

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-fourth meeting of the Plants Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 20, 21 and 23-26 July 2018

Strategic matters

Capacity building

THE CITES TREE SPECIES PROGRAMME:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

The CITES Tree Species Programme

2. On 14 July 2017, the Secretariat and the European Commission announced the financial contribution of 8 million Euro by the European Union (EU) towards a project entitled: *Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant* (for more details, please refer to the press release in Annex 1). The contribution included 7 million Euro earmarked to support the CITES Tree Species Programme to be implemented by the CITES Secretariat, and 1 million Euro for the African Elephant Fund to be implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme. The project began in June 2017 and will end in June 2021.
3. The CITES Tree Species Programme will support Parties that export valuable parts and derivatives of CITES-listed tree species. Concerned that the long-term survival of commercially valuable tree species may be threatened by over-exploitation, the Conference of the Parties has agreed to include more than 900 tree species in CITES Appendices. Products of these tree species may only be exported if the Scientific Authority of that Party has advised that the export of the specimens will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. To that end, the CITES Tree Species Programme aims to provide direct financial assistance to Parties in taking conservation and management measures to ensure that their trade in timber, bark, extracts and other products from CITES-listed tree species is sustainable, legal and traceable.
4. The specific objectives of the CITES Tree Species Programme, to which the EU-funded project largely contributes, are:
 - a) ensure the sustainable management of rare tree species and their products;
 - b) contribute to legal, traceable, and fair trade in products from CITES-listed tree species;
 - c) improve and strengthen forest governance, policies for forest management, and enforcement capacity and ensure long-term benefit; and
 - d) contribute to rural development in often remote areas, sustainable economic growth at country level, a healthy private sector, and long-term poverty alleviation.

The CITES Tree Species Programme is expected to produce a global impact by improving the management of CITES-listed tree species, which, in turn, will have a positive impact on local economies.

The expected outcomes and outputs of the CITES Tree Species Programme are (see more details in Annex 2):

- a) improved technical and technological capacity for development of non-detriment findings including: forest inventory, distributional mapping, and CITES-listed species-specific management plans;
- b) improved silvicultural and ecological knowledge resulting in improved management of CITES-listed tree species;
- c) capacity building for timber and non-timber forest products identification, effective information and tracking systems;
- d) identification tools for CITES-listed tree species improved and developed using IT applications and other training support to identify and follow CITES-listed species tree products;
- e) market studies produced and forest product information systems in place;
- f) establishment and support of national fora, regional and international working groups, effective outreach;
- g) stable or increased employment in the forest sector; and
- h) long-term support for sustainable forest and tree management in key range States.

5. The structure of the CITES Tree Species Programme is contained in Annex 3.

6. Although the main donor of the CITES Tree Species Programme is the European Commission, the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) communicated in April 2018 to the CITES Secretariat that the United States of America contributed to the programme through the ITTO Secretariat. Donors have stressed the importance to continue the collaboration with ITTO as a key partner. Therefore, the ITTO and the CITES Secretariats have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, a Small Scale Funding Agreement and a Project Cooperation Agreement, that describe the extent of cooperation and joint work that is expected for the years to come. Not only can ITTO be a vehicle in providing further funding to the CITES Tree Species Programme through the ITTO Biennial Work Programme PP-A/52-320 on *Enhance Collaboration between ITTO and CITES*, but it also remains a key partner to bring expertise on tropical timbers and forest management matters. The CITES Secretariat will continue strengthening its collaboration with ITTO, forged over ten years of joint work under the *ITTO-CITES Programme for implementing CITES for tropical timber species*.

Structure and implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme

Regional support

7. To facilitate a smooth implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme, three Regional Coordinators have been appointed (see Annex 4). Their tasks include:

- a) assisting with the formulation of national projects' needs and priorities;
- b) assisting with the design of projects or activities;
- c) monitoring the progress of the implementation of approved activities and budgeting by implementing agencies;
- d) assisting in convening meetings as relevant;
- e) providing technical advice to avoid duplication of effort; and
- f) interacting with other projects and programmes of the CITES Secretariat as requested.

Advisory Committee

8. An Advisory Committee was established in October-November 2017. Its first meeting was organized on 27th November 2017 in the margins of the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, November 2017). A second meeting was held electronically from 12 to 16 March 2018. The minutes of those meetings will be made available later this year in the programme's webpage that is currently under construction.
9. Further details on the Advisory Committee's terms of reference, membership, and *modus operandi* are contained in Annex 4.

