

**Second Advisory Committee Meeting
CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP)**

12 to 15 March 2018

Electronic meeting conducted by e-mail

Minutes

Opening remarks

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed the participants and thanked the European Union and the United States of America for their generous contributions to the CITES Tree Species Programme.

The Chair stressed that this 2nd meeting of this Advisory Committee gave another joint step towards a robust implementation of the CITES Tree Species Programme, giving the participants the opportunity to learn about progress made by the Secretariat and the Programme team, reviewing the 18 proposals and the assessments provided by the evaluators and learning about follow-up work the programme.

In November 2017, the Advisory Committee (AC) agreed to prioritize eighteen projects from Parties that were subsequently invited to submit the full version of those by 31 January 2018. The eighteen projects are in line with current priorities set up by the CoP through Decisions and valid Resolutions.

The purpose of the 2nd AC meeting was to look at the current proposals and evaluations and share views and recommendations on how to improve them. After this meeting, each Regional Coordinator will work bilaterally with each Party to address those comments and prepare the final version of the proposal concerned.

Some Party Members of the Committee expressed full agreement with the comments and recommendations provided by the evaluators. The regional Coordinator for Asia fully concurred that it is helpful to receive further guidance from members of the AC to enhance the technical aspects of the proposed projects besides those from the evaluators so that the envisaged outputs of the proposed projects, are science-based and robust. All this would help in meeting the objective and the four core areas of work of the CITES Tree Species Programme, namely, formulation of NDFs, marking and traceability, tree products identification, and capacity building.

1. Confirmation of Chair/rapporteur

The Advisory Committee confirmed the Chair, Ms. Milena Sosa Schmidt and the rapporteur Ms. Eleonora Palmero.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee adopted the agenda as originally proposed.

3. Confirmation of meeting participants

The list of participants was confirmed (see Annex 1).

4. Advisory Committee: ToRs, Membership and *modus operandi*

The Advisory Committee noted the Terms of Reference.

5. Briefing of latest updates

The Coordinator provided latest updates on various aspects as shown in Annex 2. The list of project proposals received is shown in the table below. Most projects were revised; the date recorded in the table is the date in which the final version was received.

List of Project Documents Received from Parties in 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	15-02-18
2.	Burundi	Renforcement des capacités des parties prenantes en vue d'une gestion durable de <i>Prunus africana</i>	18	31-01-18
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	30-01-18
4.	Côte d'Ivoire	Sauvegarde de <i>Pericopsis elata</i> (Assamela) et de <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> (Bois de vène) en Côte d'Ivoire	24	05-02-18
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	31-01-18
6	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda	Conservation and sustainable management of <i>Osyris lanceolata</i> for economic development in East Africa	24	07-02-18
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	31-01-18

8	RDC	Elaboration de l'Avis de Commerce Non Préjudiciable (ACNP) de <i>Guibourtia demeusei</i> /Bubinga en RD Congo, <i>Pericopsis elata</i> , <i>Prunus africana</i>	24	15-02-18
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List of Project Documents Received from Parties in Asia

No.	Country	Title of Project Document	Project Duration (months)	Date Received
1.	Cambodia	Integrating the Piloting of Small-scale Private <i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i> Plantation Registration with Forest Landscape Restoration 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 and Germplasm.	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

List of Project Documents Received from Parties in 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 genero <i>Dalbergia</i> en Guatemala, El Salvador y Nicaragua.	24	02-02-18

The Committee noted the information provided on this item and some members provided comments during discussions on agenda 7.

6 Funding process

The Coordinator of the CITES Tree Species Programme explained that the Secretariat team has been discussing in length how better to assist participating Parties, financially and on time, so all can implement their proposed work in the time frames of the duration of the CITES Tree Species Programme. As explained during the 1 AC – CTSP meeting in November 2017, the high demand for participating in the CITES Tree Species Programme, exceeded by far the available financial resources. With the current funding, the 1 AC meeting agreed to fund 18 proposals while most proposals received are waiting for additional possible donations. In order to assist all participating Parties in a fair and harmonized manner, each project proposal will receive 50% of the funding at the time of the signature of the contract with the CITES Secretariat. The additional 50% will be provided in one or more installments depending on the nature of the work under the project concerned and will be discussed on a case by case basis by the CTSP team in close consultation with other colleagues of the Secretariat.

The Committee noted the information provided on this item and some members provided comments during discussions on agenda 7.

7 Discussion on agenda item 5 and 6

Some Members asked about the budget of the proposals. In response, the Coordinator clarified that the budgets are made available only to donors and budget matters are discussed bilaterally with the Party concerned and with the donors. The Coordinator further explained that the CITES Secretariat is working intensively on the due diligence aspect of the proposals to ensure a minimum risk and the highest probability of success in case.

Argentina

Mr. Daniel Ramadori on behalf of Argentina thanked the team of the CITES Tree Species Programme for the work done and all the support given to carry out this 2nd meeting of the Advisory Committee. In relation to the comments made to the project presented by Argentina, referring to the management of *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, Mr. Ramadori thanked the reviewers for the great contribution made to improve it. He agreed with what was stated by them and added that him and his team are willing to continue the work with the Regional Coordinator in order to strengthen the proposal even more.

Further observations by Argentina are included in Spanish and in English in Annex 3.

The Coordinator thanked Mr. Ramadori for his positive response and willingness to revise the proposal in line with the recommendations received.

Côte d'Ivoire

Ms. Salimata Kone on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire conveyed these comments to the Committee:

1- Mr. Jorge Malleux emphasized in his assessment that in the budget composition, 94% of the CITES budget is allocated to subcontracts and the rest covers travel expenses, which must be revised and improved. Côte d'Ivoire replied that in their country a Public Service cannot open a "personal" bank account. In the context of Project, the Service requested the opening of an account which is housed at the Treasury Bank, however the execution of the budget allocate for the project can only be carried out through Subcontractors, which is why, in project design a large part of the work was allocated to subcontracts. Furthermore, other ways are being explored such as the possibility of housing the account at an international body such as UNDP as executing agency, to reduce the share allocated to outsourcing. Côte d'Ivoire also asked what percentage do they need to reduce the share of providers.

Further to the comment above the Coordinator clarified that budget matters will be followed up bilaterally with the Regional Coordinator and with the Secretariat.

2- Regarding ITTO Recommendation: "The project is well formulated, although it is not known why the proposed date for commencement is March 2019", Ms. Kone replied that they are ready to start in 2018. Since they did not have information on when funding could be available, we gave the date of March 2019 to give themselves some time. Especially since several projects in the past were initiated late due to delays of funding.

3- Regarding CITES Recommendation: "The proposal should be slightly revised to include the formulation of NDFs". ITTO recommendations should also be taken into account when revising this proposal. Côte d'Ivoire ensured that these recommendations are taken into account and will be dealt with during the revision of the document, along with several other recommendations.

The Chair apologized to those colleagues that do not work with English as their working language and that are indeed in a disadvantaged position to participate in electronic meetings conducted in English. She invited colleagues working in Spanish and in French to send their documents in those languages, maintaining the emails in English to the extent of possible while allowing the Regional Coordinators to follow up the work in the language they normally use with the Party concerned.

The Chair extended the meeting to Friday 16 March 4pm Geneva time to give members one more day to consider the working documents and contribute with further discussions.

Regarding comments from Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Malleux agreed on the fact that many countries have difficulties with the management of funds coming from external sources and, in some cases the system of sub-contracts could be an alternative for quick disposal of cash, payments and procurements; however there must be a limit, otherwise a separate contract with a NGO or UN entities could be a good solution for the administration of the funds. He further mentioned that each sub-contract must have clear ToRs and the endorsement from the CITES Secretariat, in order to insure the outputs and give more transparency in the administration of the budget.

