

ITTO & CITES: Collaboration for trade in sustainably managed tropical tree species

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION (ITTO)



Background

- ITTO mandate to promote tropical SFM highly relevant to CITES listed timber species
- Collaboration since early 1990s through participation in and support of CITES Timber Working Group and later Mahogany Working Group; several ITTC and CITES decisions call for cooperation
- Worked together in 2005-06 to develop a large capacity building project; this gave rise to phase 1 of the ITTO-CITES Program (2007-2010)
- Phase 2 proposal developed in 2011 and commenced in 2012 (2012-2015)



ITTO-CITES Program

Major activities:

- Development of national/regional plans and projects
- Design of resource inventories
- Develop/implement improved management plans
- Undertake case studies on and develop guidelines for making NDFs
- Develop cost-effective regulatory systems for endangered/threatened tree species (tracking, etc.)
- CITES training workshops
- Other relevant activities developed with range states



ITTO-CITES Program

Funding

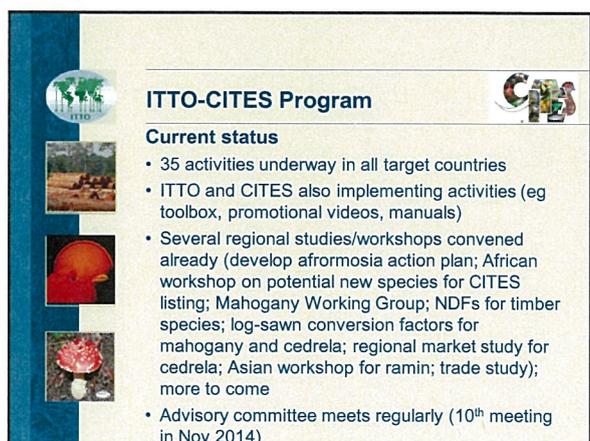
- Phase 1 sought USD 3.75 million over 3.5 years under ITTO's 2006-07 and subsequent biannual work plans (BWPs); Phase 2 nearly \$10 million
- EU provided 80% of phase 1 funding (2.4 million euros) and will provide 67% (5 million euros) of phase 2 funding through grants from European Commission
- Remaining (and additional) funds pledged through BWPs at ITTO Council Sessions (USA, Switzerland, Norway, Japan, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, BPF, and private sector)



ITTO-CITES Program

Scope

- Funds cover 3 tropical regions – Africa, Latin America and Asia; avg. project size < \$200,000
- Focus of assistance on significant exporters of main CITES listed tropical timber species in trade (*Pericopsis elata* – afrormosia; *Gonystylus* spp. – ramin; *Swietenia macrophylla* – mahogany); phase 2 extended work to other species (*Aquilaria* spp., *Cedrela odorata*, *Dalbergia* spp., *Diospyros* spp., *Prunus africana*)
- Workshops and training materials will benefit all countries (including importers)



ITTO-CITES Program

Current status

- 35 activities underway in all target countries
- ITTO and CITES also implementing activities (eg toolbox, promotional videos, manuals)
- Several regional studies/workshops convened already (develop afrormosia action plan; African workshop on potential new species for CITES listing; Mahogany Working Group; NDFs for timber species; log-sawn conversion factors for mahogany and cedrela; regional market study for cedrela; Asian workshop for ramin; trade study); more to come
- Advisory committee meets regularly (10th meeting in Nov 2014)




ITTO-CITES Program





Selected outputs to date

- NDF report for *Pericopsis elata* in Cameroon, 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 (eg Peru, Madagascar)
- Continued measurement and analysis of longest running permanent sample plots of *Swietenia macrophylla* (started in 1990s) in Brazil
- DNA tracing of ramin in Sarawak, Malaysia
- Exports of *Prunus africana* recommenced from Cameroon, DRC
- Listing proposals for Madagascar's threatened timber species




Program outreach





- Programme website ([www.itto.int/ITTO at Work/CITES](http://www.itto.int/ITTO%20at%20Work/CITES))
- Quarterly newsletter
- Brochures, toolbox, videos
- Regular reporting to ITTC and CITES as well as other important fora
- Regional/international workshops




Program outreach (cont.)





Videos

7 videos have been produced:

- Africa: a video on *Prunus africana* from Cameroon (short/long versions, E/F/S);
- Asia: a video on *Gonystylus* spp. from Indonesia (short/long versions, E/F/S);
- Latin America: a video on the management of *Swietenia macrophylla* from Peru (short/long versions, E/F/S);
- Overview: a video summarizing work in all three regions (E/F/S/J).

Available on www.itto.int/cites




Selected current activities





Madagascar

Assistance to Madagascar with the overall implementation of the action plan on *Diospyros* spp. (ebonies) and *Dalbergia* spp. (rosewood and palisander); plans include scientific surveys, identification, training workshop on non-detriment findings, marking and tracking systems, taxonomy and nomenclature, etc.




Selected current activities





Timber trade study

CITES CoP Dec. 15.35: directs the CITES Secretariat to commission a trade study to review the trade in timber species listed in Appendices II and III to determine the types of specimens that initially appear in international trade or are exported from range States and regarding those which dominate the trade in and demand for the wild resource




Selected current activities





Agarwood

Following Dec. 15.95 (rev.CoP16) of the Conference of the Parties to CITES at its CoP16, the CITES Secretariat will organize a workshop to share experiences, discuss management of wild and plantation-source agarwood, identify and agree on strategies that balance the conservation and use of the wild populations, while relieving the pressure on these by using the planted material.

To date, the ITTO-CITES program has supported 2 activities each in Malaysia and Indonesia focusing on agarwood, more in the pipeline




Future work

- Demand remains high for Program support; currently more than 15 activity proposals awaiting additional funding; Phase 2 funding almost all committed
- New tropical tree species being considered for CITES listing at each COP
- A proposal to continue the Program from 2016-17 is being developed by ITTO and CITES in consultation with the EU and other donors







Plantations

- ITTO recognizes plantations can be a key component of SFM
- Developed Guidelines for tropical plantation establishment in early '90s
- Undertook global study on incentives and status of tropical forest plantations in 2009







Plantations

- Plantations can help relieve pressure on natural forests

BUT:

- Higher returns/efficiencies can lead to pressure to focus mainly on plantations to detriment of natural forests and/or to convert natural forests to plantations
- Often difficult to reproduce quality of naturally produced materials (eg teak, agarwood) in plantations
- Higher demand and market activity related to plantation-sourced materials can lead to continued over-exploitation of natural forests, especially in places with weak governance







Plantations

- Plantations need to be part of a comprehensive forestry and land-use plan; must be part of the "permanent forest estate" and taken account of in industrial development planning, etc.
- Subsidies and investment programs for plantations must be accompanied by efforts to ensure good management (and if necessary protection) of remaining natural forests which are the repositories of genetic material that can allow improved plantations
- Most investments in tropical plantations are from private sector while owners/managers of most natural forests continue to be governments; these stakeholders need to work closely together to ensure sustainability, particularly with respect to CITES-listed species







Plantations

- ITTO-CITES program will continue to focus primarily on products from natural forests since this is where the problems that gave rise to a listing arose and where many pressures remain, including for agarwood
- Targeted assistance for plantation establishment and/or improvement will be considered under the program but will not be a primary focus (one existing activity in Indonesia focused on plantation establishment)
- ITTO's regular project program has supported work on establishment and improvement of agarwood plantations in Indonesia; such support will continue







THANK YOU

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