First call for project proposals

10. The first call for proposals was launched in August 2017 for Parties from Africa, Asia and Central and South America and the Caribbean. Parties in these regions were invited to submit proposals by 15 October 2017. A copy of the letter announcing the call for proposals was annexed to [Notification No. 2017/059](#) of 22 August 2017. Annex 5 contains further details on the conditions and requirements for the submission of proposals, as well as for the criteria used to assess the eligibility of the proposals received.
11. In response to this first call, the Secretariat received 68 summary proposals, amounting to a total of 14 million dollars (USD) (around 12 million euros). Taking account of the selection criteria and available funding, 16 were prioritized by the Secretariat under guidance from the Advisory Committee and retained for possible funding. Two groups of three Parties were asked to work together, resulting into two new tri-national proposals. Thus, the total number of projects selected for funding is 18 as listed in Annex 6. Fifty-two proposals could potentially be further developed to become eligible and those remain in the waiting list until new funds are made available. As mentioned in paragraph 6 above, the United States contributed USD 200,000 through the ITTO Secretariat that could be used to co-fund activities under the CITES Tree Species Programme. The CITES and the ITTO Secretariats will be discussing how best to use those funds. Some of the funding from the United States will likely go to activities of relevance to ITTO that may occur outside the projects approved under the CITES Tree Species Programme.
12. Further financial contributions for work under the CITES Tree Species Programme could be received through the CITES Secretariat or through the ITTO Secretariat.
13. The assessment of the project summaries took place under the guidance of the Advisory Committee. Parties that submitted summary proposals that were prioritized received an invitation to submit a full project proposal by 31 January 2018. In December 2017 and January 2018, the three Regional Coordinators worked with Parties in their regions to assist them in the preparation of the full project documents. The Secretariat received eight project proposals from Africa, five from Asia and five from Central, South America and the Caribbean (see Annex 6).
14. The Secretariat recruited two experts with extensive experience in forestry project design and evaluation in order to ensure a robust, transparent and objective assessment of the project proposals received. As a result, Mr. Ian Thompson (from Canada) and Mr. Jorge Malleux (from Peru) joined the programme team in February and provided their assessments and recommendations for each project proposal based on a thorough evaluation. In February, colleagues from the ITTO Secretariat assessed those project proposals received from ITTO Member countries. Key criteria used during the evaluations are contained in Annex 7.
15. Taking into account the experts' assessments and the priorities set by the Conference of the Parties, the Coordinator provided a final recommendation on projects pre-selected for funding to the Advisory Committee. The three Regional Coordinators continue working intensively with Parties in their respective regions in order to assist them in the preparation of the final project documents that will address the comments by the evaluators and any further recommendation.
16. As explained above, the 68 project proposals exceeded available financial resources. Within existing funding, the Advisory Committee agreed to fund 18 proposals, while 50 proposals received are waiting for additional possible donations and technical support.
17. Three regional meetings are being organized to continue assisting participating Parties in revising their proposals and coordinate work to be implemented in upcoming years. These regional meetings organized under the CITES Tree Species Programme are also relevant for the Plants Committee as they will try to include some discussion on CITES Decisions on tree species. Further details are contained in Annex 8.

Longer term perspectives

18. The Secretariat has undertaken preliminary discussions with donors and ITTO about the possibility of an extension of the work being undertaken under the CITES Tree Species Programme for the period after June 2021.

Recommendations

19. The Plants Committee is invited to note the present report



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

EU contributes 8 million Euro to support the CITES tree species programme and the protection of African elephants

Brussels/Geneva, 14 July 2017: The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the European Commission announced today the significant financial contribution of 8 million Euro by the European Union (EU) to support the sustainable management of tree species through CITES, and the conservation of the African elephants. This two-component approach will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of rare and valuable tree species in many biodiversity-rich countries around the world, and support the protection of African elephants.

The generous EU contribution includes 7 million Euro earmarked to support the CITES tree species programme to be implemented by the CITES Secretariat, and 1 million Euro for the African Elephant Fund to be implemented by UN Environment. This new funding will provide much-needed financial support to 25 main exporting range States of CITES-listed tree species in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and 37 African elephant range States.

Mr Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development said: "Around 70% of the world's poor live in rural areas. To support themselves and their families, they depend on natural resources and wildlife. But rising populations and global trade often put an unsustainable pressure on biodiversity, threatening livelihoods and long-term growth. This new financial contribution of 8 million Euro will support some of the key biodiversity-rich countries around the world to address conservation and protection challenges."

Mr Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, said: "The conservation of wildlife and timber species is a priority for the EU. Important decisions were adopted last year within the CITES Convention to strengthen the international protection for timber species and elephants. It is now time to turn these international commitments into concrete actions on the ground. With this new contribution, the EU shows its commitment to work with CITES and countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in order to ensure a sustainable future for the world's forests and the African elephant."

