

# ITTO-CITES PROGRAM FOR IMPLEMENTING CITES LISTINGS OF TROPICAL TIMBER SPECIES NEWSLETTER



## Donors



Young sapling of *Gonystylus bancanus* in South Sumatra, Indonesia.  
Photo by: Tajudin Komar

This is the second issue of the *ITTO – CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Timber Species* newsletter. It is published on a quarterly basis, in English, Spanish and French, and is mainly made available to our African, Asian and Latin American colleagues, sponsors and other individuals interested in the progress of the ITTO-CITES Program. This issue covers a summary of program activities during the period April-June 2009.

Suggestions and contributions from project participants 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

One of the CITES strengths has always been its flexibility and its capacity to adapt over time to changes in conservation and management of and trade in wildlife. The interest of Parties in including tree species in the CITES Appendices has increased considerably over the last decade and the listings of *Pericopsis elata* (afromosia), *Swietenia macrophylla* (bigleaf mahogany) and *Gonystylus* spp. (ramin) in CITES Appendix II are proof of this tendency.

The CITES Secretariat realizes the challenges that range States of these timber species face to implement CITES requirements and it has teamed up with ITTO to help build capacities at the country level and promote the sustainable management of tropical forests including these species. This partnership has strengthened considerably over the last five years and is currently funding national activities to assist non-detriment findings by developing inventory, management and silvicultural plans, setting up tracking schemes, providing training, and developing training and working material.

This second issue of the Newsletter on the joint ITTO-CITES programme of work gives readers an overview of the progress made on these capacity-building activities, the development of national projects in participating countries, future activities, additional funding released by donors, workshops recently held in Congo, Malaysia and Peru as well as others to come.

The CITES Secretariat hopes that this partnership will allow Parties to implement CITES effectively for timber species. Both the CITES and ITTO Secretariats want to ensure that international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management.

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## ITTO-CITES PROGRAM IN A NUTSHELL

The "ITTO – CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Timber Species" aims to ensure that international trade in CITES-listed tropical timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation. The specific objective of the program is to assist national authorities to meet the scientific, administrative and legal requirements for managing and regulating trade in *Pericopsis elata* (afroformosa) found in Central Africa, *Swietenia macrophylla* (bigleaf mahogany) found in Latin America, and *Gonystylus* spp. (ramin) found in SE Asia and, in particular, to develop guidance to ensure that utilization is not detrimental to the survival of these CITES-listed timber species.

The main range states exporting significant volumes of these species covered by the program in are Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa; Indonesia and Malaysia in Asia; and in Bolivia, Brazil and Peru in Latin America.

The direct beneficiaries of this Program are public authorities and private sector operators in the timber sector in the range States. The indirect beneficiaries are other countries party to CITES that trade in these species, who will benefit through capacity building and awareness raising.

## FUNDING

The program has received funding from the European Commission, the United States of America, Japan, Norway and New Zealand. The European Commission provided a grant worth 2.4 million euros for program implementation, with over US\$ 800,000 dollars provided from the other donors in aggregate. The EC grant duration is until mid-2010 and ITTO will seek additional funds from donors so this popular program can continue into 2011. The USA has indicated an on-going interest in continuing to provide funds to this program. ITTO will encourage other donors to do so as well since requests for support under the program now exceed available resources. Approval of any new proposals received in 2009-2010 will therefore be contingent on additional support from donors. ITTO received the second installment of program funds from the EC (US\$822,637.55) in April 2009, allowing MOUs to be drafted for a number of pending activities as described below.

## AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ITTO AND INSTITUTIONS OF RANGE STATES

Over 30 activity proposals in Africa (5), Asia (13) and Latin America (15) have been submitted to ITTO for consideration under the Program. Of these, 8 activities in Asia, 4 in Africa and 4 in Latin America received funding from ITTO since 2008. All approved activities are still on-going except for one activity by Indonesia which is concluded. As a result of a second call for proposals, one activity has been approved in Indonesia in June 2009, and one more activity in Brazil has been proposed by the Federal Rural University of Amazonia (Universidade Federal Rural da Amazonia). In addition, Indonesia has also submitted two more Activities for the consideration and funding by ITTO. The two Activities, which are planned for implementation during the period 2009-2010 under the ITTO-CITES Program (depending on availability of program funds) are described in the Asia section. ITTO has signed agreements with the following institutions since program inception:

### SIGNED MOUs

#### Brazil

FUNPEA (Foundation for Supporting Research, Extension and Teaching in Agrarian Sciences) – 2 Activities

IFT (Tropical Forest Institute)/J. Grogan – 1 Activity

#### Cameroon

ANAFOR (Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement des Forêts) – 2 Activities

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo

Direction des Ressources Fauniques et Chasse /CITES RDC – 2 Activities

#### Indonesia

Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA) – 4 Activities (operational activities by Center for Forest and Nature Conservation Research and Development (CFNCRD) in cooperation with several institutions including SEAMEO-BIOTROP)

#### Malaysia

Forest Department Sarawak and Sarawak Forestry Corporation – 2 Activities

FDPM (Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia) – 2 Activities

FRIM (Forest Research Institute Malaysia) – 1 Activity

## MOUs TO BE SIGNED

Four more MOUs are to be signed soon with the following institutions. These MOUs are in the stage of finalization.

### Bolivia

Vice Ministry of Biodiversity, Forest Resources and Environment – 1 Activity

### Brazil

IBAMA (Brazilian Institute for Environment and the Natural Resources) – 1 Activity

### Peru

UNALM (Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina) – 1 Activity

### Republic of Congo

MINFE (Ministère de l'Économie Forestière) – 1 Activity

These three activities in Latin America (1 in Brazil, 1 in Peru and 1 in Bolivia) and one activity in Republic of Congo are set to commence as soon as the MOUs are signed. Information about each country activity (country, title, abstract, executing agency) can be found on the Program website [www.stcp.com.br/itto-cites](http://www.stcp.com.br/itto-cites). The following section provides brief descriptions and progress reports during the period April-June 2009 for all activities that are currently underway.

## ACTIVITIES IN DETAIL

### Africa

#### Cameroon

#### ***“Management of *Pericopsis elata* in forest concessions”***

The activity is on schedule. On 20 March 2009, the implementing agency, The National Agency for the Support to Forestry Development (ANAFOR), together with the Regional Coordinator and the CITES management authority organized a meeting in Bertoua to encourage timber companies to commence the project activities in their forest management units. Timber companies agreed to welcome the experts of the project in their concessions, and to give support to experts while in their forests. This support included fuel for the vehicle for data collection. The Regional Coordinator also made a trip to visit different timber companies to discuss with the Directors the process of implementation of the ITTO-CITES Program. Four out of the six experts submitted the first draft of their work including: (1) processing rate of *Pericopsis elata*, (2) analyzing statistical data on logging, transport, processing, domestic trade and exportation of *P. elata* products, (3) research on biological and ecological aspects of *P. elata* in natural forests, and (4) assessment of *P. elata* in forest concessions. All those reports are currently being examined by the implementing agency (ANAFOR) and members of the steering committee. One expert from CIFOR has finalized his study and submitted the final report: “The development of a fair policy framework for implementing the CITES and the European Commission regulations”. A total of 7 MSc students from the University of Dschang and the University of Douala are currently gathering data. At this stage, 60% of the specific activities planned in the original project have been carried out. Results obtained will allow ANAFOR to simulate the sustainable production/export quota of Assamela at the country level.



Training Workshop Field trip to Kinkolé, Kinshasa Gombe, DRC, June 2009. Photo by: Jean Betti Lagarde

#### ***“Management of *Pericopsis elata* in forest plantations”***

Two national experts have been appointed and they are currently gathering data in the field on: (1) the state of the art and development of a simple management plan for *Pericopsis* plantation, and (2) research on biology, ecology and silviculture of *P. elata*. Three MSc students from the Department of Forestry at the University of Dschang are currently conducting their thesis research on different aspects related to these two research areas. Data on plantation timber inventory and on the socio-economic situation in plantation areas have already been gathered by those students. A first draft of the simple management plan for each *Pericopsis* plantation is expected by end of July 2009. Management of the nursery of the Agricultural Research and Development (IRAD)/Kribi branch has been strengthened and the nursery has been provided with seedlings. No difficulties are foreseen at this stage of implementation.