The Chair replied that each possible option need to be considered. Some Parties are already considering working with the local office of the UNDP. The issue to be further discussed is the overhead UNDP charges although it remains a reliable option for all parties involved. The Secretariat will need to work on a case by case bases regarding this matter.

Brazil

With respect to the project entitled *Rapid-Field Identification of Dalbergia Woods and Rosewood Oil by NIRS Technology*, Brazil appreciated the comments made by the evaluators and the recommendations submitted by ITTO and CITES. Ms. Claudia de Mello, on behalf of Brazil, ensured that Brazil will work to clarify the questioned points of the project in order to solve the doubts.

About the project *Análisis integral de las especies arbóreas del género Dalbergia y similares a través del laboratorio forense de maderas para el fortalecimiento de la aplicación de la cites en Guatemala* would be interesting if the teams of this project and the Brazilian project's team could exchange ideas in order to have a synergy and a better optimization of the projects. Ms. de Mello proposed that these two projects could consider exchanging samples of *Dalbergia* wood to optimize the research work.

Mr. Malleux thanked Ms. de Mello for her excellent comments and said that this should be the standard way of coordination at the regional level, when working with the same tree species and using similar methods, since it is a useful way to contribute saving time and money and to have a better international coordination for the chain of custody.

The Chair took note and thanked for raising these important points. The Coordinator explained that the purpose of the three upcoming regional meetings is exactly to address what Brazil is suggesting. At the same time, all need to consider the Nagoya Protocol with which Guatemala had to abandon a tri-national project under the ITTO-CITES Programme due to the challenges encountered to exchange samples on time to implement the work. The Coordinator stressed the need to work with colleagues of the CBD Secretariat who are aware of that past experience and expressed interest to find solutions.

Indonesia

Ms. Sri Ratnaningsih on behalf of Indonesia thanked the CITES Tree Species Programme team for its hard work on facilitating the meeting and assisting the Parties. Indonesia highly appreciated the comments from the

evaluators and recommendations made by ITTO and CITES. Regarding the ITTO's comment: "*The proposed work on DNA barcoding/fingerprinting could benefit from collaboration with other projects funded under the ITTO-CITES program that carried out similar work (including on other Dalbergia species), as well as the Thailand regional project*" Ms. Ratnaningsih noted that the project from Thailand involves only Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, and Indonesia believes that activities of its project on DNA barcoding could indeed benefit from the wider regional work proposed by Thailand. Further, Indonesia will seek information on the method used on the DNA barcoding work proposed by other projects. Ms. Ratnaningsih confirmed that the team from Indonesia will work to improve the proposal to fulfill the requirements and with the assistance of the Regional Coordinator.

The Chair thanked Ms. Ratnaningsih for her good clarifications and thoughts.

The Coordinator explained that the regional meeting in Asia, that will be hosted by Indonesia (see information on agenda item 8), will definitely benefit from discussions on how best Thailand and Indonesia can complement the work between each other, consideration should also be given to how all Parties can use the results and methodologies of these projects.

The Regional Coordinator for Asia added that although the Thai project is dealing with *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, he is certain that the work on *Dalbergia latifolia* on DNA fingerprinting and barcoding of the species in Indonesia will add value to the work that is planned in Thailand, at the very least, in the methodological approach adopted in DNA extraction and analysis. Under Phase II of the ITTO-CITES Programme, similar work was carried out in Sarawak, Malaysia, on the development of a molecular database of *Gonystylus* species (ramin) for the identification of the species and their geographical origins, as well as a protocol for extracting DNA from ramin timber. He encouraged to take this into account when the Indonesian proposed project is further revised, besides those from the evaluators and CITES.

Indonesia provided detailed responses to the comments received from the evaluators on the project from Indonesia (see Annex 4)

The Regional Coordinator for Asia expressed his willingness to work with the Indonesian implementing agency to further revise the project proposal, especially in the areas mentioned by Indonesia. He appreciated learning that the proposed project will attempt to prepare an NDF report instead of just estimating the sustainable harvest level of *Dalbergia latifolia* in Indonesia.

Gabon

Ms. Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo on behalf of Gabon thanked Mr. Ian Thompson and Mr. Jorge Malleux for the hard work done in evaluating the full proposals and addressed some general remarks and comments. The Programme Coordinator thanked Gabon and clarified its questions as follows:

1. Were the full proposals submitted out of time assessed?: The Coordinator replied that all proposals were received on time before or by 31 January. A few small amendments to the original version made after this date were accepted.
2. Low co-financing rate in all projects in the Africa region compared to other CITES regions could underlie the issue of the sustainability for some projects: The Coordinator took note and replied that the Secretariat discussed this matter internally and the Secretariat will continue considering it with the Regional Coordinator concerned.
3. Proposals considered good in the comments, but for which revisions are required, minor and even substantial (objective, result, budget): The Coordinator said that the evaluations tried to be as

exhaustive and critic as possible with all proposals despite recognizing that some proposals need very few revisions.

4. The deadline for amending the proposal is defined?: The Coordinator replied that the work will be carried out on a case by case basis. There is no deadline for Parties to amend their proposal since that will need to be negotiated extensively and with the active assistance of the CITES Tree Species Programme Team and even during the regional meetings. Not all proposals can be revised to the same extent or in the same way.

5. A harmonization of the criteria would be welcome. Gabon asked if a funded project will have to meet the funder's criteria, those of the evaluators, ITTO or CITES: The Coordinator replied that the evaluators and the Secretariat discussed and agreed the criteria used so there is no need to further harmonize the final list.

6. Gabon asked if there is a proposed deadline for the evaluation of projects on the "Orange list". The Coordinator replied that the deadline for evaluation of projects in the orange list has not been fix yet, since at the moment there is no funding for those projects. When further funding is made available, the Advisory Committee will be informed and we will proceed to evaluate which projects could be funded. Sometimes donations direct the projects to fund, that was the case with *Prunus africana* in the past when the industry contributed with funding only to pay for projects on that species. If that happened again, we wouldn't have much flexibility to fund other projects on other species. This will need to be addressed on a case by case basis.

7. *Pterocarpus erinaceus* projects: at least one project (the best one, regarding its feasibility, compliance with the CTSP, ...) should be funded for sustainable management of the species, considering the threat on it and following its listing on CITES Appendix II: this was noted and will be taken into consideration for when new funding is made available. See point 6 above.

8. The recommendations made by the evaluators about the project Kevazingo Project: *Assessing the ecological dynamic, conservation status, and trade traceability of Kewazingo (Guibourtia spp.) timber species as firts step for making non-detriment findings (NDFs) in Gabon* , which received favourable opinions and requires minor improvements, will be taken into account by Gabon. In the event of obtaining future sources of funding, it would be relevant to raise the issue of the confusion of Kévazingo species, with a synergy of efforts by a joint project Cameroon / Gabon, as highlighted during 1st meeting: this was noted and will be taken into consideration for when new funding is made available. See point 6 above.

Further to the above, the Coordinator said that in the past Gabon shared some concerns regarding the capacities in that country to do species identification work and encouraged the member from Gabon to further elaborate on those concerns if that could strengthen revisions of the current project proposal.

Ms. Koumba Pambo thanked the Coordinator for giving her the opportunity to strengthen the proposal by considering the issue on species identification and added the following comments:

As currently, it is not possible to distinguish the two Kevazingo species *Guibourtia tessmannii* and *G. pellegriniana*; the development of tools to accurately identify each of them seems to be the first step for a NDF formulation.

Recognizing that all additional activities would impact the current budget of the proposal from Gabon and that would be further discussed, Ms. Koumba Pambo recommended:

- a) extensive prospection in the distribution area of the two species in order to collect material allowing a morphogenetical differentiation;
- 2) laboratory work; and
- 3) publication of an identification guide.