"Over recent years, CITES Parties have decided to use the Convention to regulate trade in an increasing number of commercially valuable tree species. The success of CITES in supporting sustainable, legal and traceable trade in timber and other tree products saw CITES Parties agree to bring a further 300-plus tree species under CITES trade regulations at CITES CoP17 last year. Bold decisions were also taken on fighting illegal trade in elephant ivory", said CITES Secretary-General, John Scanlon. "We are deeply grateful to the EU for its generous financial support to build the capacity of countries to implement CITES decisions on tree species and on combating illegal trade in elephant ivory. The EU's support for CITES stretches from the conference room all the way to the front line, which is greatly appreciated and critical for our collective success".

The tree species component will support countries that export valuable parts and derivatives of CITES-listed tree species. More than 900 tree species, of which many are highly valuable, are currently listed under the CITES Appendices. The countries will be assisted in taking conservation and management measures to ensure that their trade in timber, bark, oils and other products from CITES-listed tree species is sustainable, legal and traceable.

This EU-funded programme will help maximize CITES contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably Goal 15 as it relates to the sustainably managing forests and halting biodiversity loss. This will be achieved through improved practical and technological capacity for the development of non-detriment findings, enhanced silvicultural and ecological knowledge for the management of CITES-listed tree species, increased capacity in the identification of timber and non-timber forest products and effective information and tracking systems.

CITES will work closely with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other partners in the implementation of the tree species component of the project.

The elephant conservation part will contribute to the African Elephant Fund. This multi-donor technical trust Fund was created by CITES in 2010 to support the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan, jointly developed and approved by the 37 range States of the African elephant. The Fund is hosted and managed by UN Environment. The support will contribute to SDG Goal 15 target 7. i.e. to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.

Note to editors:

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact:

MARTIN RUIZ DE GORDEJUELA Carlos, the European Commission, at +32 2 296 53 22 or Carlos.Martin@ec.europa.eu

PETSA Iris, European Commission at +32 229-93321 or Iris.Petsa@ec.europa.eu

LIU Yuan, CITES Secretariat, at +41 22 917 8130 or yuan.liu@un.org

About CITES

With 183 Parties (182 countries + the European Union), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) remains one of the world's most powerful tools for wildlife conservation through the regulation of trade. Thousands of species are internationally traded and used by people in their daily lives for food, health care, housing, tourist souvenirs, cosmetics or fashion. CITES regulates international trade in over 36,000 species of plants and animals, including their products and derivatives, to ensure their survival in the wild with benefits for the livelihoods of local people and the global environment. The CITES permit system seeks to ensure that international trade in listed species is sustainable, legal and traceable. CITES was signed in Washington D.C. on 3 March 1973 and entered into force on 1 July 1975.

Learn more about CITES by visiting www.cites.org or connecting to:

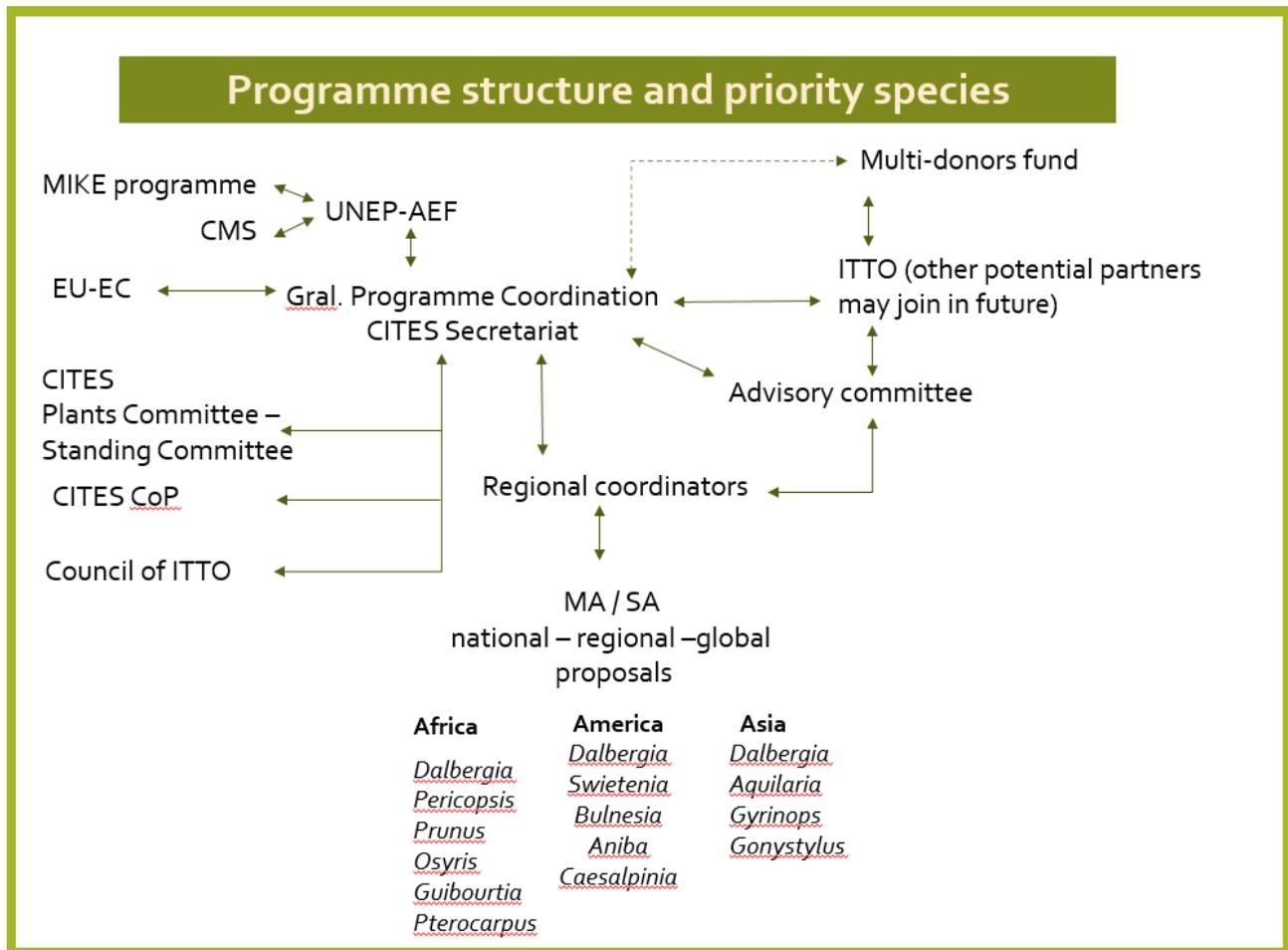
www.twitter.com/CITES
www.facebook.com/CITES
www.youtube.com/CITES
www.flickr.com/CITES

