

**ACTIVITY PROPOSAL TO THE
INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANISATION (ITTO)
Submitted by the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo**

TITLE: Training of different stake holders in the verification of the CITES permits compliance and the use of “CITESWOOD ID” tool in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

SUMMARY

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the most important forest reserve in the Congo Basin with 124 566 hectares of dense humid forest occupying about 50% of the national territory.

The exploitation of *Pericopsis elata* (Afrormosia/Assamela), a CITES II listing plant species, is concentrated in two out of the eleven provinces found in the country: Equator and Orientale. The control in the exploitation of Afrormosia, as for many other timber species, is organized in two levels: in the provincial administrations through the provincial and district coordinators, and the territorial supervisors of environment and at the central level through mandated specialized forest offices. Many texts and rules were developed to enhance a sustainable timber logging in the country. In spite of those tools, the important timber volume from afrormosia still remains in illegality. This may be in part due to the insufficient knowledge of the anatomic and physiognomic characteristics of the wood of Assamela.

This activity aims to train forest agents posted in different way out points (ports and others) on the control of Assamela's products. This activity goes in line with action plan developed for the ITTO/CITES project on *Pericopsis elata*, the thematic areas n° 3 and 4 to be précised: (3) enforcement of relevant legal provisions and CITES provisions, and (4) building the capacities of stakeholders. The specific objectives of the activity are: (i) to train CITES auxiliary agents on the verification of the compliance of CITES permits, and (ii) to train CITES auxiliary agents on the use of the “CITESWOOD-ID” tool.