and Procedures in Cameroon

The Activity started in September 2012 as a response to the study conducted by ANAFOR during Phase I of the ITTO-CITES Program in Cameroon entitled "State-of-the-art of production, transport, processing and trade of *Pericopsis elata* in Cameroon". The study revealed that the main problems observed in the management of *P. elata* in Cameroon were related to the lack of a reliable monitoring system and trained forest agents who are working in the trade and supply chain of Assamela from the production sites till the points of export. The Activity is expected to be completed in August 2013.

In this regard, a series of studies had been identified. The recruited expert had completed his work and submitted the final report on the state-of-the-art of the current monitoring system. The report contains a critical analysis of the tools used for monitoring logging, processing, internal transactions, trade, and the export of Assamela products. The current system of monitoring faces the problem of lack of coordination between the CITES Management Authority (MA), the CITES Scientific Authority (SA), and the timber companies. Data recorded by the timber companies in systematic inventories, logging, processing, transactions with other trade companies, or exports are not automatically transferred to the two CITES Authorities. The CITES SA does not monitor all the steps related to the supply chain of the timber from the forest till the points of export. Annual reports of the logging companies should be automatically sent to the CITES SA containing all data on the density, regeneration, volume logged, permanent plots, growth rate, etc; in view that *P. elata* is a CITES-listed tree species. The tracking system on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) will be more efficient since it is a computer-based one using Personal Data Assistant (PDA), and not one that is based on narrative reports as previously used. This tracking system will commence implementation by March 2013. However, the system will be based on inventories conducted by logging companies themselves with no guarantee on the accuracy of the data provided and recorded by the loggers. Systematic field controls by reliable forest agents will be required to verify these inventories. The new tracking system on FLEGT should include some details related to CITES-listed tree species in general.

The report on the monitoring system will provide the basic information for a second consultant/ expert who will be responsible for developing the monitoring system on logging, processing, trade and export of *P. elata*. The second expert has just started work and it is expected that the monitoring system will be finalized by April 2013.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Non-detriment Findings for* Prunus africana *(Hook.f.) Kalman in North and South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo

The Activity started in March 2011 under Phase I of the ITTO-CITES Program and is now re-scheduled for completion in mid-2013. The Activity encountered many problems in its implementation, namely, the instability /insecurity in the *Prunus* production sites due to the presence of many rebels groups, and the long distance that separates Kinshasa, the Headquarters of the Activity (ICCN) and the production sites in the North and South Kivu. As a result, it was estimated that the Activity had only achieved 20% of its planned activities by September 2012 when field activities in North and South Kivu were halted due to instability that threatened the safety of engaged staff.

Work to be undertaken through this Activity includes: (i) drafting the simple management plans for Ibathaama and Mwenda in the two Kivus; (ii) delimiting the first annual plots in each site; (iii) conducting systematic inventory of exploitable stems of *Prunus* in the first annual plots; (iv) putting in place a tracking system for monitoring the harvested barks; and (v) pursuing management inventories in additional production sites in the North and South Kivu.

In this regard, the Coordination Team of the Activity undertook a one week mission to South Kivu in September 2012. The objectives of the mission were to identify safe production sites of *Prunus africana* which could be inventoried, and to train local technicians in the inventory of *P. africana*. The mission identified eight production sites of *P. africana* in the South Kivu. These sites were selected based on their safety conditions.

In late November 2012, the General Manager of the ICCN sent a letter (0828/ICCN/DG /ADG/KV/ 2012) informing ITTO of the insecurity problems observed in North and South Kivu. In fact, Goma, the capital of North Kivu fell to the hands of three main groups of rebels, including the Rwanda Liberation Forces (FDLR), the Mai Mai, and the M 23. This situation makes it impossible for the Coordination Team to send workers to the field. Hence, field activities will recommence once the security issues are resolved.

During the International Meeting on Sustainable Forest Management in CITES organized by Indonesia with the support of ITTO and CITES in Bali, Indonesia from 8-10 January 2013, the Regional Coordinator, ITTO, CITES and the DRC authorities discussed and agreed on a work plan to use the Activity resources in areas not subject to the security concerns at the originally targeted sites. The overall goal of the plan is to extend the inventories to a national park controlled by the CITES SA. The park has been identified as a secured area.

