



## Challenges and goals

The secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) have launched a four-year project aimed at *Ensuring that international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation*, with a budget of over 3 million euros primarily provided by the European Commission.

Concerned that the long-term survival of commercially valuable timber species was being threatened by over-exploitation, afrormosia, bigleaf mahogany and ramin were relatively recently included in CITES Appendix II, which means that specimens of these species may only be traded if the exporting country has established that the export of the specimens will not be detrimental to the survival of the species (the so-called 'non-detriment findings' outlined in Article IV of CITES) and issued a CITES export permit.

The CITES and ITTO Secretariats realize the challenges that range States of these timber species face to implement listing requirements and therefore decided to collaborate on this project to assist them in this task. The project's goals are to help countries strengthen their capacities to make non-detriment findings and to adopt national legislation that ensures the proper implementation of CITES. This, together with capacity-building activities, allows the project to help meet countries' needs with regard to CITES implementation for these species.

Both CITES and ITTO have been active in promoting sustainable management of tropical forests, which is why the partnership makes sense. CITES has been considering capacity building efforts for assisting countries to implement timber listings for some time and invited ITTO to collaborate on a joint project in April 2005. The CITES and ITTO Secretariats worked in close collaboration to develop and complete a project proposal and, in September 2006, the European Commission generously accepted to provide up to 80% funding for it through ITTO's 2006-2007 work programme. Remaining funding has been provided by other donors.



## Tropical timber: a vital legacy

CITES and ITTO join forces to promote the conservation and sustainable harvest of tropical timbers



The project assists range States in building coherent policy frameworks that benefit the timber industry, local communities that depend on tropical forests, and the biodiversity-rich forests themselves. It focuses on the internationally most traded tropical timber species currently listed in CITES Appendix II: afrormosia, bigleaf mahogany and ramin.



Afrormosia (*Pericopsis elata*) is native to the equatorial forests of west and central Africa. It is classified as 'Endangered' by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and has been hard hit by logging. The project will support the efforts of Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enforce existing legislation and to strengthen the quality of non-detriment findings. Although procedures are not yet fully in place to ensure full compliance with Article IV of CITES in these countries, their national authorities are increasingly collaborating at the regional level and their timber industry is undergoing significant reform. The CITES and ITTO Secretariats will support these efforts through this joint project.

Bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) thrives in dry tropical forests ranging from southern Mexico to the Amazon basin. Although the species is not currently at risk of extinction, many populations are seriously threatened and their genetic variation has been depleted. The support given to the main exporting countries of bigleaf mahogany (Bolivia, Brazil and Peru) reflects the international interest in this resource. The project strengthens the range States' capacities to comply with the implementation of CITES for this and other timber species such as cedar (*Cedrela odorata*), which is found in the same range of distribution.



Ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) has long been one of Southeast Asia's major export timbers. Native to swamp forests, many ramin species are now considered to be over-exploited and vulnerable owing to heavy logging (often illegal) and habitat destruction. The inclusion of ramin in CITES Appendix II requires in many cases that exporting countries put in place a different management system for this genus. In particular they need to improve the coordination of the work of the national CITES Management Authorities, CITES Scientific Authorities and enforcement authorities, as well as of the 'Ramin Tri-national Task Force', so that CITES regulations may be implemented effectively. The range States of Malaysia and Indonesia participate in the project, which also seeks to engage with major importers like Singapore (the third member of the Tri-national Task Force).



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## Activities in Latin America



## Activities in Africa



## Activities in Asia



## Regional and other activities

BOLIVIA	
1	Population density and forest harvesting impact on natural regeneration and diameter growth of bigleaf mahogany ( <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> ), Bolivia)* (duration: 18 months)
2	Forest enrichment using bigleaf mahogany ( <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> ), a strategy for conservation and productivity enhancement in tropical moist forests in Bolivia* (duration: 13 months)
3	Spatial analyses of logging impacts in bigleaf mahogany ( <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> ) in the Peruvian and Bolivia Amazonia using remotely sensed data* (duration: 12 months)
BRAZIL	
4	Bigleaf mahogany ( <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> ) in the Brazilian Amazon: Long-term studies of population dynamics and regeneration ecology towards sustainable forest management (duration: 18 months)
5	Management of <i>Hypsipyla grandella</i> in <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> King plantations in Pará, and São Paulo States, Brazil (duration: 24 months)
6	Ecology and silviculture of bigleaf mahogany ( <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> King) in the western Brazilian Amazon (duration: 24 months)
7	Market study of <i>Cedrela odorata</i> * (duration: 4 months)
8	Preliminary execution of the national inventory for <i>Cedrela odorata</i> in Brazil* (duration: 8 months)
9	Study on volume conversion from standing timber to sawnwood for <i>Cedrela odorata</i> – export quality* (duration: 8 months)
PERU	
10	Evaluation of commercial stocks and strategy for the sustainable management of bigleaf mahogany ( <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> ) in Peru – extension to cedar ( <i>Cedrela odorata</i> ) (duration: 24 months)
11	Design, validation and adjustment of methodology for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of bigleaf mahogany and cedar sample plots in Peru (duration: 9 months)
12	Confirmatory assessment of forest inventories for cedar and bigleaf mahogany* (duration: 9 months)
13	Assessment of regeneration of natural bigleaf mahogany and cedar populations in Peru* (duration: 12 months)
14	Methodology to determine the yield coefficient from roundwood (log) to sawnwood* (duration: 18 months)
15	Methodology to determine the loss factor from standing tree to roundwood (logs) due to natural tree defects* (duration: 18 months)

