

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

NEWSLETTER



Donors



This is the third 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 July-September 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

The Lacey Act that was amended in 2008 is now in force and has now made it unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any plant (defined as including trees from natural or planted forest stands taken or traded in violation of the laws of a U.S. State, or most foreign laws. There are only a few limited exceptions to the Act, which also covers plants (including timber species) listed in an Appendix of CITES. This new tool is expected to assist the U.S. to support the efforts of other countries to combat illegal logging. As of December 2008, the amended Act has made it unlawful to import any covered plant or plant product without a 'Plant and Plant Product Declaration Form - Plant Import Declaration'. The Declaration must contain the scientific name of the plant, (including genus and species), value of importation, quantity of the shipment, and the name of the country in which the plant was harvested. This requirement has posed difficulties to the exporters of many tropical producing countries, especially those in Southeast Asia, as in many instances the timber and timber products are exported as a group of species of a given genus, such as *Gonystylus* (ramin), or as a group of mixed species of different genus with similar work working properties.

The genus *Gonystylus* currently includes about 10 commercial species out of its 30 different species. CITES listed the entire genus, so initially some export permits were issued with a generic identification (eg *Gonystylus spp.*). Indonesia and Malaysia (the key range states for ramin) are now taking steps to enhance the ability of their personnel to identify and label ramin products at the species level, including through the implementation of various activities through the joint ITTO-CITES Program. This, in fact, will meet the requirements of the amended Lacey Act and will provide a ready source of ramin products to the U.S. market. Notwithstanding this, the synergy provided by the regulatory requirements of CITES and that of the amended Lacey Act will greatly strengthen efforts towards the conservation and sustainable management of ramin, as well as the legal trade in ramin products.

This third issue of the Newsletter on the joint ITTO-CITES program 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, workshop recently held in Indonesia as well as others to come.

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Thang Hooi Chiew, Regional Coordinator for Asia

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* (afroormosia) 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, United States of America, Japan, Norway, New Zealand and ITTO's Bali Partnership Fund.

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 to date. The EC grant duration is until mid-2010 and ITTO will seek additional funds from donors under its 2010-2011 Biannual Work Program to allow the program to continue. The USA has indicated an on-going interest in funding 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.

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ITTO AND INSTITUTIONS OF RANGE STATES

Over 30 activity proposals in Africa (5), Asia (13) and Latin America (16) have been submitted to ITTO for consideration under the Program. Of these, 9 activities in Asia, 5 in Africa and 5 in Latin America have been receiving funding from ITTO since 2008. All approved activities are still on-going except for one activity in Indonesia and one activity in Peru which have been concluded. As a result of a second call for proposals, one activity has been approved in Indonesia in June 2009. In addition, Indonesia has also submitted two more Activities for 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

Peru

UNALM (Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina) – 2 activities

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

Republic of Congo

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

Indonesia

SEAMEO-BIOTROP (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, Regional Center for Tropical Biology) – 1 activity
CFNCRD (Center for Forest and Nature Conservation Research and Development) of FORDA (Forestry Research and Development Agency) – 3 activities

Malaysia

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia (NRE) – 5 Activities (2 Activities implemented by the Forest Department Sarawak and Sarawak Forestry Corporation; 2 Activities by the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia; and, 1 Activity by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia)

MOUs TO BE SIGNED

Two MOUs are to be signed soon with the following institutions. These MOUs were both near finalization in October 2009.

Bolivia

Vice Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change – 1 activity

Brazil

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

These activities 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 (note that the program website will be transferred to www.itto.int in October 2009). The following section provides brief descriptions and progress reports during the period July-September 2009 for all activities that are currently underway.

ACTIVITIES IN DETAIL

Africa

Cameroon

"Management of *Pericopsis elata* in forest concessions"

The submission of the report by experts dealing with soil sciences is scheduled by the end of 2009; all other experts have submitted their reports, which are being revised by the Steering Committee members and the project's staff. ANAFOR is planning to organize a national workshop by November 2009 with the objective of presenting data obtained from different experts together with the draft version of the Non-detriment findings report to the public and researchers. At this stage, 60% of the specific activities planned in the original project's work plan have been carried out. The results obtained can allow ANAFOR to estimate the actual quota of Assamela for harvest/export at the country level.