#### Democratic Republic of Congo

#### ***“Dissemination of the CITES convention and its implementation texts within the distribution area of *Pericopsis elata* (Afromosia/Assamela) in the Democratic Republic of Congo”***

According to the proposal submitted to ITTO, this activity will commence in the second semester of 2009. A total of three local workshops are planned to be organized within the distribution area of *Pericopsis* in DRC to raise awareness among citizens about the CITES rules and their implementation.

***“Training of different stakeholders in the verification of the CITES permits compliance and the use of ‘CITESWOOD ID’ tool in the Democratic Republic of Congo”***

The Steering Committee (SC) of this activity met on 25 May 2009 at the Ministry of Environment and Nature Conservation (MENC). The participants were representatives from the Customs Office (OFIDA), the Congolese Office for Control (OCC), and the forest administration. Due to the ban on trade of DRC’s Afrormosia in Europe, the SC recommended to also include CITES procedures required for drafting Non Detriment Finding reports in the workshop agenda.

The national training workshop was held in Kinshasa Gombe between 08 and 12 June 2009 on the use of CITES tools. The goal was to contribute to the control of international trade in *Pericopsis elata* through the training of field inspectors. The specific objectives were: to inform participants on the CITES regulations and the formulation of NDF reports, to train assistant inspectors on the verification of CITES permits, and the use of “CITESWOOD ID”. Forty participants from OFIDA, OCC, the forest administration, and timber companies who attended the workshop became familiarized with the CITES permits and the use of the “CITESWOOD ID” package. During the field visit, participants had the opportunity to see logs and sawnwood of *Pericopsis elata*.

The Representative of the General Secretary of MENC proposed that the CITES management authority work with the Forest Department to draft a project on Afrormosia census to be submitted to the ITTO-CITES Program.

## Asia

### Malaysia

***“Non-detriment findings report on *Gonystylus bancanus* – a quantitative assessment of *G. bancanus* in two selected permanent forests of Sarawak”***

Forest inventory was only conducted in the Kayangeran Forest Reserve from 21 March to 19 April 2009 as the peat swamp forests were flooded in early 2009 due to the Monsoon season. A total of 38 transects were established and enumeration in the various forest types found in the Reserve as well as data entry and editing of the field data for further assessment had been completed. Another forest inventory has been planned for the Saribas Lupar Protected Forest which would be carried out in June 2009.

***“Quantification of dry and wet inland *Gonystylus* spp. (*ramin*), *Aquilaria* spp. (*agarwood*) and *Intsia* spp. (*merbau*) in Peninsular Malaysia”***

Based on the Fourth National Forest Inventory that was conducted in Peninsular Malaysia from 2002-2004, a total of 59 sample plots containing *Gonystylus* species have been identified for re-sampling. These included 20 plots containing *Aquilaria* species and 15 plots containing *Intsia* species. A course on inventory design and identification of *Gonystylus*, *Aquilaria* and *Intsia* species was also conducted from 25 to 29 May 2009 where 30 participants from the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia as well as those from the contractor who would assist the Forestry Department in the field work were trained. It is envisaged that the field work will be carried out in June 2009.

***“Generation of spatial distribution maps of *Gonystylus bancanus* (*ramin*) using hyperspectral technology and determination of sustainable level of harvest of *ramin* in production forests of Peninsular Malaysia”***

Presently, the data provider is in the process of finalizing the technical specifications for hyperspectral data acquisition while the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) is taking steps to purchase a spectroradiometer to expedite the study of spectral signature. Notwithstanding this, about 35 percent of the study area had been surveyed, with the completion of the field activity to map *ramin* distribution in Compartment 77, Pekan Forest Reserve, Pahang. An estimated 93 *ramin* trees have been mapped in a GIS database. The project is on schedule as envisaged in the Work Plan and no further technical barriers are foreseen at this stage of its implementation.