Republic of Congo

Dissemination of the CITES Convention and its Implementation Texts in Republic of Congo

This Activity which started in October 2012 is a response to the questions raised during Phase I of the ITTO-CITES Program conducted in the Tala Tala Forest Management Unit in north Congo (see NDF report for *Pericopsis elata* in Congo on

First training workshop on the CITES texts and tools, Ouesso, Congo Brazzaville, 7 December 2012
Courtesy of: AKIM Urbain, Canal Ouesso

Program website). It is being implemented by the National Centre for Inventories and Management of Flora and Wildlife Resources (CNIAF) and is expected to be completed in mid-2013.

From 7-8 December 2012, the Coordination Team of the Activity organized a national workshop at Ouesso, the provincial capital of the Sangha Division in north Congo. The workshop aimed to train and enhance the knowledge of forest officers, logging associations' agents, customers, and other groups on the CITES texts, as well as the CITES implementing texts in Congo.

More than 30 participants attended the workshop which was opened by the Head of the Sangha Division. He noted that Assamela was primarily occurring in his territory. He thanked ITTO, CITES, EU and other donors for having assisted Congo since 2008 in sustaining Afrormosia in the Tala Tala Forest Management Unit and in the lifting of the ban on *P. elata* through the work conducted under the ITTO-CITES Program which has allowed the country to benefit from the international market. He expressed that similar efforts and assistance should be extended to other timber companies and timber species in north Congo, such as Bubinga, Longhi Blanc, Wengé and Moabi which have all been of some concern in Congo.

The Regional Coordinator for the ITTO-CITES Program in Africa presented the main activities expected to be implemented under Phase II of the ITTO-CITES Program and emphasized the importance of CITES training workshops as an important tool for capacity building in the region.

Mr. Mbarga Narcisse, an international expert, addressed issues related to (i) the meaning of the CITES Convention; (ii) the engagement and constraints of the Parties; (iii) the meaning of each of the Appendices in CITES; (iv) the process of listing a given species in Appendix III; and (v) the formulation of NDF reports for Appendix II listings. Participants expressed the need to be trained in the identification of Afrormosia products.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants made the following recommendations:

(i) the Government should put in place different CITES bodies, including the CITES Management bodies for wildlife, plants and fish, and the CITES Scientific Authority for each of these components;

(ii) the main points of the workshop discussions be introduced in the forest law that is currently being revised;

(iii) the Government together with the donors should allow young Congolese students to be trained in CITES through M.Sc. program; and

(iv) the ITTO and CITES should extend the activities of the Program to other forest management units and timber species considered as threatened in north Congo.

The second training workshop is scheduled for March 2013 in Ngombé, another city in north Congo.

Ramin shoot-stem collection at Ogan Komering Ilir (OKI), South Sumatra, Indonesia.
Courtesy of: Tajudin E, Komar.

Asia

Indonesia

The Assessment of Ramin Plantation Requirement and the Establishment of Ramin Genetic Resources Conservation Gardens

The Activity started its implementation in September 2012 and is expected to be completed in August 2013. To achieve its objective in contributing to the enhancement of recovery of *Gonystylus bancanus* (ramin) population and habitats, and the conservation of ramin plant genetic resources in Sumatra and Kalimantan in Indonesia, vegetative cuttings from two locations had been collected and are now under acclimatization for 2 - 3 weeks before transplanting to the field. Approximatly 320 cuttings from the Forest District of Ogan Komering Ilir (OKI) and 970 cuttings from Tumbang Nusa have been grown with approximatly 90% of them producing roots. Cooperation with the Centers for Seed Production (BPTH) of South Sumatra and South Kalimantan had been initiated. These two institutions, having nurseries, are tasked to produce the planting materials. In addition, the Regional Research Center (BPK) of South Kalimantan had collected wildlings of ramin to replenish the hedge orchard of Tumbang Nusa using its own budget as part of sustainablility of the Activity.