"Management of *Pericopsis elata* in forest plantations"

Activities are being implemented as scheduled in forest plantations. The two experts committed for this activity for the first semester are still analyzing their data. ANAFOR is also planning to organize a national workshop by November 2009 in order to present the results of data obtained so far. No difficulties are foreseen at this stage of the implementation of this activity. Specific activities which have not been carried out yet will be implemented during the implementation phase of the simple management plan of the plantation. Such activities include the development of rural nurseries and the production of seedlings, among others.



Photo by: Jean Lagarde Betti.

Democratic Republic of Congo

"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"

This activity refers to the national training workshop held in Kinshasa Gombé in 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. This activity has been concluded and the report will be available on the program website.

"Dissemination of the CITES convention and its implementation texts within the distribution area of *Pericopsis elata* (Afrormosia/Assamela) in the Democratic Republic of Congo"

The first meeting was organized on 24 August 2009 in Kinshasa Gombé. A total of five persons participated in this meeting, including participants from the Directorate for the Nature Conservation, the Congolese Office for Control (OCC) and the Customs Office (OFIDA). The meeting was chaired by Mr NGOY of the Directorate, representing the General Secretary to the nature protection and environment. The second activity referring to dissemination workshops will be organized in the field, mainly in the distribution area of Afrormosia in DRC. A total of six potential sites were identified for organizing the workshops. Nevertheless, members of the national technical committee (NTC) decided that the budget would not cover six sites as originally planned. They therefore, decided to organize two workshops in the lower Congo (Matadi) and Kinshasa (Kinshasa Gombé) regions because more than 70% of export timber passes through those two exit points (ports). For other sites, the NTC suggested to submit new proposals to ITTO as a future activity.

Republic of Congo

"Assessment of Afrormosia in a production forest to ensure its sustainable management in Congo-Brazzaville"

This activity is proposed by both the Congolese Government and the Industrial and Forestry Society of Congo (SIFCO). Its goal is to ensure that the export of Afrormosia products by SIFCO is not detrimental to the conservation of that plant species in the Tala-Tala forest management unit, based in the north Congo. The expected outputs are report on: (i) the state-of-the-art in managing Afrormosia/Assamela; (ii) Assamela assessment, (iii) management plan, and (iv) non-detriment findings for Assamela, in the Tala-tala forest management unit. This activity will be implemented taking into account findings from Cameroon's activity regarding "Management of *Pericopsis elata* in forest concessions". Due to the rainy season at the present moment, forest inventory-related activity will be carried out from December 2009 to February 2010 (dry season). The first draft of simplified management plan for the Tala-Tala forest is expected to be ready by the end of March 2010.

Asia

Malaysia

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

An expert was appointed to assess the distribution of *G. bancanus*, compute the sustainable level of harvest and prepare the Non-detriment findings report on *G. bancanus*. Currently, a total 38 transects were established and enumeration in the various forest types in the Kayangeran Forest Reserve in Lawas had been completed. The analysis of the data involving stem structure and the distribution of ramin in the Kayangeran Forest Reserve was also completed. This information will be used to compute the sustainable level of harvest of *G. bancanus*. In addition, forest inventory is being conducted, since June 2009, at the second permanent forest area, namely the Saribas Lupar Protected Forest in Sri Aman. Though time consuming, the field work is on schedule and the technical report is expected to be completed in October 2009.

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

A total of 59 sample plots containing *Gonystylus* species, 1 plot of *Aquilaria* and 7 plots of *Intsia* had been identified for re-sampling, and a private company, Timberland Enterprise Sdn. Bhd., was appointed to undertake the field work and prepare the required reports. In this regard, a course on inventory design and identification of *Gonystylus*, *Aquilaria* and *Intsia* species was conducted from 25 to 29 May 2009 where 30 participants from the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia, as well as those from the contractor were trained. The Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia had also purchased the required field equipment for undertaking the forest inventory. Presently, forest inventory work is being conducted and the progress of the Activity is on schedule as planned.