***“The development of *Gonystylus* spp. (*ramin*) timber monitoring system using radio frequency identification (RFID) in Peninsular Malaysia”***

The quotations from a number of interested companies had been submitted to the Tender Committee. While waiting for the decision from the Tender Committee for the appointment of the successful company to assist the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia to implement the planned activities, actions have been taken to source the type of RFID tags and handheld computers that are suitable for use in peat swamp forests. Currently, boundary demarcation of the licensed/study area is in progress.

***“Developing DNA database for *Gonystylus bancanus* in Sarawak”***

In February 2009, a total of 90 leaf samples were collected from 90 individual trees in Sedilu Forest Reserve, Lingga Water catchment area and Ulu Sg. Serapau, Lingga, where extraction of DNA was completed. In April 2009, extraction of 30 and 69 samples collected from the Kayangeran Forest Reserve and the Loagan Bunut National Park respectively was also completed. Currently, extraction of the 90 samples collected from the Maludam National Park in May 2009 is ongoing while new sample collection in the Naman Forest Reserve is planned for June 2009. All extracted DNA were stored in the freezer at -80° C with some samples showing viscous DNA band indicating the presence of small level of secondary compound. In this regard, the ‘contaminated’ DNA will be purified using the purification kit.

### Indonesia

***“Improving inventory design to estimate growing stock of *ramin* (*Gonystylus bancanus*) in Indonesia”***

Following the first Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on 28 January 2009, the National Expert and Team Leader for implementing the Activity have been appointed in April and May 2009 respectively. A Technical Workshop - “Review of the Existing Methods and Designs for *Ramin* Inventory in Peat Swamp Forests” was held on 12 May 2009, Bogor, Indonesia; and the report of the Workshop had been finalized. Currently, the selection of satellite imageries is in progress which will be followed by the interpretation of the acquired imageries and ‘ground- truthing’ exercise.



***"Assessing silvicultural system on ramin: review on the current practice and re-vitalization of existing permanent sample plots"***

The collection of rules, regulation and concepts had been completed with the appointment of the Team Leader and the National Expert in February 2009. The collection of information through interviews had also been conducted in Riau and Central Kalimantan. Action has been initiated to assemble the information collected from the existing permanent sample plots of ramin and the other species found in the peat swamp forests. Action is also being taken to prepare a draft revision of the silvicultural system and its practice for technical discussion which is tentatively scheduled to be held in July 2009.

***"Exploratory assessment on the population distribution and potential uses of non-Gonystylus bancanus species in Indonesia"***

With the appointment of the Team Leader and National Expert in February and April 2009 respectively, a literature review on *Gonystylus* species other than *G. bancanus* had been completed and deliberated at the Technical Workshop which was held on 24 April 2008, Bogor, Indonesia. The report of the Workshop is currently being reviewed and finalized. Field survey of the targeted non- *G. bancanus* species at several chosen sites has also been initiated. No difficulties are foreseen at this stage of its implementation.

## Latin America

### Brazil

***"Bigleaf mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla) in the Brazilian Amazon: long-term studies of population dynamics and regeneration ecology towards sustainable forest management"***

Project activities during the second quarter of 2009 have focused on data management, analysis, and synthesis for publication. Project co-investigators are working to fully incorporate 2008 data collected at Marajoara, Corral Redondo, and the Acre-Sena Madureira sites into long-term databases. No field activities are currently underway. The 2009 field season will commence in August or September, depending on local conditions.

***"Ecology and silviculture of mahogany (Swietenia macrophylla King) in the western Brazilian Amazon"***

This study aims to establish silvicultural practices for natural forests of mahogany in Western Brazilian Amazon to support public policies towards management and conservation of the species. The project officially started in May 2009, with the release of the first installment of the ITTO funding. In this first stage, the demarcation of the first Annual Production Unit (APU 1) of 2000 hectares has been established. The 100% inventory (census) of all tree species with DBH  $\geq$  50 cm has also been started, among which the inventory of entire mahogany natural population of the area of the first APU is to be completed for the end of July. After that, the area demarcation for the establishment of permanent plots to monitor growth, dynamics and production of adult trees and regeneration of the species in the area of APU 1 will be carried out.