Guatemala

Mr. César Beltetón on behalf of Guatemala participated with emails in English and submitted its comments in Spanish (see Annex 5) in a Word document; Mr. Beltetón explain that this would respect the spirit of the comments by Guatemala and would avoid translation challenges. Mr. Beltetón thanked the comments of Mr. Thompson and Mr. Malleux to the project proposals presented by Guatemala.

Following his technical contributions, Mr. Beltetón explained that Guatemala will address all comments and recommendations received and will continue working with the Regional Coordinator to finalize the proposal from Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala and, the proposal entirely from Guatemala on timber identification.

Finally, he said that Guatemala deeply thanks the evaluators for their valuable contributions to both projects, the staff of the CITES Secretariat for their excellent management and the donors for their generous contributions that will contribute to improving the application of CITES for tree species in Guatemala, Nicaragua and The Savior.

The Chair thanked Mr. Beltetón for the exhaustive comments provided, and added that the regional approach of the tri-national proposal reflects challenges faced by the three co-proponents and possibly shared with other Parties in the entire region of Central America. The AC noted that the three Parties are open to revise the proposal respecting the fixed available budget allocated to this case. The Chair thanked Mr. Beltetón for reassuring the Committee that the proposal will be revised in line with the recommendations received and with the socioeconomic context expanded.

The AC noted that the proposed NGO has extensive experience in the region and has the capacity to implement the proposed work and in close coordination with the three Parties concerned. A meeting will be held between the three Parties to agree on the revised proposal, in line with the recommendations of the evaluators. Mr. Beltetón reiterated its willingness to continue this effort and thanked the evaluators, the Secretariat and the donors of the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP).

European Union

Ms. Silvia Facchinello on behalf of European Union provided extensive comments on the project proposals that combined all contributions received from both EU colleagues at the HQs in Brussels and the EU Delegations in the countries that applied to this call. General comments are presented here below, while more specific comments relevant to each project proposal are presented in Annex 6.

- **Consultation by CITES of relevant EU Delegations:** We regret that, with the exception of Gabon, none of our colleagues in the EU Delegations have been informed or consulted in the preparation of such proposals. The contract with CITES indicates that "The local EU Delegations will be informed beforehand about upcoming project activities in the countries covered by this project and will receive copies of the activity reports, newsletters and other disseminations of project results." While this does not explicitly request the CITES Secretariat to consult with EU Delegations at this early stage of the process (i.e.

development of detailed project proposals), we have requested the CITES Secretariat to ensure that the EU Delegations were informed about the the proposed actions so as to maximise synergies with other actions complementary to those submitted under this call by the beneficiary countries. Therefore, we have recommended that the three regional coordinators should ensure systematic contacts/consultations with EU Delegations and relevant FLEGT experts in such beneficiary countries. As a matter of fact few months ago we have provided the CITES Secretariat with contact details precisely to facilitate such bilateral contacts.

➤ We request the CITES Secretariat to ensure that the EU Delegations are kept informed of the award and implementation of the projects under the CITES Tree Species Programme (as per contract).

- **Complementarities with FLEGT:** One of the shortcomings identified under CITES-ITTO phase II was that synergies with FLEGT were not sufficiently explored. Because we see opportunities for synergies with FLEGT and other forest/biodiversity related processes, we have requested the CITES Secretariat to ensure that the full-fledge proposals would highlight potential complementarities and synergies with FLEGT interventions in those countries involved in FLEGT process/activities. We regret that none of the proposals in FLEGT-concerned countries has explored linkages and complementarity with FLEGT. Individual projects should not be seen as stand-alone activities, but should be closely connected with other relevant processes on sustainable forest management, as rightly pointed out by project evaluators (Ian Thompson and Jorge Malleux) on a number of project proposals.

➤ Our colleagues in Delegations highlighted possible areas where linkages with FLEGT should be explored, and it is important that their feedbacks are taken in due consideration.

- **Evaluation of project proposals received:**

- Overall the assessment carried out by the 2 scientists, ITTO and the CITES Secretariat is both very useful and transparent. The assessment provides a critical review of project proposals and objectives, including recommendations for adjustment or reconsideration of some project proposals. It looks to us important that, as part of the finalization of individual project proposals, all these comments are addressed to make sure that this evaluation exercise translates into tangible improvements of projects ToR. Most of these comments appear very valid and relevant to us, i.e. we trust that regional coordinators will do their best to address evaluators' recommendations (e.g. on the potential risk to encourage *Prunus africana* harvesting in protected areas and the need to involve forest managers into the project (Burundi), on the issue of too scientific or theoretical approach, too limited budget allocated to training local communities, and lack of activities on tracking systems (*Prunus*/Cameroon), JM comments on *D. cochinchinensis*/Cambodia, JM/ITTO comments on the Thai project, etc.)
- It would have been useful that the evaluation of detailed project proposals also included a scientific component, i.e. assessing whether the project proposals are relevant from a scientific point of view (this was supposed to be one of the tasks of the 2 scientists involved in the project). We understand nonetheless that it might be too late at this stage to include such a component in the evaluation of projects. We would therefore suggest to continue associating the 2 scientific experts to the projects implementation phase (or make sure that future scientific experts associated to the project have sufficient scientific competencies) with a view to making sure that guidance on the relevance of proposed methodologies and scientific components of the projects is provided to beneficiary agencies.

- When finalizing ToRs for each project, specific attention should be given to ensuring the final added-value and operational dimension of each project, especially in the case of scientific activities. While we fully appreciate the added-value of such scientific activities, every project should ensure clear connections with relevant agencies and partners involved in future implementation of the tools delivered under the project to ensure full buy-in and maximum impact on the ground (e.g. when working on species identification, inventories, etc.) Some projects still look as a bit theoretic and would benefit from more direct involvement of stakeholders involved in forest management, control agencies, customs, etc.
- We would also welcome clarification regarding the international workshop on *Prunus africana*, supposed to be funded under the CITES trees programme and to take place in 2018. It would be useful to hear from the CITES Secretariat what will be the next steps.

In reply to the European Commission, Mr. Malleux considered very relevant concerning the operationality of the project proposals and noticed that:

- there is a need of more details regarding the procedures/methods for the implementation of the proposals, both at the lab and field levels,
- The background and socioeconomic context needs to be more complete
- The institutional arrangements for the implementation of the projects are in some cases a bit confusing, without clear roles and commitments of the executers
- It is necessary to strengthen the participation of the local actors, specially the local communities, in order to insure the sustainability of the project,
- The NDF should not be based only on field information (inventories, natural regeneration etc.) but also in the social capacity and commitments of the operators.
- Regarding regional projects, it is necessary to clear state the commitment of all parties
- The use of sub-contracts in the budgets, should be limited and well controlled
- More emphasis must be done to the development of the production and custody chains
- It is also important to develop incentives for the social control, linked to FLEGT
- Scientific developments are high relevant but always together with governance and institutional capacity.

The Regional Coordinator for Asia thanked the European Commission for its comments. He fully shares the views of Mr. Malleux on the need of more details on the procedures and methods adopted for implementing the activities of the proposed projects, particularly for project proposals in Asia; he suggested through a short write-up and not just the sequence of activities as presented in the Work Plan, that all Parties concerned add a section on methodology, as well as the inclusion of clear commitments on how to facilitate the implementation of the outputs of the proposed projects by managers in the field, be it the government agencies, NGOs, local community, farmers, etc.

The Regional Coordinator for Asia expressed that for those project proposals in Asia where the countries are actively involved in the EU-FLEGT VPA process, they should provide clear linkages to their EU-FLEGT activities, especially in Indonesia (exporting EU FLEGT-licensed timber to the EU since 15 November 2016), Malaysia (no further progress in the negotiation on the signing of the FEGT-VPA for the past year), Thailand (just started the first VPA negotiation in June 2017) and Vietnam (initialled the VPA in May 2017). In addition, he assured the EU that the comments expressed by Mr. Malleux on the Cambodian project proposal and those on the Thai project proposal by Mr. Malleux and ITTO will be taken into consideration during their next revision.