"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"

The technical specifications for hyperspectral data acquisition had been finalized, while the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) had also purchased a Spectroradiometer to expedite the study of spectral signature. An estimated 50 percent of the study area of Compartment 77 in the Pekan Forest Reserve in Pahang was surveyed where about 538 ramin and 392 bintangor trees had been mapped in a GIS database. In this regard, a scientist was appointed to undertake and supervise the field staff in data collection. Furthermore, 80 percent of data collection, compilation and analysis of secondary data in assessing the stocking and population dynamics of ramin had also been completed.

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

The boundary demarcation of the study area has been completed while the marking and tagging of trees is still being implemented. The acquisition of computer peripherals, RFID tags and the rental of satellite (VSAT) communication system have also been completed. In this context, a private company, Leadcom (M) Sdn. Bhd., was appointed to assist the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia, among others, to implement and optimize the software platform, including the configuration of databases and software modules and interface, as well as to provide training to the field staff and users of the timber monitoring system using RFID technology.

"Developing DNA database for *Gonystylus bancanus* in Sarawak"

A total of 9 ramin populations in the peat swamp forest of Sarawak was identified where 180 leaf samples and 60 bark samples were collected from trees in the Sedilu Forest Reserve, the Kayangeran Forest Reserve, and the Loagan Bunut and Maludam National Parks. DNA from an estimated 60 percent of the leaf samples of ramin was extracted, while 45 percent of samples collected from 4 ramin populations had been sequenced at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia using micro-satellite markers developed by the researchers. An estimated 75 percent of the bark samples collected, especially those from the Loagan Bunut area, was also processed using the recently purchased tissue raptor.

Indonesia

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

The review of existing forest inventory in using remote sensing technology was carried out through a technical workshop - "Review of the Existing Methods and Designs for Ramin Inventory in Peat Swamp Forests" held on 12 May 2009, Bogor, Indonesia. With the acquisition and interpretation of satellite imageries, the chosen cost-effective method was tested in selected natural habitats of peat swamp forests in Sumatra and Kalimantan from April to June 2009. The finalized method or design is currently being formulated using a combination of remote sensing technology and ground survey which will be used to estimate the standing stock of ramin in Indonesia.

"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 underlying the practice of the current silvicultural system has been completed in March 2009, as well as the collection of information through interviews in Riau and Central Kalimantan. The revised draft silvicultural system for peat swamp forest was also completed and deliberated at the Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA), Ministry of Forestry Indonesia Expose meeting held on 17 June 2009, and at the stakeholders' consultation meeting held on 22 July 2009. Currently, the review and evaluation of the existing permanent sample plots of ramin and the other species found growing in these plots, as well as the re-vitalization of the plots to become long-term ecological study sites are being implemented as planned.

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

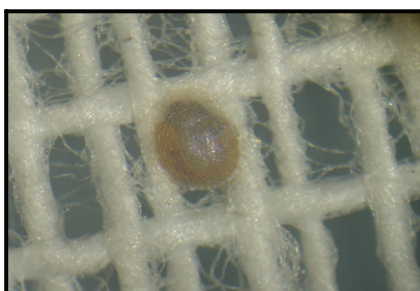
Literature review on the current status of the species *Gonystylus*, especially species other than *G. bancanus* was completed and deliberated at the Technical Workshop held on 24 April 2008. The state-of-the-art review, including the potential uses of the non-*Gonystylus* species, will be enriched with the results of the field assessment of pre-selected sites and pre-identified *Gonystylus* species which are expected to be available in October 2009. This Activity is expected to be completed at the end of 2009 as planned.

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 third quarter of 2009 have focused on preparing for and initiating this year's field season at long-term research sites in southeast Pará. With permission from site owners Srs. Claudiomar Vicente Kehrvald (Marajoara) and Honorato Babinski (Corral Redondo), field workers completed the first phase of this year's re-census of mahogany trees, natural regeneration, and experimental outplantings in a total area of 2700 hectares. The second phase of fieldwork will begin in mid October 2009. Co-investigators have submitted five manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals and books during the first three quarters of 2009, with three articles accepted for publication and two still in review. Three additional manuscripts will be submitted for peer review before the end of the year. As well, a technical paper and oral summary of results from this project will be presented at the "VII Congresso Internacional de Compensados e Madeira Tropical" in Belém, Brazil, at the end of October.