CITES Tree Species Programme: expected outcomes, outputs and kinds of activities that will be developed, and targets by output.

CITES Tree Species Programme				
Outcomes	Outputs	Activities	Baseline (2016)	Targets (2020-21)
Ensure the sustainable management of rare tree species and their products through improved technical and technological capacity	NDF reports produced for key CITES-listed tree species.	Support data collection and development of NDF reports	7 countries with NDFs on CITES tree taxa	12 countries with NDFs on CITES tree taxa
	New knowledge on the silviculture and ecology of CITES tree species	Support basic silvics research	7 countries with improved knowledge on CITES species	12 countries with improved knowledge on CITES species; 5 new proposals for CITES listing submitted to the Plants Comm. and to the 18 th COP.
	Best practices compiled and/or implemented.	Support inventories and compiling management techniques manuals for CITES tree species, especially via remote sensing	7 countries with best practice manuals on 6 species	15 countries with best practice manuals for CITES species; 5 countries implementing new practices
Contribute to legal and traceable trade in products from CITES tree species including technological advances in wood identification.	Capacity building on timber and NTFP identification and terminology for CITES listed tree species improved and developed.	Support development of techniques and new local manuals for guidelines	7 countries identify CITES species wood products; 2 techniques applied	12 countries identify CITES species wood products; 4 new techniques applied and 3 guidelines developed
	International (regional) meetings on CITES species identification techniques and enforcement.	Support for international meetings on CITES species identification	One past international meeting to share experiences on CITES species enforcement and identification.	Two new international meetings to share experiences on CITES species enforcement and identification.

<p>Improve and strengthen forest governance, policies for forest management, and enforcement capacity and ensure benefit from long-term support for forest management in areas with CITES species.</p>	<p>Establishment and support to national fora, regional and international working groups</p>	<p>Support for workshops, fora, working groups and for policy development</p>	<p>7 countries with fora; 14 countries with policies for CITES tree species</p>	<p>12 countries with fora; 2 new international working groups; 6 new countries with CITES tree species policies in place.</p>
	<p>Enforcement staff trained in CITES regulations and compliance, and use of modern, effective forest information and wood tracking systems.</p>	<p>Support for training workshops and development of wood tracking systems</p>	<p>200 trained staff; wood tracking of CITES species in 7 countries.</p>	<p>400 trained staff; 5 new countries with improved enforcement effort and wood tracking systems in place</p>
	<p>Public is better informed about the value of managing CITES species sustainably.</p>	<p>Support for public workshops.</p>	<p>4 countries</p>	<p>5 additional countries with regular meetings with local communities and involvement of local communities in decisions</p>
<p>Contribute to rural development in often remote areas, sustainable economic growth at country level, a healthy private sector, and long-term poverty alleviation.</p>	<p>Market studies produced for key CITES species; management plans in place</p>	<p>Support for market studies and management plans for CITES species</p>	<p>3 studies</p>	<p>4 new market studies; 4 enterprises with sustainable management plans for CITES species and local people employed</p>
	<p>Capacity of tropical timber producers to adapt to market changes improved</p>	<p>Reports developed on trends and factors affecting tropical timber markets; Reports issued on emerging market requirements for tropical timber products</p>		<p>3 reports made available to government and enterprises on market requirements</p>

Structure of the CITES Tree Species Programme



CITES Secretariat: the CITES Secretariat is the implementing agency of the EU- project entitled: *Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant* (for more details and it directs the overall work and expenditures of the 7 million Euro earmarked to support the CITES Tree Species Programme).