Mr. Thompson considers fundamentally incorrect the comments from European Union that the scientists failed to comment on science. He explained that in all cases, the projects were judged based on the known science of the species or techniques involved. In fact, far all of the technical methods proposals, - Thailand, Brazil, etc. – the evaluators made detailed notes referring to the current science, noted the lack of attention to state-of-the-art science on the issues where it existed, and suggested changes. In most cases, they provided citations of published papers that were missed. The one area, however, in which it was not possible to comment on the scientific merit was the lack of detailed methods sections in the proposal formats and it was pointed out many times by both evaluators in their assessments. On the other hand, many project proposals are simply building data towards an NDF, which does not require science beyond standard forest metrics and calculations and commentary on science are moot.

The Coordinator thanked the European Commission for its thorough comments and recommendations and thanked Mr. Thompson for his useful clarification. She concurred with the view that activities proposed in some projects that focus on standard forest metrics and calculations seek to generate accurate data that serve as basis to assess the risk of future extractions in the forest concerned. The European Commission noted in the past, on some of the projects implemented during the ITTO-CITES programme, that some of those projects were pure science projects that didn't necessarily built into the more mechanic calculation of data necessary to make an NDF and establish export quotas (which is practical science). The scientific approach to formulating an NDF is relative since that exercise is more based on hard data on how many specimens we have in a production area than on how the populations behave before, during or after the harvest. The management plans do include research on permanent sample plots but CITES needs to support permanent and robust monitoring systems to measure how the populations behave in the wild and in the long term. When it comes to exporting CITES specimens, Parties focus from a practical point of view on more short-term adaptive management. It would be good to promote hard research on CITES tree species in general, however financial resources are rarely available for that kind of work, so range States pragmatically need to implement a short-term practical approach.

Vietnam

Regarding the project entitled *Strengthening the Management and Conservation of Dalbergia cochinchinensis and other Rosewood Species in Vietnam*, Mr. Vuong Tien Manh on behalf of Vietnam thanked for the comments made on Vietnam rosewood proposal. Vietnam have carefully reviewed the comments and very happy to learn that the reviewers were very supportive and provided some very good comment for revision of the proposal. They agreed that the project activities seem too many so they could be reduced to fit the proposed time frame. Viet Nam is open to revise its project proposal.

The Chair thanked Mr. Tien Manh for his interest and flexibility to revise the proposal in line with all comments received.

The AC noted the comments under agenda item 7 and Parties will proceed to further revisions as needed.

8. Regional/International workshops

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	10 to 14 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 Coordinator explain that the programme team will work to accommodate an extra meeting per region that would assist in implementing target CoP17 Decisions. At the moment the challenge is financial since the CITES Tree Species Programme priority is to organize and run the regional meetings for the programme's purposes that go beyond specific CoP17 Decisions. However, the Coordinator insisted that the team is blocking a full week in each region and with the proposed host countries, to 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 but we will continue making our best to at least have a day dedicated to this Decision that could eventually be followed up with another separate meeting.

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

Finally, the objective of the team is to ensure that the regional meeting for Africa will have at least one day dedicated to *Prunus africana* in line with Decision 17.255.

Further to these regional meetings, there is insufficient funding at the moment as to ensure that the CITES Tree Species Programme will end with a closing international meeting. More news on this point will be shared with the Advisory Committee in the future.

The European Commission agreed with the way forward proposed under agenda items 8 to 10. Their reservation relates to the proposed date for the regional workshop in Africa and related *Prunus africana* workshop, and the fact that meeting dates in December will make it challenging to report to CoP18. Under Decisions 17.250 to 17.252, the outcomes of the workshop were supposed to be reported to PC24, which would in turn report to CoP18, i.e. it would be useful to see whether any earlier dates could be considered to enable timely reporting to the PC and the CoP. The Coordinator replied that she understands the comment and proposal made by the European Commission and that the programme team will be again considering all possibilities. The Coordinator stressed that at present the main constrain are the preparation and signature of contracts that, as raised by the colleagues from Côte d'Ivoire, tend to take longer than expected. Despite these challenges, the Team will definitely do its best to organize the regional meeting for Africa as soon as possible and the Coordinator expressed her thanks to Côte d'Ivoire for having agreed to host that meeting.

In relation to the Regional Meeting to be held in Buenos Aires, Mr. Ramadori said it is an honor for Argentina to host that meeting and that the national team looks forward to contribute to the meeting that will assist the country in strengthening capacities to ensure a robust management of *Bulnesia sarmientoi*.

9 Any other business

There were no requests to add items under agenda item 9.

10 Time and venue of the 3rd Advisory Committee meeting

The date for the next meeting of this Committee is no yet fixed. However, the Coordinator explained that the programme team is considering organizing a physical meeting in the margins of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Plants Committee (PC24, Geneva, Switzerland, 20-26 July 2018). That physical meeting should be confirmed in the near future depending on the attendance of Members of this Committee to the PC24. If there is no *quorum* to organize a physical meeting during the PC24, the team will consider a possible meeting in the margins of the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC70, Sochi, Russia, 01-05 October 2018). It will be possible to organize another electronic meeting if needed and if the physical meetings in July and October turn out to be impossible.

11. Closure of meeting

The Chair stressed the importance for the CITES Tree Species Programme team to exchange views, and continue working on all recommendations and advice received from the Members of the Committee.

The Coordinator thanked again the European Union for its continuous support through the European Commission, which has made possible until now all the progress we have managed to achieve. CITES is looking forward to fruitful discussions with the ITTO Secretariat and with the United States of America and, in coordination with the European Commission, to identify the best way to use the funds provided for this work through the ITTO Secretariat.

The Coordinator thanked deeply Mr. Thompson and Mr. Malleux for their intensive work to provide robust, objective and expert advice and always keeping the spirit of building constructively into the future revised proposals; the colleagues from the ITTO Secretariat for providing valuable evaluations on those proposals received from ITTO Member countries. The CITES Tree Species Programme team is delighted to continue working closely with the colleagues at the ITTO Secretariat. The Coordinator further thanked the Regional Coordinators, Mr. Hooi Chiew Thang and Mr. Jean Lagarde for their permanent availability and willingness to assist their regions the best and she further thanked Eleonora as an invaluable colleague for delivering excellent work.

Ms. De Mello from Brazil thanked the CITES Tree Species Programme team for the wonderful organization and good results of the 2nd meeting of the Advisory Committee and expressed interest in using the same methodology to organize some of its meetings in the future and with zero cost.

The Chair thanked all Party Members that participated in the committee meeting, noting that all recommendations made will serve as robust bases to follow up with revisions of all project proposals as needed.

The Chair declared the meeting closed.