Egg of *Hypsipyla grandella*
Photo by: Orlando Ohashi

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

The study aims to establish silvicultural guidelines to be adopted in sustainable forest management plans of natural forests with the occurrence of mahogany in the Brazilian Amazon. The experimental research area is the Remnant Annual Production Unit (UPA-R1), with 1,620.6 hectares, which is part of the Project of Sustainable Forest Management with 186,000 ha, accounting for 97.8% of the total area from property called "Farm Seringal Novo Macapá" of 190,210 ha. In order to make the fieldwork easier during the census inventory (IF100%) of mahogany trees of 30 cm DBH, the area of the UPA-R1 was divided into four compartments, namely A, B, C and D. However, for the purpose of this research, the area of UPA-R1 was divided into two compartments (A + B) and (C + D). Thus, the census of mahogany trees in the area was carried out, where 110 trees were detected, of which 45 were selected for logging, 21 for future harvesting in the second cutting cycle, and 44 trees reserved as seed trees, which were mapped according to their geographical coordinates.



Natural regeneration of mahogany in the project area, UPA-R1
Photo by: Paulo Contente

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

This project aims to establish a management system of the mahogany drill insect (*Hypsipyla grandella*), to stimulate reforestation with mahogany in the states of Pará and São Paulo. Control techniques of *Hypsipyla grandella* will help ensure the success of mahogany reforestation, considering that this pest has been the limiting factor to date. The experiment in Igarapé-Açu is testing four Colacid (pesticide) formulations that were applied during the period May to July in an area that was previously 100% attacked by *Hypsipyla grandella*. After these applications, the infestation has been reduced to zero in three formulations during this study period. In June, a small infestation occurred in one of the Colacid formulations (12.5%), as well as in the control area of 18.75%. This reduction of *Hypsipyla grandella* infestation is assumed to be due to the application of treatments. However, a longer period of evaluation is needed to have conclusive results. In the area of São José do Rio Preto, the first measurement of mahogany plants has been conducted at 18 months of age measured on average 4.94 m high and 5.09 cm at DBH. This shows a great development of mahogany in São José do Rio Preto, compared to mahogany in Igarapé-Açu, which at 40 months measured 4.46 m high and 5.52 cm at DBH, probably due to good cultural practices (fertilization, weed and pest control) applied in São José do Rio Preto. As to the development of *Hypsipyla grandella* in laboratory, a natural diet (mahogany leaves) has presented the best results for reproduction of this species, considering that this diet produced 454 fertile eggs for further laboratory-rearing techniques, while under artificial diets *Hypsipyla grandella* did not develop. Other experiments (greenhouse and Aurora do Pará) are in progress, but no results have been obtained yet.

Peru

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

Project PD 251/03 (cedar component) has been successfully concluded. It is currently in the final stage of drafting the final report, which will include the methodology and results obtained by the Project. Some of the main findings are presented below.

- The dendrological identification of tree samples of different species were collected, as well as the analysis of soil and organic material, with the purpose to provide description of the cedar habitat and its accompanying species.
- With the collection of many data on form and volume, the form factor for cedar at national level was determined, which is 0.6822, as well as volume tables for this tree species.
- A map of probability of occurrence of the genus *Cedrela* spp was generated, as well as a map of current density of cedar populations in the Peruvian Amazon. The most important factor in the destruction of cedar habitats is the land use change to other uses such as agriculture and/or livestock.

The populations of cedar (*Cedrela* spp) have been depleted due to road building, combined with changes to the hydrographic network and the technological changes introduced in forestry operations. However there are areas with *Cedrela* spp in recovery, especially in places where habitats were once destroyed.

"Design, validation and adjustment of the methodology for monitoring and periodic evaluation of the plots for characterization of mahogany and cedar populations in Peru"

This activity began in July 2009 under the leadership of the Facultad de Ciencias Forestales (UNALM). During the first two months of activities, the methodology for characterization of mahogany and cedar populations has been analyzed and monitoring and periodic evaluation of these plots have been undertaken. The first coordination activities have been carried out to start fieldwork in the regions of Madre de Dios and Ucayali, which is planned to begin in the first fortnight of October 2009. Finally, cartographic and statistical information were collected and selected, which are helping to improve the existing database on mahogany and cedar.