Regional Coordinators (RCs): the three Regional Coordinators assist participating Parties for 6 months a year of work spread in a year calendar. There is insufficient funding for recruiting the Regional Coordinators full time. The RCs liaise directly with Management and with Scientific Authorities in their respective regions and facilitate the work on target species that have been identified as priority species for work under the CITES Tree Species Programme.

Advisory Committee (AC): The CITES Secretariat does not have funding for organizing physical meetings of the Advisory Committee so it does that on an opportunistic basis when delegates attend other CITES official meetings. When physical meetings are not possible, the Committee works by electronic means. (See Annex 4 for more details).

EU-EC: the main donor of the CITES Tree Species Programme is the European Union through the European Commission. In this regard the CITES Secretariat reports regularly to the EC and holds meetings as necessary.

CITES Plants Committee, CITES Standing Committee and CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP): the CITES Secretariat will regularly report to the CITES official meetings and to other organizations official meetings as necessary.

ITTO Secretariat, Council of ITTO: ITTO remains the main partner of the CITES Tree Species Programme. The ITTO Secretariat reports annually on CITES activities to its Council and gives the opportunity to the CITES Secretariat to complement that report. The participation of the CITES Secretariat at the ITTO Council also provides an opportunity to ITTO Member countries and donors to feed the current work under the CITES Tree Species.

Multi-donors fund: further contributions can be received through the CITES or through the ITTO Secretariats.

UNEP-AEF, MIKE, CMS: the EU- project entitled *Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant* earmarked 1 million Euro for the African Elephant Fund to be implemented by UNEP although that work is overseen by the CITES Secretariat. MIKE is a member of the AEF Steering Committee and as a permanent programme of the Secretariat assists in informing the latter on latest developments and work under the AEF. The CMS Secretariat could be involved in future work of the AEF.

Terms of Reference of the CITES Tree Species Programme Advisory Committee

1. Mandate and key tasks

An Advisory Committee is established to support the implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme, and provide non-binding strategic and technical advice.

The tasks of the Advisory Committee will include the following:

- Provide guidance on the roadmaps produced by the regional coordinators.
- Provide advice and input on proposal applications.
- Be informed about and comment on the overall progress of the implementation of programme.
- Discuss issues and challenges identified by the programme team and implementers, and propose remedial actions, as appropriate.

The Advisory Committee findings and recommendations may be reported by the CITES Secretariat to both donors and to the CITES official bodies.

2. Composition

The Advisory Committee consists of the following:

- Three Party representatives from each of the three CITES regions concerned by the programme (Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean).
- Programme donor representatives
- Two scientists
- CITES Secretary General (Chair)¹
- CITES Tree Species Programme Coordinator and Programme Assistant (Secretary to the Advisory Committee)
- Three Regional Coordinators
- ITTO Secretariat (*ex officio*).

Effort will be made to ensure that the Advisory Committee remains small and flexible, whilst ensuring effectiveness and regional balance. A minimum of one Party representative from each of the three CITES regions concerned by the programme (Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean); one donor, and the CITES Secretariat will form a quorum for conducting physical meetings.

Additional members to the Advisory Committee may join at a later stage by agreement. The number of donors present in each meeting cannot outnumber the number of Party representatives.

All members to the Advisory Committee will contribute on a voluntary basis and will self-finance their participation at physical meetings.

3. Modus operandi

The Advisory Committee will conduct its work mostly through email exchange. The CITES Tree Species Programme Coordinator will ensure that information is shared among the Advisory Committee members. A dedicated programme webpage will be created and maintained to share relevant programme information and to facilitate communication with the Advisory Committee.

¹ For the entire duration of this project and to be reconsidered at a later stage.

These will be closed meetings. In the case that another Party observer would like to attend a particular meeting, that will need to be considered in advance by the Advisory Committee members and, on a case by case basis.

Subject to financial availability, the Advisory Committee will aim to meet face-to-face on an opportunistic basis in the margins of CITES official and other relevant meetings.

At the beginning of each Advisory Committee meeting, the Chair will present the agenda and invite a round of self-introduction of participants. The assistant of the programme will take notes of discussions and prepare minutes that will be shared with all participants.