List of participants

1 meeting 27 November 2017 - Geneva	2 meeting March 2018 – by email New joining colleagues appear in bold below
<p>The Deputy Head of Unit for Multilateral Environmental Cooperation in DG Environment (European Commission): José Rodríguez Romero</p> <p>The CITES Secretary General: Mr. John Scanlon</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Tom De Meulenaer, Chief of CITES Scientific Services (on behalf of the CITES Secretary General)</p> <p>CITES Tree Species Programme Coordinator (Ms. Milena Sosa Schmidt)</p> <p>Regional Coordinator for Africa (Mr. Jean Lagarde Betti)</p> <p>Regional Coordinator for Asia (Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew)</p> <p>Regional Coordinator for Latin America (Ms. Milena Sosa Schmidt),</p> <p>Programme Assistant (Ms. Eleonora Palmero);</p> <p>Asia Indonesia (Ms. Ratna Kusuma Sari and Mr. Daniwari Widiyanto)</p> <p>Malaysia (Mr. Zulkepli Abd. Rani, Alternate Member, replacing Cambodia)</p> <p>Thailand (Ms. Duangduen Sripotar, Alternate Member replacing Viet Nam)</p> <p>Africa Gabon (Ms. Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo)</p> <p>Madagascar (Mr. Eric Naivolala Andrianasolo)</p> <p>Senegal (Mr. Abba Sonko, Alternate Member replacing Côte d'Ivoire)</p> <p>Central and South America and the Caribbean Argentina (Ms. Vanesa Tossenberger)</p>	<p>Chair to be confirmed.</p> <p>CITES Tree Species Programme Coordinator (Ms. Milena Sosa Schmidt)</p> <p>Regional Coordinator for Africa (Mr. Jean Lagarde Betti)</p> <p>Regional Coordinator for Asia (Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew)</p> <p>Regional Coordinator for Latin America (Ms. Milena Sosa Schmidt)</p> <p>Scientist evaluator of current project proposals (Mr. Ian Thompson from Canada)</p> <p>Scientist evaluator of current project proposals (Mr. Jorge Malleux from Peru)</p> <p>Programme Assistant (Ms. Eleonora Palmero);</p> <p>Asia Cambodia (Mr. Chheng Dany)</p> <p>Indonesia (Ms Sri Ratnaningsih)</p> <p>Vietnam (Mr. Vuong Tien Manh)</p> <p>Africa Côte d'Ivoire (Ms. KONE Salimata)</p> <p>Gabon (Ms. Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo)</p> <p>Tanzania (Mr. Mohamed I Kilongo)</p> <p>Central and South America and the Caribbean Argentina (Mr. Daniel Ramadori)</p> <p>Brazil (Ms. Claudia M. C. de Mello)</p> <p>Guatemala (Mr. César Augusto Beltetón)</p> <p>European Union represented by the European Commission (Ms. Silvia Facchinello)</p>

<p>Guatemala (Ms. Ana Silvia Morales) Peru (Ms. Fabiola Rocío Núñez Neyra, Alternate Member replacing Brazil)</p> <p>European Union represented by the European Commission (Ms. Hélène Perrier)</p>	<p>United States of America (Ms. Anne St. Jhon)</p> <p>ITTO (Mr. Steve Johnson)</p> <p>OBSERVERS</p> <p>European Union represented by the European Commission (Ms. Hélène Perrier)</p> <p>United States of America (Ms. Aysha Ghadiali)</p> <p>Indonesia (Mr. Agung Nugroho)</p> <p>Côte d’Ivoire (Mr. Boniface Roth Affi)</p>
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The United States of America has requested that in the event that the Member and the Observer of that delegation are not available, to please contact Mr. Luke Thompson.

5. Briefing of latest updates

(i) Progress made since the 1 Advisory Committee meeting (1 AC – CTSP):

At the 1 AC – CTSP, this Committee confirmed the priority list of project proposals based on the summaries received for the first call of proposals (which submission was done on or before 15 October 2017). Following the 1 AC – CTSP meeting, the Coordinator invited those priority Parties, to submit the full project proposal documents by 30 January 2018. During December 2017 and January 2018, the three Regional Coordinators worked with Parties in their respective regions in order to assist them in the preparation of the full project documents. In the course of February 2018, the CTSP team has been working intensively on the evaluations of the 18 full project proposal documents received. The evaluations are available in English, Spanish and French.

(ii) Full project proposals received:

All Parties that submitted summaries as per paragraph 5 (i) above, and that were invited to prepare a full project proposal, submitted the latter on time before or by 30 January 2018 and a few Parties sent slight revisions after that deadline. Overall, the CTSP team received 8 project proposals from Africa, 5 project proposals from Asia and, 5 project proposals from Central, South America and the Caribbean regions.

(iii) Evaluations:

The Secretariat recruited two scientists 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 CTSP team in February and have provided their assessments and recommendations for each project proposal. Also in the course of February, the colleagues from the ITTO Secretariat assessed those project proposals received from ITTO Member countries. In order to ensure a robust project proposal document, the CTSP team held good discussions with all evaluators under the premise to identify the most constructive recommendations that focus on the elements of each proposal that need to be further revised.

Key criteria used for assessment: the assessments of the project proposals were based in criteria on:

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.

Mr. Ian Thompson and Mr. Jorge Malleux have a long standing experience with evaluations of project proposals on forest management work and have used their own additional experience based on the ITTO criteria that add further considerations to the assessments.

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).

(iv) Recommendations:

Mr. Ian Thompson and Mr. Jorge Malleux formulated recommendations as explained in paragraph 5 (iii). ITTO formulated and submitted independent conclusions and recommendations. Considering all assessments and additional ongoing processes and priorities in CITES, the Coordinator provided a final recommendation for each project proposal. All these are contained in the document shared with this Committee for this meeting and entitled *List of Project Proposals from all regions – Evaluations overview* -

Full Project Proposals submitted by 31 January 2018.

All comments by the evaluators and all recommendations will be addressed during the up-coming revisions of the project proposals received.

(v) Follow-up with Parties concerned:

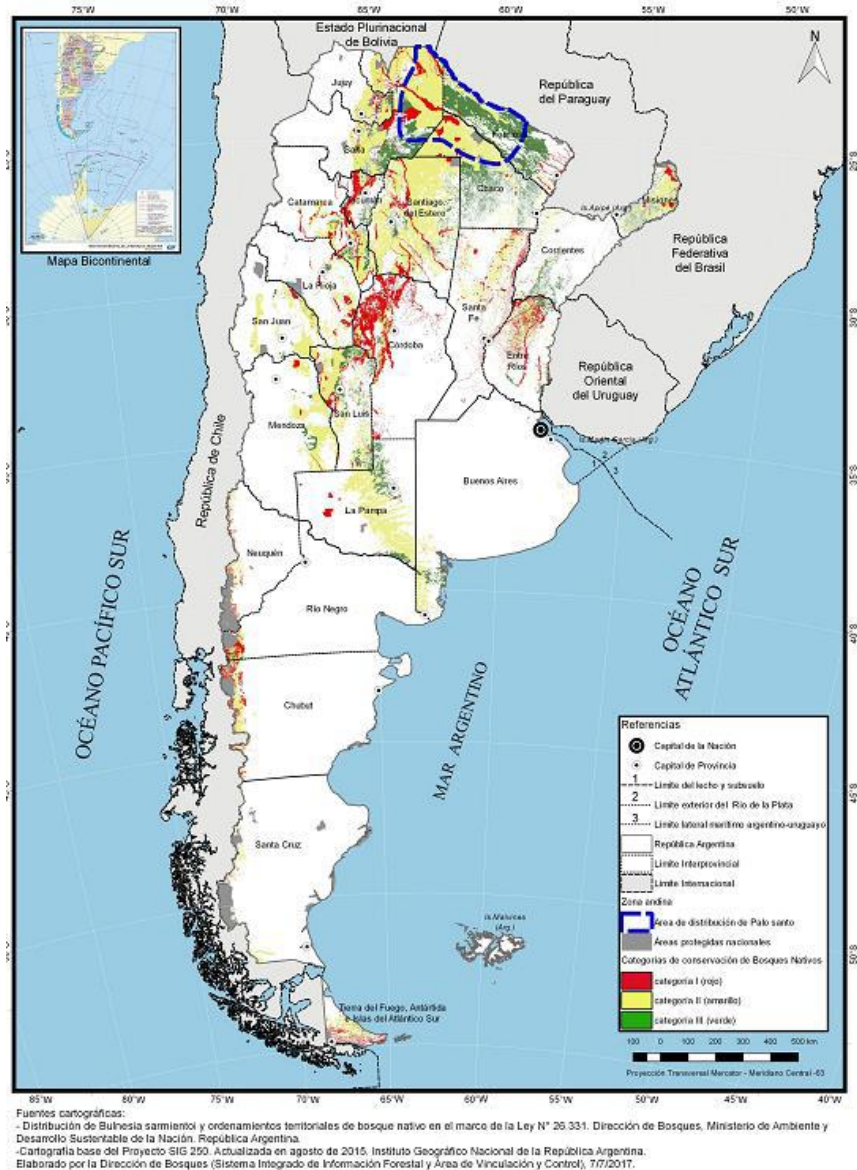
Following the 2 AC – CTSP meeting, the three Regional Coordinators will continue working intensively with Parties in their respective regions in order to assist them in the preparation of the final project documents.