Bifurcated mahogany due to the attack of *H. Grandella*. Photo by: Orlando Ohashi

RECENT EVENTS

Second ITTO-CITES Program Advisory Committee

The second ITTO-CITES Program Advisory Committee (AC) meeting was held in Geneva, on 6th July 2009, coinciding with the first day of the 58th 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 recommended that:

1. Efforts be made to engage importing countries in workshops and other program activities;
2. Range states should consider joint/regional submission of relevant activity proposals to the program;
3. Decisions on funding pending activities be deferred until 2010 program funding is clearer (ie after 45th ITTC Session);
4. ITTO and CITES should consult on the format and scope of a wrap up meeting/meetings for this phase of the program;
5. Continued donor interest in the program should be encouraged and explored by Secretariats and range States;
6. Any follow up grant proposal to the EC should be submitted once reporting and wrap-up requirements under existing contract with ITTO are satisfied; and
7. Its next meeting should be held by March 2010.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Meeting of the Scientific Committee

The second meeting of the ad-hoc Scientific Committee (SC) responsible for drafting non-detriment findings (NDF) report on Assamela in Cameroon is planned for 12–16 October 2009 in Limbé, Southwest Region of Cameroon. The major objective is to work on the NDF report based on the IUCN check list and to draft the synthesis report based on the International Expert Meeting on NDF (Cancun) Trees Working Group's report.

National Workshop in Cameroon

The National Agency for Support to Forestry Development (ANAFOR) is planning to organize a national workshop for disseminating results of the project. This workshop previously planned to be held in July-August 2009 has been postponed to November 2009. The main objective is to present the activities' results to the public. In addition, the ad-hoc Scientific Committee will present its NDF report.

National Technical Committee Meeting in Republic of Congo

The first meeting on the National Technical Committee will be organized by the Republic of Congo authorities in October 2009.

Provincial Workshop in DRC

The first provincial workshop on raising awareness of CITES and of its implementing texts in the range of afrorosia will be organized by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) authorities on 14-17 October 2009, in Kinshasa Gombé and the second will be organized in Matadi (lower Congo) later this year. The objective is to guarantee sustainable use of *Pericopsis elata* through the implementation of CITES and its regulations within the distribution area of this species. The potential participants include agents from the Congolese Office for Control (OCC) and the Customs Office (OFIDA), the forest administration, the National Agency for information, and the police force dealing with the issue.

XIII World Forestry Congress

ITTO and CITES 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). The title of the event is "Ensuring international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation", scheduled to be held on 19 October 2009, from 18:30 - 20:30 in Yellow Pavillion, Quebracho Room. The event will be chaired by Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho. In addition, there will be presentations on the development of activities in Africa by the Regional Coordinators Jean Lagarde Betti, in LA and Asia by Sofia Hirakuri, and specific case studies on ramin case in Malaysia by Shamsudin Ibrahim of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), review of peat swamp forest silviculture system in Indonesia by Hesti L. Tata of Forest and Nature Conservation R & D Center Indonesia and on mahogany case in Peru by Ignacio Lombardi of the Agrarian University of La Molina (UNALM), and an overview of the ITTO-CITES Program by Steve Johnson.

ITTC Session in Yokohama

The 45th International Tropical Timber Council session will be held on 9-14 November 2009, in Yokohama, Japan. Mr. Steve Johnson will report on the ITTO-CITES Program implementation during the Council Session under Council agenda item 10 ('CITES Listings Proposals'). A brief report on program financing will also be presented and additional donor support requested. Program participants and members of the AC are urged to make their views on the program and its functioning known to the Council since it would be considering initial implementation of two new thematic programs during the upcoming session and experiences gained in implementing this program would provide valuable lessons.

PROGRAM MONITORING

EC Monitoring to Indonesia

The second EC Monitoring field visit to Asia was carried out in September 2009. The EC independent monitor, Ms. Anne Martin, visited Indonesia from 14-15 September to hold discussion with officials from the Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA), Ministry of Forestry Indonesia, and those from its agency, the Center for Forest and Nature Conservation Research and Development (CFNCRD).

The officials were those who are involved in executing the 4 approved Activities in Indonesia, as well as officials from the contracting agencies in-charge in implementing the Activities. The Regional Project Coordinator for Asia, Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew, accompanied Ms. Martin throughout her two-day monitoring mission.