Rules of procedure may be adopted, if necessary, to help with a smooth running of each meeting.

CITES Tree Species Programme Advisory Committee
Members and contact information

Asia		
Cambodia	Indonesia	Viet Nam
Mr. Ty Sokhun Chairman CITES Management Authority of Cambodia Secretary of State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)	Mr. Bambang Dahono Adji Director of Biodiversity Conservation CITES Management Authority of Indonesia Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation	Mr. Vuong Tien Manh Deputy Director Viet Nam CITES Management Authority Administration of Forestry Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
India	Malaysia	Thailand
Mr. Tarun Kathula Wildlife Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)	Mr. Megat Sany Megat Ahmad Supian Undersecretary Biodiversity and Forest Management Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)	Mr. Somkiat Soontornpitakool Director of CITES Management Authority of Thailand Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation
Africa		
Gabon	Tanzania	Côte d'Ivoire
Mr. Brice Léandre Meye Directeur Général de la Faune et des Aires Protégées	Chief Executive, Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS)	Ms. Salimata Kone, Ministère des Eaux et Forêts - Direction de la Faune et des Ressources Cynégétiques
Cameroon	Madagascar	Senegal
Mr. Martin Mbongo, point focal Organe de gestion CITES flore du Cameroun, Ministère des Forêts et Faune	Mr. Liva Ramiandrivo, Organe de Gestion CITES, Secrétaire Général du Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Ecologie et des Forêts	Mr. Abba Sonko, Direction des Eaux et Forêts, Chasses et de la Conservation des Sols/Organe de Gestion CITES au Sénégal
Central, South America and the Caribbean		
Brazil	Guatemala	Argentina
Ms. Claudia M. C. de Mello Autoridad Administrativa CITES	Mr. César Augusto Beltetón	Mr. Daniel Ramadori Autoridad Administrativa CITES

Claudia M. C. de Mello Diretoria de Uso de Biodiversidade e Florestas Coordenação de Comércio Exterior Coordenadora	Scientific Authority CITES Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas	
Perú Ms. Irma Betty Romero Rodriguez Autoridad Administrativa CITES Dirección de Gestión Sostenible del Patrimonio Forestal	Bahamas Ms. Danielle Hanek MSc.Forest Officer Forestry Unit Ministry of the Environment and Housing	Nicaragua Mr. René Salvador Castellón Autoridad Administrativa CITES Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARENA)
Programme donor representatives		
European Commission Ms. Silvia Facchinello Policy Officer European Commission International Cooperation and Development Unit C2 – Environment, Natural Resources, Water		
United States of America Ms. Anne St. John Biologist Division of Management Authority U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		
CITES TREES SPECIES PROGRAMME TEAM		
Evaluators/Scientists		
Mr. Ian Thompson Thompson Forest Consulting Inc.	Mr. Jorge Malleux Consultor forestal Internacional Profesor Emérito Universidad Nacional Agraria - La Molina Lima Perú	
CITES Tree Species Programme Coordinator and Programme Assistant		
Ms. Milena Sosa Schmidt CITES Tree species programme Coordinator	Ms. Eleonora Palmero Programme Assistant	
Three Regional Coordinators		
Mr. Jean Lagarde BETTI Regional Coordinator for Africa, CITES Tree Species Programme,	Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew, Regional Coordinator for Asia, CITES Tree Species Programme,	Ms. Milena Sosa Schmidt Regional Coordinator for Central and South America and the Caribbean
ITTO Secretariat (ex officio) Mr. Steven E. Johnson Assistant Director Division of Trade and Industry International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)		

Member

Alternate member

Conditions and requirements for submission of proposals for which funding is requested

1. Geographical and taxonomic scope:

Considering efforts to assist Parties to implement the Convention for CITES listed tree species, the financial support will be available for the implementation of activities in three target CITES regions: Africa, Asia, and Central and South American and the Caribbean. The tentative list of candidate species for the programme is as follows (* are the target key species):

Asia: *Dalbergia cochichiniensis**, *Pterocarpus sanctalinus**, *Taxus* spp., *Aquilaria* spp., *Gyrinops* spp., *Gonystylus* spp.

Africa: *Diospyros* spp. (Madagascar)*, *Dalbergia* spp. (Madagascar), *Pericopsis elata*, *Osyris lanceolata**, *Pterocarpus erinaceus**, *Prunus Africana*, *Guibourtia demeusei*; *G. pellegriniana*; *G. tessmsnii*.

Central and South America and the Caribbean: *Swietenia* spp. (3 species) (Central American spp.*), *Dalbergia nigra**, *Dalbergia granadillo*, *Dalbergia stevensonii**, *Dalbergia retusa**, *Aniba rosaedora*, *Bulnesia sarmientoi*.