***"Management of Hypsipyla grandella in Swietenia macrophylla King plantations in Pará and São Paulo States, Brazil"***

The technical team started the field work in the beginning of May 2009 in the municipality of Igarapé-Açu, when the first treatment application was carried out. In the last week of June, the general coordinator with his field assistants applied the treatments for the second time. During this second stage, the team also conducted the evaluations of the first application that was carried out in May. Project activities are already taking place in Igarapé-Açu and at the Tramontina farm where the establishment of the shoot borer *Hypsipyla grandella* is being monitored and compared between laboratory and in vitro that have already been started. The experiments which require more expensive equipment like hydroponics and the application systems in São José do Rio Preto have not been installed yet, but the purchase of such equipments are being arranged. For the application system, a lifting platform installed on a tractor to lift up the applicator in the treatment of mahogany plants more than 4 meters high has already been delivered in São Jose do Rio Preto; for the hydroponics, the purchase of an air compressor needed for the treatment is underway. In sum, the experiments are slightly behind schedule but should be completed according to the approved work plan.

### Peru

***"Evaluation of commercial stocks and strategy for the sustainable management of mahogany/Cedar in Peru"***

Project PD 251/03 (cedar component) ended its activities in March 2009. Currently, all information obtained is in the processing stage. One of the results is the identification of dendrological samples of different species found, the analysis of soil and organic matter were carried out to provide a description of the habitat of cedar species and its accompanying species. The analysis of form and volume served to determine the form factor (which expresses how close the shape of the tree trunk is to a true cylinder) at the national level, which is 0.6822, as well as the volume tables for this tree species. A map of the probability of existence for cedar species was also prepared, from which the population of the genus *Cedrela* has been estimated in the country as being between 1 million and 1,154,000 individuals; 62.12% of the population is below the minimum cutting diameter (DMC) and 37.88% are commercial trees. The final report of this Project will be presented in approximately one month.



Mahogany sawnwood in Peru.  
Photo by: Diego Nebel

## RECENT EVENTS

### Peru Workshop

The 2nd Latin America Workshop of the ITTO-CITES Project to Ensure that International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation: "Experiences in Application of Yield Coefficients for Control and Monitoring of Timber Activity" was held in Peru on 21-23 April 2009. The main objective was to share experiences of Latin American countries in determining existence and status of application of yield coefficients for control and monitoring of timber production/export activities. Yield coefficients are considered useful as a reference tool for the promotion of forest management, use and conservation, control and monitoring of mahogany and cedar logging and trade. However, it is important to use specific mechanisms to train operators, to adopt management tools and to promote the effective implementation of CITES. Three conclusions came out of the workshop: i) There are methodologies for determining yield coefficients, and they are considered as useful tools to strengthen management, use and conservation of mahogany and cedar; ii) The specific yield coefficients (mahogany and cedar) can be used, and these coefficients should be determined and recognized at the national level; and, iii) The calculation of conversion factors from log to products covered within CITES should include a range of variation and an adequate assessment of level of reliability. See the program website (where the final report will soon be posted) for more details.



2<sup>nd</sup> Latin America ITTO-CITES Program Workshop in Lima, Peru, April 2009.  
Photo by: DGFFS

### Brasília Workshop

The Regional Project Coordinator for Latin America participated in the "Workshop: CITES and the Implications to the Private Sector", held in Brasília, Brazil, on 05 May 2009. The participants were representatives of national private sector associations, federal and state governments, international organizations, and other invited persons and organizations. The objective was to disseminate information on CITES implementation and its mechanisms to the private sector, discuss the implications to trade, and enhance the cooperation between the private and public sector in dealing with CITES and other international conventions and agreements signed and ratified by the country. See the program website for details.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Second ITTO-CITES Program Advisory Committee