The assessment in implementing the 4 Activities in Indonesia was based on five criteria, namely, relevance/design; efficiency; effectiveness; potential impact; and sustainability of the Activities. An overview of the progress achieved in each of the 4 Activities was presented to her by the Project Management Officer of ITTO projects in Indonesia. The holding of the Asian Workshop of the ITTO-CITES Project on Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation: *Gonystylus* spp. (Ramin) in Bogor, Indonesia from 1-2 July 2009 was also presented to her.

Visits were also made to the Remote Sensing Laboratory of the Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University which is involved in implementing the Activity - "Improving Inventory Design to estimate Growing Stock of Ramin (*Gonystylus bancanus*) in Indonesia", and the Research Center for Biology of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, which is also the CITES -Scientific Authority of Indonesia, that is currently involved in implementing the Activity - "Exploratory Assessment on the Population Distribution and Potential Uses of Non-*Gonystylus bancanus* species in Indonesia", where in-depth discussions were held with the officers contracted by FORDA to undertake the activities.

EC Monitoring to Latin America

The first EC Monitoring field visits to Latin America (LA) were carried out in September 2009. This monitoring in LA covered two range states, Bolivia and Peru. In both countries the EC Independent Monitor, Mr. Jordi Del Bas, visited the government officials (CITES Management and Scientific Authority) in charge of the implementation of the activities and related organizations: in Bolivia, the forest authorities the Forest Superintendence (Superintendencia Forestal), the Directorate General of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (a part of the Vice-Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change), the National Institute of Agricultural, Livestock and Forestry Innovation (INIAF), and the Bolivian Forestry Research Institute (IBIF - former CITES Scientific Authority). In Peru, the monitor visited the CITES Authorities and other related organization in Lima, such as the Facultad de Ciencias Forestales (Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina UNALM), the General Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife Fauna (DGFFS), the Peruvian Exporters Association (ADEX), the National Forestry Chamber, the National Timber Confederation; Office to Monitor Forest Concessions (OSINFOR); and, the monitor also made a field visit to Puerto Maldonado, where he visited the regional governmental offices and other organizations, and forest concessionaries, such as the Regional Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, the National Forestry Chamber, the Technical Administration of Wild Flora and Fauna (ATFFS), the Funds for Promotion of Forest Development (FONDEBOSQUE), the Aseradero Espinoza and the Consolidado Otorongo. The Deputy Regional Project Coordinator for LA, Sofia Hirakuri, accompanied the monitor in Peru. The initial assessment of the Peruvian activities was satisfactory; on the other hand, some concerns were raised regarding activities in Bolivia.

Upcoming Project Review and Evaluation

In addition to external monitoring, ITTO will undertake a mid-term review of program progress in the last quarter of 2009. The Regional Coordinator for LA may undertake a follow-up monitoring mission to visit field activities in Brazil in November when the field crews will be in camp. Since there are currently three activities underway, the visits will be combined and coordinated to ensure optimal results. The Regional Coordinator is liaising with the project coordinators to undertake field visits.

ARTICLE

This is a short article resulting from the Asian workshop carried out as part of the ITTO-CITES Program. The Workshop was successful with participants knowledgeable about the current management and conservation status of ramin, the constraints encountered in efforts to achieve sustainability of ramin management, and the trade in ramin products that meet CITES regulations.

"ITTO-CITES Program on Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation: *Gonystylus* spp. (Ramin)"

by **Thang Hooi Chiew**
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Introduction

The Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA), Ministry of Forestry Indonesia, with the support from ITTO and in cooperation with the CITES Secretariat organized the *Asian Workshop of the ITTO-CITES Project on Ensuring International Trade in CITES-listed Timber Species is Consistent with their Sustainable Management and Conservation: *Gonystylus*. (Ramin)* in Bogor, Indonesia on 1-2 July 2009. A total of 35 participants attended the meeting.

The Workshop deliberated on the ITTO-CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Timber Species; an assessment and evaluation of progress achieved by the Activities that are currently being implemented in Indonesia and Malaysia under the ITTO-CITES Program; and 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, from 16-19 May 2006.

A total of six papers were presented in the plenary session while three Working Groups were established to develop recommendations and the way forward in addressing: i.) The Conservation, protection and sustainable management of ramin; ii.) the trade in ramin and its products; and, iii.) The need for capacity building, cooperation and coordination in meeting the ramin requirements in CITES Appendix II.