2. Organizational eligibility:

Project proposals can be submitted and implemented directly by the CITES Management Authority, or by other entities in cooperation with the CITES Management Authority. In the case of the latter, the proposal must be accompanied by an official letter of endorsement issued by the relevant Management authority.

3. Project budget:

The maximum funds available is USD 250,000 per project, but smaller project proposals are also invited. All applicants are strongly encouraged to include in-kind contributions or co-funding.

4. Subject areas:

Project proposals can cover a range of CITES priority areas, considering that the core areas of work are:

- 1) formulation of non-detriment findings;
- 2) marking and traceability;
- 3) tree products identification; and
- 4) capacity building.

5. Duration:

The EU Project - *Supporting sustainable management of endangered tree species and conservation of the African Elephant* will end in early 2020. Project proposals funded under the *CITES tree species programme* must therefore have a maximum duration of 2 years. Proposals for follow-up activities may be considered exceptionally at a later stage.

6. Criteria to assess eligibility of the proposal:

Questions related to selection criteria		Additional information
1. Is the implementing country a range State of CITES tree species? If yes, please specify the year when your country ratified CITES.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2. Is the project linked to CITES Decisions or Resolutions agreed by the CITES Conference of the Parties? If yes, please indicate the Decisions and Resolutions that justify the implementation of the project.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3. Is the implementing country an exporter of CITES tree species products?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
4. Is the implementing Party an exporter of CITES tree species products to EU member countries?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5. Does the proposed project relate to the following core areas of work? If yes, please describe.		
5.a- non-detriment findings	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5.b- marking and traceability	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5.c- identification	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5.d- capacity building	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6. Does the implementing country have a suspension in place agreed by any CITES body; or does it have a zero export quota recommended by the CITES Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee or the Plants Committee?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, a trade suspension <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, a zero export quota <input type="checkbox"/> No	
7. Is your country currently under the Review of Significant Trade for the target taxa of the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
8. In which CITES Appendix is the target taxon of the project included?	<input type="checkbox"/> Appendix I <input type="checkbox"/> Appendix II <input type="checkbox"/> Appendix III	
9. What is the scale of the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> small: 1- 30,000 USD <input type="checkbox"/> medium: 30,001 - 100,000 USD <input type="checkbox"/> large: 100,001 - 250,000 USD	
10. Has your country submitted other project proposals to seek funding from donors, where CITES has been a partner (e.g. the ITTO-CITES Programme)? If yes, please list the previous projects that your country has implemented in the past and indicate whether it was funded by the ITTO-CITES programme or other donors.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
11. Is this project proposal a continuation of the work started with a project funded under the ITTO-CITES Programme (2006-2015)? If yes, indicate which ITTO-CITES project set the bases for this new project proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

12. Is the project involving the private sector? If yes, please explain the roles and responsibilities of the industry in the activities implementation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
13. Has your country signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) in the context of the EU-Forest Law for Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plant (FLEGT) of the European Commission? If yes, please explain how you plan to liaise with the FLEGT local branch in order to strengthen the implementation of the project.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
14. Does your country have a national strategy for the sustainable use of trees species? If yes, are the proposed activities part of the national strategic plan (please elaborate)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
15. Does your country have a peer review and a quality control mechanism in place (if yes, please elaborate)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

List of Project Documents Received from Parties

Africa

No.	Country	Title of Project Document	Project Duration (months)	Date received
1.	Benin, Nigeria, Togo	Sensibilisation et renforcement des capacités pour la gestion durable de <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> (Fabaceae) au Bénin, Nigeria et Togo	12	15-02-2018
2.	Burundi	Renforcement des capacités des parties prenantes en vue d'une gestion durable de <i>Prunus africana</i> au Burundi	18	31-01-2018
3.	Cameroon	Renforcement des capacités des parties prenantes sur l'élaboration, la mise en œuvre et le suivi des plans de gestion de <i>Prunus africana</i> au Cameroun	24	30-02-2018
4.	Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Pericopsis elata</i> (Assamela) et de <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> (Bois de vène) en Côte d'Ivoire	24	05-02-2018
5.	Gabon	Assessing the ecological dynamic, conservation status, and trade traceability of Kewazingo (<i>Guibourtia</i> spp.) timber species as first step for making non-detriment findings (NDFs) in Gabon	36	31-01-2018
6.	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda	Conservation and sustainable management of <i>Osyris lanceolata</i> for economic development in East Africa	24	07-02-2018
7.	Madagascar	Gestion durable de la population de <i>Prunus africana</i> de Madagascar : évaluation de stock, agroforesterie, technique de prélèvement et cadre réglementaire	24	31-01-2018
8.	République Démocratique du Congo	Avis de commerce non préjudiciable de <i>Pericopsis elata</i> , de <i>Guibourtia demeusei</i> et de <i>Prunus africana</i> en République Démocratique du Congo	24	15-02-2018