Malaysia

In Vitro Propagation of* Gonystylus bancanus *(ramin) in Sarawak

The Activity started its implementation in October 2012 and is expected to be completed in September 2013. To achieve its objectives in establishing effective protocols for the axenic (contamination-free) culture establishment of *G. bancanus* using field-grown planting materials, as well as protocols for *in vitro* regeneration of *G. bancanus* via direct organogenesis using axenic explants, the Activity had conducted field trips to Lingga, Sri Aman for phenology monitoring, wildings collection and bending of saplings. A total of 40 wildings was collected and potted in the nursery for hardening with 75% survival rate. Wildings in the nursery were sprayed daily with mancozeb as pre-treatment for surface sterilization. A total of 10 wildings was planted at the Semengoh hedge orchard (non-peat area) while bending was done on 37 saplings in Lingga to induce epicormic shoots production to be used as sources of explants for tissue culture work. The results were positive but the number of epicormic shoots induced was not satisfactory.

Use of DNA for Identification of* Gonystylus *species and Timber Geographical Origin in Sarawak

The Activity started its implementation in October 2012 and is expected to be completed in September 2013. To achieve

the development of a molecular database of ramin for the identification of species and the geographical origin in Sarawak, as well as a protocol for extracting DNA from ramin timber, the Activity had completed identifying the distribution of ramin in Sarawak based on information in the Sarawak Herbarium and the BRAHMS database. Collection of ramin samples from the logged-over forest at upper Balui River was carried out in December 2012 where a total of 10 leaves and wood samples was collected. Initial actions had also been taken to establish sample preservation procedures, test and modify the extraction protocol based on CTAB method and DNeasy Extraction Kit (Qiagen), and in the selection of microsatellite markers and chloroplast DNA primers for screening.

Latin America

Brazil

Big-leaf Mahogany* (Swietenia macrophylla*) in the Brazilian Amazon: Long-term Studies of Population Dynamics and Regeneration Ecology towards Sustainable Forest Management

Since the publication of the ITTO-CITES Newsletter 2-1 (October 2012), the research team had returned to the field sites in southeast Pará during November-December 2012 to re-enumerate mahogany populations in a total area of 2750 ha. More than 400 adult mahogany trees were re-enumerated for their survival rate, diameter growth, fruit production, and crown phenology; while several thousands of naturally occurring and experimentally out-planted seedlings were also re-enumerated for their survival rate and growth. During the upcoming 2013 field season, new research initiatives will investigate site and mahogany population histories through the use of dendro-chronological techniques.

The team had completed the Spanish-language interface for the Big-leaf Mahogany Growth & Yield Model (http://www.swietking.org/model-applet.html), calling it 'El Modelo de Crecimiento y Rendimiento de la Caoba' (http://www. swietking.org/spanis-model.html). The User Manual (Manual del Usuario) providing instructions for operating the Model had also been fully translated into Spanish and could be downloaded from the website. A training workshop for using the Model and modifying it to fit local populations and growing conditions has been planned and the venue to conduct the workshop will be determined in due course.

The website 'Big-leaf Mahogany in Brazil & South America' (http://www.swietking.org/index.html) is currently undergoing substantial updates, especially under the topic 'Management' (http://www.swietking.org/management.html). By the end of February 2013, it is expected to post interactive maps showing all field sites and providing spatial information on the physiographic and floristic patterns, especially at the Activity's principal site, Marajoara (see http://www.swietking.org/more.html).

Several mahogany-related research articles are currently under review or under preparation, as listed below. A complete list of publications resulting from the ITTO-CITES supported research can be found at http://www.swietking.org/our-research.html.

Bamboo (*Guadua* spp.), a serious impediment to mahogany natural regeneration, Acre, Brazil. Courtesy of: Jose Natalino Silva.

Grogan J, Schulze M, Pantoja F, Vidal E, Lentini M, Valle D (under review) Enrichment planting of Big-leaf mahogany in logging gaps in Acre, Brazil. *Forest Ecology and Management*..