Argentina

Clarification in relation to comments on comments:

Following is the clarification of the comments and the lack of information highlighted by the evaluators:

Regarding the scope of this project, when the regional scope is mentioned, reference is made to the three jurisdictions that have palo santo in Argentina (Chaco, Salta and Formosa). It also intends to convene the countries that share the distribution of the species in order to socialize the experiences of this project and other projects and developments that focus on the sustainable management of forests with the presence of palo santo. As well as being able to generate common lines of management, joint control and synergy among the States.



Map 1 Work zone of the project, theoretical distribution of the species in Argentina.

It is necessary to clarify that Law N ° 26331 is a law of minimum budgets that was sanctioned 10 years ago, that of the budget item that is granted each year to it (by the legislative power), it is distributed to each province (in this case Salta, Chaco and Formosa) an amount that arises from a polynomial that combines forest area (definition of forest approved by the Federal Council of the Environment) in function of the surface of the province and the proportion of conservation categories of the OTBN. Of these funds that are transferred every year to each jurisdiction, 30% is for the strengthening of the Local Authority of Application (ALA), the remaining 70% is for the financing of management plans, conservation and formulation in its different modalities It should be noted that each province has the power over its forests, as well as deciding which projects are the recipients of these funds. On the other hand, the National Application Authority, in this case the National Forest Directorate of MAyDS, is in charge of the supervision and monitoring of the application of these exercises.

In spite of the aforementioned, and in accordance with what was expressed in the project from the National State, tools, technical development and research are still being sought to strengthen jurisdictions. This is supported by regulatory regulations and political agreements that support the improvement of the management of Argentina's native forests.

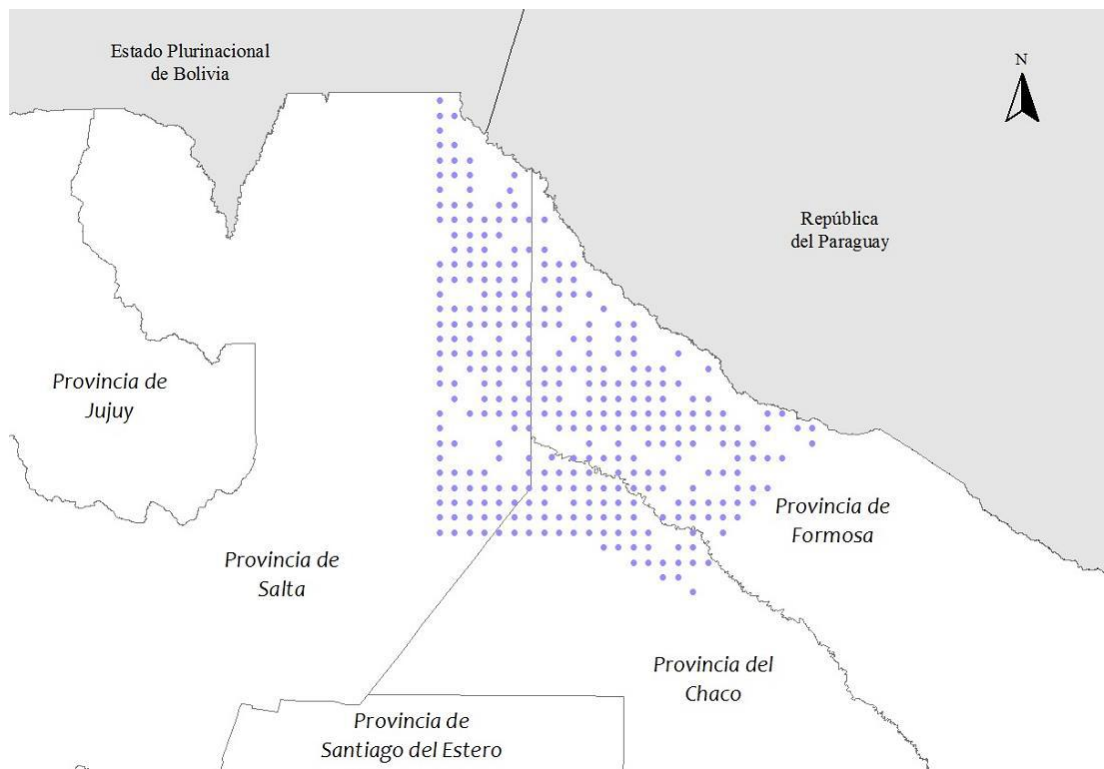
In addition to the regulatory framework, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation and the National Agency for Scientific and Technological Promotion (ANPCyT), through the Fund for Scientific and Technological Research (FONCyT), jointly convened the presentation of scientific and technological research projects for the awarding of subsidies to groups of trained and active researchers from the different forest regions of the country. This call has been aimed at promoting scientific and technological activity, with proposals for generation and / or application of knowledge within the framework of science and technology, which represent demonstrable contributions of knowledge that contribute to the management, protection, sustainable use of the forest native and the transformation of goods and services from it, mainly from the perspective of a contribution to the implementation of actions linked to the fulfillment of the objectives of the law 26.331 "minimum budgets of environmental protection of native forests", in the thematic areas defined by mutual agreement by both institutions.

One of these projects is the "Interdisciplinary study of a species of high forest value in the semi-arid Chaqueño Park: tools for the territorial organization, conservation and management of palo santo (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*)". That has as general premises:

- 1) Study of the geographical and environmental distribution of the species.
- 2) Study of genetic and morpho-functional variation to determine seed-producing areas (possible use in enrichment) and conservation units (criteria to be taken into account in exploitation permits and policy of protected areas).
- 3) Contribution to the study of forest growth and inventory to guide forest use permits.
- 4) Development of basic information on the regeneration of *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, with the purpose of applying it in enrichment and conservation plans of the native forest.
- 5) Study of the fungi associated with palo santo, including antagonists and mutualists, to establish relationships with health aspects and for their production in the nursery.

For which the present project, would complement the development of the missing information for the sustainable management of these forests.

Also, the Inventory of Forests with Presence of palo santo was made in the core area of the theoretical distribution, that is the basis of much of the information that will be generated.



Map 2 Distribution of UM of the Forest Inventory with the presence of Palo Santo.

The Inventory of Forests with the presence of Palo Santo (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*) made by the Forestry Department of the MAyDS, was designed based on the survey of 327 sampling units of 1000 m² each, they were distributed in a grid of 10 Km. 10 km, covering a total survey area of 3,270,000 hectares.

Regarding the installation of adaptive management implementation sites, it is intended starting from the baseline survey at the farm level (between 5000 and 10000 ha), apply the different known silvicultural systems and evaluate in situ the necessary adjustments and adaptations for modeling to reach the most advisable system. The training sessions will also be carried out to the technical bodies and over time, they are intended to be reference sites for transpiration of models, with the generation of manuals of good practices, product certification, production cost analysis that will be transposed to the value chain, etc. It is worth mentioning that many of the aforementioned actions exceed the project and will be a consequence of the execution of the same as stated. In parallel, it is expected to generate the strategic alliances and the planning that will follow the project.

Regarding the participatory workshops, to date, two meetings were held with the MAyDS authorities and their provincial peers framed in the draft resolution of the Palo Santo Regional Management Plan.