CAMEROON	
1	Rehabilitation of <i>Pericopsis elata</i> plantations in Cameroon (duration: 24 months)
2	Sustainable management of <i>Pericopsis elata</i> in forest concessions in Cameroon (duration: 26 months)
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	
3	Inventory of afrormosia in a production forest of the Republic of the Congo to manage it sustainably (duration: 24 months)
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	
4	Raising awareness of CITES and of its implementing texts in the range of afrormosia in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (duration: 4 months)
5	Training interested parties on the verification of CITES permits and the use of the "CITES WOOD-ID" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (duration: 6 months)

\* pending approval/financing in mid-2009  
+ pending country signature of MOU in mid-2009

**Whilst the main aim of the project is to ensure that international trade in these CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation, the project should help the countries concerned develop robust forestry systems that will also benefit other timber species in trade.**

**The CITES and ITTO Secretariats will continue working to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations and the support they provide to countries with regard to the responsible management of tropical forests and timber trade.**

INDONESIA	
1	Improving inventory design to estimate growing stock of ramin ( <i>Gonystylus bancanus</i> ) in Indonesia (duration: 12 months)
2	Assessing silvicultural system on ramin: review on the current practice and revitalization of existing permanent sample plots (duration: 12 months)
3	Exploratory assessment on the population distribution and potential uses of non- <i>Gonystylus bancanus</i> species in Indonesia (duration: 12 months)
4	Identification of information gaps towards the SFM of ramin and thematic programmes to be included in the 2009 and 2010 work programme of the ITTO-CITES project "Ensuring international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation" (2 days, national workshop)
5	The development of mass propagation technique for ramin by establishing ramin plant genetic conservation gardens and fogging nursery system* (duration: 18 months)
6	Review on ramin harvest and trade: CITES-NDF implementation, Tri-national Task Force and trade data statistics monitoring* (duration: 12 months)
MALAYSIA	
7	Non-detriment findings report on <i>Gonystylus bancanus</i> – A quantitative assessment of <i>G. bancanus</i> in two selected permanent forests of Sarawak (duration: 12 months)
8	The quantification of dry and wet inland <i>Gonystylus</i> spp. (ramin), <i>Aquilaria</i> spp. (agarwood) and <i>Intsia</i> spp. (merbau) in Peninsular Malaysia (duration: 15 months)
9	Generation of spatial distribution maps of <i>Gonystylus bancanus</i> (ramin) using hyperspectral technology and determination of sustainable level of harvest of ramin in production forests of Peninsular Malaysia (duration: 24 months)
10	The development of <i>Gonystylus</i> spp. (ramin) timber monitoring system using radio frequency identification (RFID) in Peninsular Malaysia (duration: 8 months)
11	Developing DNA database for <i>Gonystylus bancanus</i> in Sarawak (duration: 8 months)
12	National workshop on enforcement compliance for trade in ramin ( <i>Gonystylus</i> species)* (duration: 1 month)
13	International ramin workshop – Identification, tracking and challenges* (duration: 1 month)

- 1 Regional ITTO/CITES workshop on afrormosia; Cameroon, April 2008
- 2 ITTO 2008-2009 Work Programme element: 'Enhance cooperation between ITTO and CITES: Building capacity to implement timber listings', 1st Advisory Committee meeting; Japan, October 2008
- 3 Fourth meeting of the Mahogany Working Group and first Latin-American workshop of the ITTO-CITES project on ensuring international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation; Mexico, November 2008
- 4 Second Latin-American workshop of the ITTO-CITES project on ensuring international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation: Experiences in the application of conversion factors to control and monitor forestry activities; Peru, April 2009
- 5 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); Indonesia, July 2009
- 6 ITTO 2008-2009 work programme element: 'Enhance cooperation between ITTO and CITES: Building capacity to implement timber listings', 2nd Advisory Committee meeting; Switzerland, July 2009

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