Grogan J, Loveless M (under review) Implications of flowering behavior for management of Big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in southeastern Amazonia, Brazil. *American Journal of Botany.*

Grogan J, Landis RM, Free C, Schulze M, Lentini M, Ashton MS (under preparation) Big-leaf mahogany population dynamics and implications for sustainable international trade. For *Journal of Applied Ecology*.

Free C, Grogan J, Landis RM, Schulze M, Lentini M (under preparation) How much logging can Big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) sustain? A simulation-based assessment for southeast Amazonia, Brazil. For *Ecological Applications*.

Grogan J, McKenna J, Schulze M, Free C, Galvão J, Ashton MS (under preparation) Physiographic associations of Big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in southeastern Amazonia, Brazil. For *Journal of Tropical Ecology.*

Grogan J, Loveless M, Free C, Landis RM, Schulze M (under preparation) Management implications of fruiting behavior by Big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in southeastern Amazonia, Brazil. For *American Journal of Botany*.

Norghauer JM, Free C, Malcolm JR, Thomas SC, Grogan J (under preparation) Predation and herbivory drive distance- and density-dependent seedling recruitment of a Neotropical emergent tree: the evidence from spatial models. For *Ecology Letters*.

Ecology and Silviculture of Mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla King) in the Western Brazilian Amazon

The Activity started in March 2009 with the field work completed in December 2012. Delays in completing the Activity were due to issues relating to harvesting permits and weather. The major objectives were to (i) establish best silvicultural practices for sustained management of mahogany in natural forests of the Brazilian Amazon; and (ii) contribute to the improvement of the Brazilian regulations on the management of mahogany species (Normative Instruction No. 7, of 22 August 2003). The Activity was divided into two Phases: Phase I comprised all pre-logging activities, viz. 100% inventory of a 1620 ha. annual coupe, preparation of stock maps, harvest planning, establishment and assessment of eight permanent sample plots

and 20 regeneration plots, and harvesting operations. Phase II (which was delayed as noted above) consisted of post-logging activities, such as re-assessment of the regeneration plots, re-measurement of the permanent sample plots, and collection of specimens for tree identification. All the field data collected during both the Phases had been digitized and are now being processed and analyzed. The final project report is planned to be finalized by mid-2013. The main findings, so far, are, namely, (i) bamboo (*Guadua* spp.) is a serious obstacle to natural mahogany regeneration and as such, research on its control as a silvicultural treatment is of utmost importance for the silviculture of natural mahogany forests in Brazil; (ii) silviculture of mahogany in natural forests should also consider enrichment planting in gaps in order to improve mahogany production; and (iii) mahogany seed dispersal can reach up to 200 m from the parent trees although seedling density decreases as distance increases.

Four undergraduate students had been trained under the Activity's auspices, one article had been submitted for a scientific journal and one M.Sc. dissertation is under preparation.

Peru

Assessment of Regeneration of Natural Big-leaf Mahogany and Cedar Populations in Peru

Currently, there are regulations in Peru for establishing parameters to ensure species regeneration and in setting aside a percentage of harvestable trees as seed trees. Nevertheless, more than one decade has passed since the approval of logging units without knowing the response of species to these interventions and whether recovery after logging will effectively offer the required stock in quantity and quality for future harvests. In the light of this, this Activity aims to evaluate the recovery of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King.) and cedar (*Cedrela* spp.) species in the permanent production forest areas where logging of these species are taking place (South Amazonian region of the country). For its development, the compilation and systematization of secondary information such as General Forest Management Plans, Annual Operation Plans and inventories are required, as well a, the collection of primary information in the forest concessions of the Madre de Dios region where logging of these species had taken place. In conservation areas (control areas), evaluation of seed trees and natural regeneration will also be required.

The first fieldwork carried out in late 2012 allowed for the adjustment of the proposed methodology and for obtaining preliminary results, which indicated that trees evaluated for both species present have adequate external characteristics for their designation as seed trees and that the density of the current natural regeneration is high in the areas with interventions where there are openings created in the forest canopy caused by logging activities. By mid-2013, two additional fieldworks will be carried out in different logging units in the Madre de Dios region with the purpose to expand the sample coverage and to examine the recovery rate of both species in the southern region of the country.