Workshop Recommendations

1) Conservation, Protection and Management of Ramin

The recommendations were the call for action to:

- i. Develop a standard methodology for the formulation of Non-detriment Findings (NDFs) for ramin based on the outcomes of the International Expert Meeting on Non-Detriment Findings that was held in 2008 in Cancun, Mexico;
- ii. Undertake inventory to quantify *G. bancanus* at the forest management unit (FMU) level and all commercial *Gonystylus* at species level;
- iii. Enhance rehabilitation of logged-over peat swamp forests, e.g. blocking of the existing canals, enrichment planting and protection from forest fire;
- iv. Develop specific management and rehabilitation plans for predominantly ramin forests, including specific cutting limits for harvesting of other commercial *Gonystylus* species, besides *G. bancanus*;
- v. Ensure sufficient planting materials for forest rehabilitation programs through establishment of seed production areas (SPAs), clonal orchards, improved tissue culture techniques, wildings, etc;
- vi. Provide incentives for the private sector to undertake forest rehabilitation of ramin mixed with other species for conservation purposes;

vii. Undertake further research on the silvicultural systems (restoration, natural regeneration, tree dynamics) of *G. bancanus*, as well as on the biological and ecological aspects of non- *G. bancanus* species; and,

viii. Enhance networking of scientific authorities and forest managers in the region, especially between Indonesia and Malaysia, on the various aspects of the ecology and management of ramin.

2) Trade in Ramin and its Products

The recommendations were the call for action to:

- i. Enhance the methodology used in the determination of export quota of ramin and ramin products to yield rates, conversion factors and domestic use, as well as create fora to enable discussion and information exchange on customs trade data;
- ii. Create links for easy online checking between producing and consuming countries to enable validation of the authenticity of the CITES permits issued, including web-based network among enforcement officers;
- iii. Improve the monitoring system from forest gate-mill-export point through the use of electronic devices, such as bar code label, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and DNA tracking; and,
- iv. Further understand the inter-linkages and interface between market demand for ramin and ramin products with incentives provided for achieving sustainable forest management, as well as pervasive market incentives.



Asian Workshop in Bogor, Indonesia—July 2009.
Photo by: Thang Hooi Chiew.

3) Capacity building, cooperation and coordination in Meeting the Ramin Requirements in CITES Appendix II.

The recommendations were the call for action to:

- i. Continue to conduct training and providing identification manuals, especially for ramin, in various national languages for customs and enforcement officers;
- ii. Promote the greater sharing and exchange of data and information on statistic, distribution, trade, enforcement, silvicultural-management practices, etc among executing agencies, especially the CITES-Management Authorities of the respective range States;
- iii. Strengthen and coordinate the ability to translate policy into action, including cultivating the political will to act and considering mechanisms for transparency and verification;
- iv. Formulate and/or develop new training modules, materials and techniques for training on ramin related to CITES requirements, including toolkits for identification of ramin-based products;
- v. Further conduct training and increase the knowledge of CITES-Management Authorities' officers and forest concessionaires on the methodology of resource inventory and in the determination of export quota for ramin; and,
- vi. Continue to strengthen collaboration between the range States and the ITTO and CITES Secretariats, especially in assisting range States to effectively implement the CITES requirements related to ramin.

The Way Forward

The deliberation and recommendations of the Workshop will provide a sound basis for the range States in the region to further review and refine their strategies for the management, conservation and protection of ramin species, especially Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as in meeting their obligations under CITES for the trade in ramin timber and its timber products.

It would also provide a basis for Indonesia and Malaysia to identify and formulate future activities on ramin for support and funding under the ITTO-CITES Program for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Timber Species, as well as projects with other bilateral and multilateral institutions and organizations.

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 will be transferred to the ITTO homepage (www.itto.int) during October 2009. All program outputs are available on the website. All presentations made by ITTO related to the program are also included. The website is online currently at <http://www.stcp.com.br/itto-cites> and is linked to the ITTO homepage, under the "ITTO at Work" heading until the full transfer to the ITTO homepage is completed. 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.



Appearance of the erect stem of mahogany after pruning of the branches
Photo by: Orlando Ohashi

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