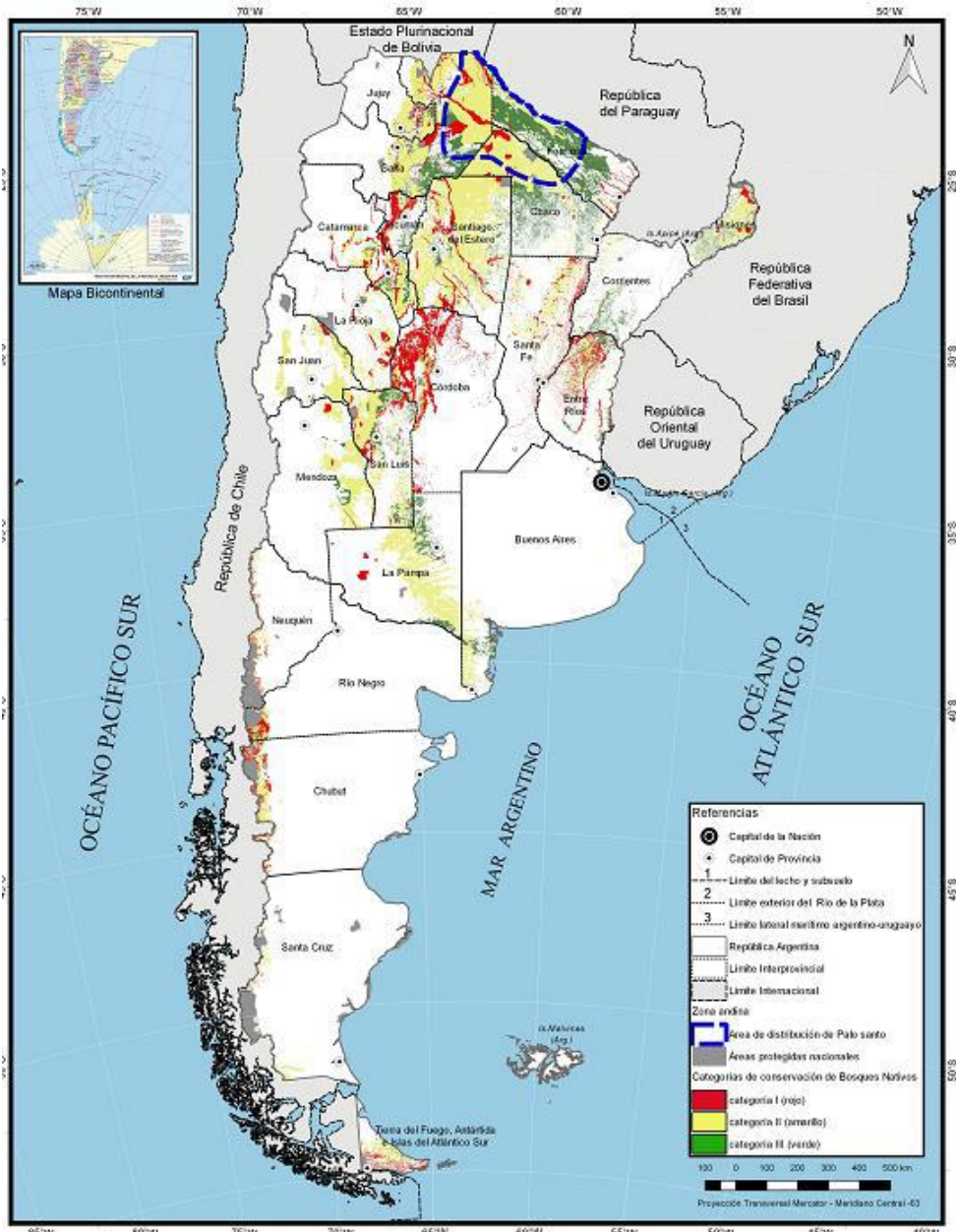
Regarding the reference information, some references have been included in the present. Attached are some works addressed by this MAyDS to have reference.

Regarding the NDF as a final result, although it is only mentioned in the introduction, we consider that it is the end of all this work and what is mentioned that will be developed from it. We understand that without management and planning at the regional level, without local development and without a good application of the correct techniques and planning at the proper farm scale, sustainable management of palo santo can not be achieved. Therefore, CITES would be violated.

Aclaración en relación con los comentarios de los comentarios:

A continuación se realiza la aclaración de los comentarios y del faltante de información que resaltan los evaluadores:

Respecto al alcance de este proyecto, cuando se menciona el alcance regional, se hace referencia a las tres jurisdicciones que tienen palo santo en Argentina (Chaco, Salta y Formosa). Asimismo, también se espera convocar a los países que comparten la distribución de la especie con el fin de socializar las experiencias de este proyecto y otros proyectos y desarrollos que se enfocan en el manejo sustentable de los bosques con presencia de palo santo, con miras a poder generar líneas comunes de manejo, fiscalización conjunta y sinergia entre los Estados.



Fuentes cartográficas:
- Distribución de Buinnesia sarmientoi y ordenamientos territoriales de bosque nativo en el marco de la Ley N° 26.331. Dirección de Bosques, Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación. República Argentina.
- Cartografía base del Proyecto SIG 250. Actualizada en agosto de 2015. Instituto Geográfico Nacional de la República Argentina.
Elaborado por la Dirección de Bosques (Sistema Integrado de Información Forestal y Área de Vinculación y Control), 7/7/2017.

Mapa 1 Zona de trabajo del proyecto, distribución teórica de la especie en la Argentina.

Es necesario aclarar que la Ley N°26331 es una ley de presupuestos mínimos que se sancionó hace ya 10 años, que de la partida presupuestaria que se le otorga cada año a la misma (por el poder legislativo), se distribuye a cada provincia (en este caso Salta, Chaco y Formosa) un monto que surge de una polinómica que combina superficie de bosque (definición de bosque aprobada por el Concejo Federal de Medio Ambiente) en función de la superficie de la provincia y la proporción de las categorías de conservación del OTBN. De estos fondos que todos los años se transfieren a cada jurisdicción, el 30% es para el fortalecimiento de la Autoridad local de Aplicación (ALA), el 70% restante es para la financiación de planes de manejo, conservación y formulación en sus distintas modalidades, cabe resaltar que cada provincia tiene la potestad sobre sus bosques, así como también decide qué proyectos son destinatarios de estos fondos. Por su parte la Autoridad Nacional de Aplicación, en este caso la Dirección Nacional Bosques del MAyDS, es la encargada de la fiscalización y monitoreo de la aplicación de estos ejercicios.

Pese a lo antes mencionado, y en concordancia a lo expresado en el proyecto desde el Estado Nacional se siguen buscando las herramientas, el desarrollo técnico y de la investigación para fortalecer a las jurisdicciones. Esto se ve respaldado con la normativa regulatoria y los acuerdos políticos que sostienen la mejora de la gestión de los bosques nativos de Argentina.