Cedar regeneration in Peru.
Courtesy of: Carlos Garnica.

Recent events/ initiatives

International Meeting on Sustainable Forest Management in CITES

8-10 January 2013, Harris Hotel, Bali, Indonesia

by Nandang Prihadi[1], photos courtesy of: Directorate General of PHKA, MoF-Indonesia

Introduction

An international meeting concerning sustainable forest management in CITES was convened from 8-10 January 2013 in Harris Hotel, Bali, Indonesia organized by Indonesia CITES Management Authority (MA), Ministry of Forestry in collaboration with ITTO and the CITES Secretariat. The objective of the meeting was to share experiences in ensuring that international trade in CITES-listed tree species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation under the ITTO-CITES Program.

The meeting was successfully attended by over 100 participants from more than 10 countries (Cameroon, Congo (Republic of), Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Peru, Malaysia, and Indonesia), and also by representatives from ITTO and the CITES Secretariat, the Regional Coordinators for Africa, Latin America and Asia, the private sector, and NGOs.

At the Opening Session of the meeting, Dr. Steve Johnson (ITTO) and Ms. Milena Sosa Schmidt (CITES Secretariat) welcomed the participants to the meeting. The meeting was officially opened by Dr. Novianto Bambang Wawandono on behalf of the Director General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (DG of PHKA) as the Indonesia CITES MA. All

[1] Deputy Director, Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation, DG of PHKA as Indonesia CITES MA, Ministry of Forestry (MOF), Indonesia

of them reminded the participants of the meeting that it is very important to share our experience in managing the timber species listed in CITES and to have a better understanding in implementing CITES.

The 3 day meeting at Harris Sunset Hotel, Bali was enriched with several presentations and discussion which were organized into three technical sessions, namely: (i) Introductory Session on the ITTO-CITES Program in Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with Their Sustainable Management and Conservation with papers presented by 2 resource persons; (ii) Overview of the ITTO-CITES Program in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In this session, participants obtained related information presented by 14 speakers coming from the 3 regions, namely, Africa, Latin America and Asia; and (iii) Timber Tracking Technologies which were discussed due to the concern of the importance of timber tracking technologies to enhance sustainable trade and the management of timber species. This session was enriched by papers presented by 4 resource persons.

After the technical sessions that were enriched by several papers and discussions in plenary, the participants also discussed in working groups gaps in the work of the ITTO-CITES Program to date, lessons learned and recommendations for follow-up activities, including new target species and new work lines and activities. These working groups then presented their findings and recommendations in plenary.

Results of the Meeting
Selected outputs of the ITTO-CITES Program until recently include: NDF report for *Pericopsis elata* in Cameroon and Congo; Determine *Swietenia macrophylla* export quota in Peru and establish sample plots to provide reliable information on growth and response to impacts of mahogany and cedar; CITES Secretariat missions (e.g. Peru); Continued measurement and analysis of the longest running permanent sample plots of *Swietenia macrophylla* (started in 1997) in Brazil; DNA database development of ramin in Sarawak, Malaysia; Exports of *Prunus africana* recommenced from Cameroon and DRC; Listing proposals for Madagascar's threatened timber species; and Guideline for Non-detriment Finding (NDF) Assessment on Ramin.

Regarding timber technology issues, the meeting noted that timber marking and tracking technologies could serve to improve the speed with which countries share enforcement intelligence. The meeting further noted that the level of technology used must be appropriate to each individual country/industry, and adequate capacity building needs to be undertaken to ensure sustainability and local ownership of the system after any pilot phase.

The meeting was also able to identify gaps and lessons learned as well as results and findings from Phase I of the ITTO-CITES Program, including suggestions and recommendations, as well as priorities and targets for activities to be implemented during Phase II of the Program.

Acknowledgement
Participants expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the meeting, as well as the CITES Secretariat and ITTO for the support in the program implementation. Participants also expressed gratitude and thanked the donor countries, i.e. EU, USA, Norway, Germany, Netherlands, and the private sector.