The second ITTO-CITES Program Advisory Committee (AC) meeting will be held in Geneva, on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009, coinciding with the first day of the 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee. The role of the AC is to review progress, assess gaps and to provide guidance to regional coordinators for the implementation of existing/development of new activity proposals. AC members include representatives of the ITTO and CITES secretariats, government representatives of program donors and target countries as well as representatives of ITTO's trade and civil society advisory groups. The AC draft agenda includes:

- Opening Remarks by CITES
- Overview of ITTO-CITES Collaborative Program
- Update on activity implementation under the ITTO-CITES Work Program element: Africa; Asia; Latin America; General
- Meetings/activities of relevance to early 2010
  - Mid-term evaluation
  - EC independent monitoring
  - ITTC 45th session (Nov 9-14, Yokohama)
  - CITES COP 15 (March 2010, Doha)
  - others
- Program website
- Donor visibility and coordination
- Review of program finances and fundraising
- General discussion/agreement on any follow-up measures/ recommendations
- Wrap-up, closure of meeting

### Meeting of Cameroon's Steering Committee

The second meeting of the Cameroon's Steering Committee is planned for the July 2009. ANAFOR is also planning to organize a national workshop in July for the dissemination of the preliminary outputs of the two activities funded within the ITTO-CITES Program in Cameroon.

### Meeting of DRC's Steering Committee

The first steering committee of DRC's activity "Dissemination of the CITES convention and its implementation texts within the distribution area of *Pericopsis elata* in the Democratic Republic of Congo" is planned for mid-July 2009. The first provincial workshop of this activity is planned for August 2009 in Kinshasa or Oriental province.

### Asian Workshop

The Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA), Ministry of Forestry Indonesia, with support from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and in cooperation with the CITES Secretariat, will be organizing an "Asian Workshop of the ITTO-CITES Project on Ensuring

## PROGRAM MONITORING

*International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation: Gonystylus spp. (Ramin)*" at the IPB International Convention Centre in Bogor, Indonesia on 1-2 July 2009. This Workshop, among others, is a follow-up to the "ITTO Expert Meeting on the Effective Implementation of the Inclusion of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) in Appendix II of CITES" that was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 16-19 May 2006.

The objectives of the Workshop include an introduction to the ITTO-CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Timber Species; implementation of CITES for timber species; reports of progress achieved by the Activities that are currently being implemented in Indonesia and Malaysia under the ITTO-CITES Project; a review of the progress and actions taken to implement the recommendations of the "ITTO Expert Meeting on the Effective Implementation of the Inclusion of Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) in Appendix II of CITES" that was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 16-19 May 2006; and the development of priorities and a regional strategic approach for improving the implementation of the CITES-listed *Gonystylus* species.

### CITES Standing Committee Meeting

The 58th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC) will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 6-10 July 2009. The CITES SC will be discussing many relevant items related to timber, such as "inconsistent implementation of Appendix-III timber listings annotated to include only the national populations of the listing countries"; issues on species trade and conservation regarding Bigleaf mahogany, ramin, and International expert workshop on non-detriment findings. The agenda of the meeting is on the CITES website ([www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)).

### ITTO-CITES Side Event at World Forestry Congress

CITES and ITTO will jointly host a side event to introduce this program to participants at the upcoming World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina (18-23 October 2009). More details will be provided in the next issue of this newsletter and will be posted shortly on the program website.

### EC Monitoring to Asia and Africa

The first EC Monitoring field visits to Asia and Africa were carried out, respectively, in September and October 2008. The monitoring in Asia covered Malaysia and Indonesia; and in Africa covered all three range states Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Republic of Congo. In both regions, the EC Independent Monitors visited the government officials in charge of the implementation of the activities and related organizations: In Malaysia, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia (NRE) and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM); in Indonesia, the Ministry of Forestry Indonesia. In Cameroon, the monitor visited the CITES Management Authority (Forest Administration) and the National Agency for the Support to Forestry Development (ANAFOR), the Association of Timber and Forest Industries; and the Institute for Agricultural research and Rural Development (IRAD). The overall assessment of the Asian activities was satisfactory; on the other hand, some concerns were raised regarding activities in African region, which have been considered and addressed by ITTO.