Asia

No.	Country	Title of Project Document	Project Duration (months)	Date Received
1.	Cambodia	Integrating the Development of Guidelines and Incentives for Piloting of Small-scale Private <i>Dalbergia</i> Plantations with the Determination of a Non-detriment Findings Report in Preah Vihear Province in Cambodia.	18	07-02-18
2.	Indonesia	Sustainable Management of <i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> in Indonesia.	24	06-02-18
3.	Malaysia	Reducing Harvesting Pressure on the <i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i> (Thymelaeaceae) Natural Populations in Peninsular Malaysia through the Establishment of Arboreta.	24	01-02-18
4.	Thailand	Development of DNA Markers to Identify the Origin of <i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i> Wood in Selected ASEAN Member States.	24	09-02-18
5.	Vietnam	Strengthening the Management and Conservation of <i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i> and other Rosewood Species in Vietnam.	24	01-02-18

Central and South America and the Caribbean

No.	Country	Title of Project Document	Project Duration (months)	Date Received
1.	Argentina	Bases para la gestión sostenible de la especie <i>Bulnesia sarmientoi</i> "palo santo" en la Región del Gran Chaco de Argentina	24	25-01-18
2.	Brazil	Rapid-Field Identification of <i>Dalbergia</i> Woods and Rosewood Oil by NIRS Technology	24	25-01-18
3.	Cuba	Fomento de la capacidad para lograr una más efectiva implementación de la CITES para especies maderables en Cuba	14	02-02-18
4.	Guatemala	Análisis integral de las especies arbóreas del género <i>Dalbergia</i> y similares a través del laboratorio forense de maderas para el fortalecimiento de la aplicación de la CITES en Guatemala	24	30-01-18
5.	Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador	Generación de capacidades y lineamientos técnicos de manejo para elaborar dictámenes de extracción no perjudicial orientados a las especies del género <i>Dalbergia</i> en Guatemala, El Salvador y Nicaragua.	24	02-02-18

Criteria used during the evaluation of full project proposals

Relevance of the proposal

1. Background information: literature, previous experiences (if any), local reports;
2. Geographical, environmental and socioeconomic context;
3. Contribution of the project to a non-detrimental findings report or other key Trees Programme objective; and
4. Capacity of generating synergies and cooperation between other actors.

Completeness of the document:

1. Introduction and rationale of the proposal, able to explain the problem procedure and expected outcomes, in a short manner;
2. Consistency and harmony between the overall objective, specific objectives and outputs (measurable and realistic);
3. Likelihood of success: sustainability of the project outcomes;
4. Detailed description of methods and work plan;
5. Detailed budget and its justification;
6. Outreach strategy for the dissemination of the results; and
7. Qualification of the executing agency.

Overall, and based in the criteria mentioned above, Mr. Ian Thompson and Mr. Jorge Malleux scored from 0 to 5 each project proposal document:

0. Information is completely missing.
1. Very poor: some elements are there but the essential ones are missing.
2. Poor: essential elements are incomplete, insufficient, wrong or misunderstood.
3. Moderate: essential elements are available but unclear or inaccurate.
4. Good: clear, accurate and informative.
5. Excellent: clear, accurate, informative and comprehensive (perfectly integrated with other items).

Regional Meetings and CoP17 Decisions on tree species

The CITES Tree Species Programme will invite participating Parties to one of the following three regional meetings:

Regional meeting	Dates	Venue
CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Asia	25 to 29 June 2018	Yogyakarta - Indonesia
CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Central and South America and the Caribbean	17 to 21 September 2018	Buenos Aires - Argentina
CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Africa	3 to 7 December 2018	Venue to be confirmed - Côte d'Ivoire

The CITES Secretariat will work to accommodate an extra meeting per region that would assist in implementing specific CoP17 Decisions. The team is blocking a full week in each region and will work actively with the ITTO Secretariat to accommodate the best possible all three ambitious programmes of work.

The regional meeting in Indonesia will try to accommodate implementation of Decision 17.197 on Agarwood producing – taxa. Preliminary calculations of the budget have proven to be insufficient to dedicate more than two days to discussions on Decision 17.197. The regional meeting could eventually be followed up by another separate meeting (see document [PC24 Doc. 17.2](#)).

The regional meeting in Buenos Aires will try to add at least one day of work to discuss with range States paragraph f) of Decision 16.162 (Rev.CoP17) on *Bulnesia sarmientoi* and *Aniba rosaeodora*.

Finally, the regional meeting in Africa will have at least one day dedicated to the discussion of Decision 17.255 on *Prunus africana* (see document [PC24 Doc. 20](#)).