Upcoming events

CITES Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
The CITES Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 3-15 March 2013. CoP16 will review proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II. A side event on the ITTO-CITES Program is scheduled on 8 March 2013 during the CoP16.

Documents related to the meeting are available at http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/16/doc/index.php

The 40th Anniversary of CITES
The celebration of the 40th Anniversary of CITES on March 3 2013 will be followed by 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16), which will be held in the same venue from 3 to 15 March 2013.

Seventh ITTO-CITES Program Advisory Committee Meeting
The Seventh ITTO-CITES Program Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 7 March 2013, coinciding with the Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The role of the AC is to review progress, assess gaps and provide guidance to Regional Coordinators for the implementation of activities under the ITTO/CITES Program. Members of the AC include representatives of the ITTO and CITES Secretariats, government representatives of program donors and target countries, and representatives of ITTO's trade and civil society advisory groups. The 7th AC agenda includes:

- Opening Remarks by CITES and ITTO, nomination of chair/rapporteur, adoption of agenda and self-introduction of meeting participants
- Brief review of on-going program activities
  (i) Ongoing country activities
  (ii) Pending country activities
  (iii) Regional/international workshops
  (iv) Regional Coordinators: performance appraisal, length of contacts, location
  (v) Toolkit - overview, progress report
  (vi) Other (including PR)
- Presentation by representative of DRC on situation in North Kivu regarding *Prunus africana*
- Program finances
- Other business
- Closure of meeting

Article

This newsletter welcomes submission of abstracts of relevant articles from academic or other journals.

"Assessment of Total Phenols and Extractives of Mahogany Wood by Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS)"

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Abstract

The resistance to decomposition of mahogany wood (*Swietenia macrophylla* King) ranges from high to moderate level. Wood extractives, mainly due to the presence of phenol compounds, are related to the natural durability of wood. The technique of near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) coupled with multivariate analysis has been applied to assess the extractives and phenols of 41 samples of mahogany in powder form. The hot water-soluble extractives were quantitatively determined, and the total phenol content was measured with the Folin-Denis colourimetric reagent. Models were developed with the NIRS data for each of the two variables. The results indicated that NIRS can be a useful tool for undertaking rapid evaluation of the extractive contents and total phenolic compounds of mahogany wood. The method was able to predict the interesting properties with errors lower than 10% and had the capability for detecting samples that have a minimum concentration of 2.4% of extractives and total phenolic compounds, respectively.

Keywords: Extractive content; mahogany; NIRS; total phenol content.

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Program monitoring

In order to ensure the transparency of the ITTO-CITES Program, regular monitoring of field implementation is conducted in Africa, Asia and Latin America by the respective Regional Coordinators. Mid-term and ex-post monitoring will also be conducted as appropriate and as per the terms of the grant agreement with the EC and ITTO's rules and procedures.

In this context, the Regional Coordinator for Asia, Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew, undertook a monitoring mission to Jakarta, Indonesia on 12-13 November 2012 to, among others, monitor and discuss the progress in the implementation of the ongoing Activity- *The Assessment of Ramin Plantation Requirement and the Establishment of Ramin Genetic Resources Conservation Gardens*, including the recruitment of personnel funded by the Activity; the preparation of the *International Meeting on Sustainable Forest Management in CITES* that was scheduled to be held in Bali, Indonesia from 8-10 January 2013, especially on the draft agenda and the proposed budget, as well as the venue for the Meeting; and the usefulness and impact of the Activities implemented in Indonesia under Phase I of the ITTO-CITES Program (2007-2011). In addition, the status of the 3 Activities that had been submitted to ITTO for its consideration and approval, namely, *Capacity Building on Seedling Propagation Techniques and Awareness Raising on CITES Implementation and Ramin Roadmap*; *Promoting Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources of* Aquilaria *and* Gyrinops *species in Indonesia*; and *Managing Agarwood Plantation in Indonesia*, as well as the type of activities that would be supported under Phase II of the ITTO-CITES Program (2012-2015) were also deliberated.

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