### Upcoming Mid-term Evaluation/EC Monitoring Mission

ITTO will undertake a mid-term evaluation of program progress in the second half of 2009. The EC may also undertake a follow-up monitoring mission which may include visits to Latin America and Africa. The optimal time to visit field activities in Brazil would be from August-October when the field crews will be in camp. Since there are currently three activities underway and another about to start, the visits will be combined and coordinated to ensure the best season to conduct field visits. In addition to external monitoring, the regional coordinators undertake on-going real time monitoring of all activities, including receiving and assessing monthly reports from implementing agencies and undertaking at least one visit to each activity site every 6 months.



Mahogany sawnwood in Peru.  
Photo by: Diego Nebel



A regenerated seedling of *Gonystylus bancanus* in Asia.  
Photo by: Tajudin Komar



## NEWS

### Peru

- ◆ The Government of Peru, in the last week of May 2009, provided the Ministry of Agriculture with an additional budget of approximately US\$ 10 million for the specific purpose of monitoring the production of mahogany and other commercial timber species, and to improve control of illegally harvested and traded timber during fiscal year 2009 (Decreto Supremo N° 120-2009-EF). This initiative is partly to comply with the CITES regulations and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States. This amount is approximately a ten-fold budget increase for the public forestry sector in Peru.
- ◆ The National Institute of Natural Resources (INRENA) has been replaced by the General Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife Fauna (DGFFS) that is part of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), in January 2009. The structural changes that took place within the government from the former INRENA to the new DGFFS have been gradual since mid-2008, but had an effect on overall administration of forestry in the country. The Office to Monitor Forest Concessions (OSINFOR), which is responsible for the national coordination, is not internally structured yet in terms of personnel allocation to make it operational.

### Bolivia

- ◆ The Directorate General of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (DGBAP) was established as a part of the Vice-Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change and is responsible for the implementation of CITES regulation. A new CITES Scientific Authority for forest-related issues has been designated in Bolivia: the National Institute of Agricultural, Livestock and Forestry Innovation (INIAF). It was created by a Decree Law (Decreto Supremo N° 29611) of June 25, 2008 to deal with forest, agriculture and livestock under the Ministry of Rural Development and Land. INIAF replaced the Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal (IBIF) as the CITES Scientific Authority on January 1, 2009 through a Ministerial resolution (Resolution Ministerial N° 009).

The Directorate General for Forests is part of the new governmental structure recently created under the Viceministerio de Gestión Forestal, which reports to the Ministry of Rural Development and Land. Its main function is regulatory (covering forest, industry and trade issues), which is divided into Forest Conservation and Production Development. The Forest Superintendence, that had the role of controlling and monitoring forest concessions and served to support the implementation of CITES regulations, has been replaced by the Authority for Social Control of Forests and Land (ABT).

## VISIBILITY STRATEGY

A program website has been created to disseminate countries' activities, outputs and findings, and to serve as a means of ensuring program visibility. The website has been revised following the recommendations of the first AC meeting. All program outputs are available on the website. All presentations made by ITTO related to the program are also included. The website is online at <http://www.stcp.com.br/itto-cites>. The site has been linked to the ITTO homepage, under the "ITTO at Work" heading <[www.itto.int](http://www.itto.int)>. As part of the visibility strategy, this newsletter has been produced in order to keep stakeholders updated.

## EXTRANET

The Regional Coordinator for Latin America has established a proprietary extranet system (Information Management System) to improve the communication among the regional coordinators. Both the African and Asian regional coordinators are now consulting regularly with the Latin American coordinator to ensure both the program website and information available on the extranet is up-to-date. The extranet allows access to all program documentation (full activity proposals, correspondence, EC grant agreement and visibility guidelines, etc.) to the regional coordinators, ITTO and CITES.



Mahogany tree measurement in the Brazilian Amazon.  
Photo by: Jimmy Grogan

Readers can download this *Newsletter* from <http://www.stcp.com.br/itto-cites> or [www.itto.int](http://www.itto.int). Do write and tell us what you think of our newsletter. Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve? Please write to us using the contact details provided on this page.

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