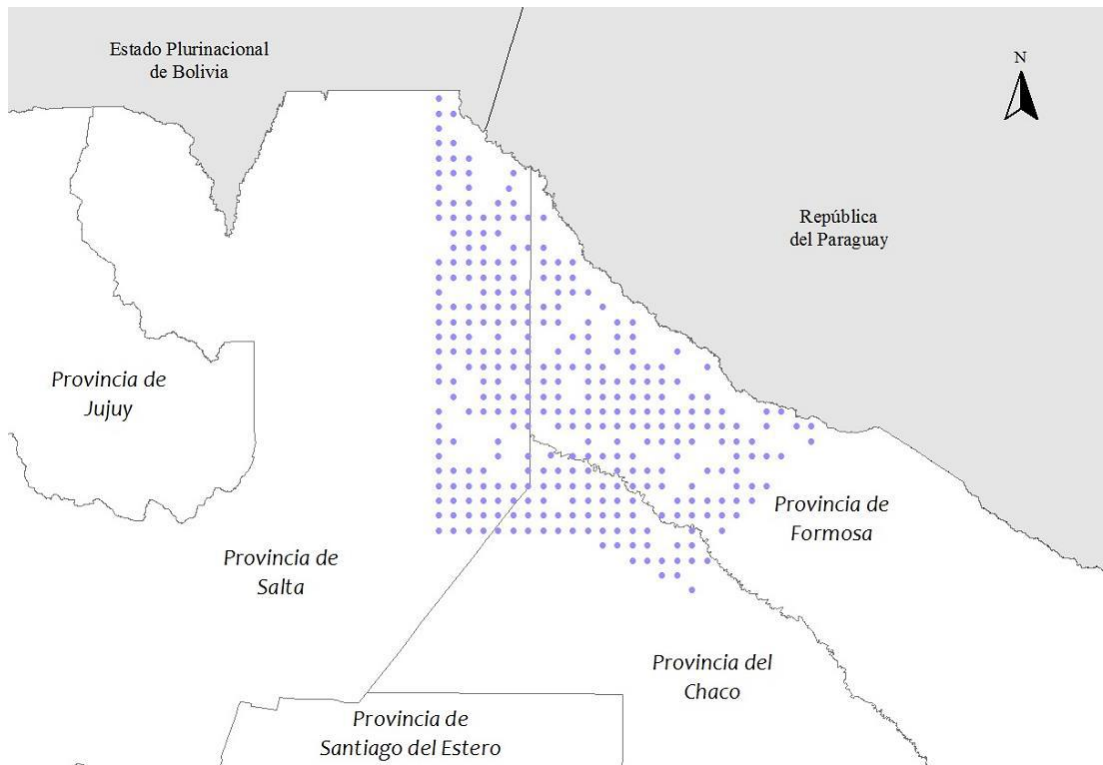
Además del marco normativo, el Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación y La Agencia Nacional de Promoción Científica y Tecnológica (ANPCyT), a través del Fondo para la Investigación Científica y Tecnológica (FONCyT), convocaron en forma conjunta a la presentación de proyectos de investigación científica y tecnológica para la adjudicación de subsidios a grupos de investigadores formados y activos de las distintas regiones forestales del país. Esta convocatoria ha tenido por objeto promover la actividad científica y tecnológica, con propuestas de generación y/o aplicación de conocimientos dentro del marco de la ciencia y la tecnología, que representen demostrables aportes de conocimiento que contribuyan al manejo, protección, aprovechamiento sustentable del bosque nativo y a la transformación de bienes y servicios provenientes del mismo, fundamentalmente desde la perspectiva de un aporte a la implementación de acciones ligadas al cumplimiento de los objetivos de la ley 26.331 “presupuestos mínimos de protección ambiental de los bosques nativos”, en las áreas temáticas definidas de común acuerdo por ambas instituciones.

Uno de estos proyectos, es el “Estudio interdisciplinario de una especie de alto valor forestal en el Parque Chaqueño semiárido: herramientas para el ordenamiento territorial, conservación y manejo del palo santo (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*)”. Que tiene como premisas generales:

- 1) Estudio de la distribución geográfica y ambiental de la especie.
- 2) Estudio de la variación genética y morfo-funcional para determinar áreas productoras de semilla (posible uso en enriquecimiento) y unidades de conservación (criterios para tener en cuenta en permisos de explotación y política de áreas protegidas).
- 3) Contribución al estudio de crecimiento e inventario forestal para orientar permisos de aprovechamiento forestal.
- 4) Desarrollo de información básica sobre la regeneración de *Bulnesia sarmientoi*, con el fin de aplicarla en planes de enriquecimiento y conservación del bosque nativo.
- 5) Estudio de los hongos asociados al palo santo, incluyendo antagonistas y mutualistas, para establecer relaciones con aspectos sanitarios y para su producción en vivero.

Para lo cual el presente proyecto, complementaria el desarrollo de la información faltante para el manejo sustentable de estos bosques.

También, se realizó el Inventario de Bosques con Presencia de palo santo en la zona núcleo de la distribución teórica, esa es la base de mucha de la información que se generará.



Mapa 2 Distribución de UM del Inventario de Bosques con presencia de Palo Santo

El Inventario de Bosques con presencia de Palo Santo (*Bulnesia sarmientoi*) realizado por la Dirección de Bosques del MAyDS, se diseñó en base al relevamiento de 327 unidades de muestreo de 1000 m² cada una, las mismas fueron distribuidas en una grilla de 10 Km por 10 Km, abarcando una superficie de relevamiento total de 3.270.000 hectáreas.

Respecto a la instalación de sitios de implementación de manejo adaptativo, se pretende partiendo del relevamiento de la línea de base a nivel predial (entre 5000 y 10000 ha), aplicar los distintos sistemas silvícolas conocidos y evaluar in situ los ajustes y adaptaciones necesarias para mediante modelización llegar al sistema más aconsejable. También se realizarán las capacitaciones a los cuerpos técnicos y con el tiempo, se pretenden que sean sitios de referencia para la transpiración de modelos, con la generación de manuales de buenas prácticas, certificación de productos, análisis de costos de producción que se transpolaran a la cadena de valor, etc. Cabe mencionar que muchas de las acciones antedichas exceden al proyecto y serán consecuencia de la ejecución del mismo como se plantea. En forma paralela se prevé generar las alianzas estratégicas y la planificación que seguirá al proyecto.

En cuanto a los talleres participativos, a la fecha se realizaron 2 encuentros con las autoridades de MAYS y sus pares provinciales enmarcados en el proyecto de resolución del Plan de Manejo Regional de Palo Santo.

En lo referente a la información de referencia, se han incluido en el presente algunas referencias. Se adjuntan algunos trabajos encarados por este MAYS para tener de referencia.

En cuanto al DENP como resultado final, si bien, solo se menciona en la introducción, consideramos que es el fin de todo este trabajo y lo que se menciona que se desarrollará a partir del mismo. Entendemos que sin un manejo y planificación a nivel regional, sin desarrollo local y sin una buena aplicación de las técnicas correctas y la planificación a escala predial adecuada, no se puede lograr el manejo sustentable del palo santo. Por ello, se estaría vulnerando CITES.

Indonesia

Topic	Reviewer Comments	Response from Indonesia
Introduction	<p data-bbox="532 331 755 363">1. <i>Ian Thompson</i></p> <p data-bbox="483 394 987 808">The introduction flows well and is logically presented. They do, however ignore the fact that Indonesia has one of the highest deforestation rates on the planet, although they talk about strong management regimes that are saving their forests. I was uncertain about 24 certificates issued to small areas for exporting Dalbergia that, in the absence of an NDF or any population data, should not be possible</p>	<p data-bbox="1008 411 1411 1785">With regard to deforestation in Indonesia, we have done much work to halt deforestation through restoration program with or without overseas partners. Since 1990, the Indonesian government through Ministry of Environment and Forestry has been periodically calculating the deforestation figures. Figures of deforestation between 1990-1996 is 1.87 million ha / year, 1996-2000 amounted to 3.51 million ha / year, in 2000-2003 amounted to 1.08 million ha / year, 2003-2006 is 1.17 million ha / year, 2006-2009 amounted to 0.83 million ha / year, 2009-2011 is 0.45 million ha / year, in 2011-2012 amounted to 0.61 million ha / year, 2012-2013 obtained a value of 0.73 million ha / year. Deforestation in the last accounting period, namely 2013-2014 amounted to 0.4 million ha / year (Indonesian Deforestation Book 2013-2014). Under certification scheme, both mandatory and voluntary there has been lots of improvement in the forest management. Most of the deforestation occurs in Kalimantan and Sumatra, which is not the area of Dalbergia range of distribution.</p> <p data-bbox="1008 1816 1411 1919">In the mean while reduced rate of deforestation comes from community forest that tend to</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>2. Jorge Malleux</i></p> <p>The project proposal explains in adequate manner the high importance of promoting the conservation and sustainable management of Indonesian Rosewood and to develop the necessary knowledge in order to elaborate a strategy for the conservation of <i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> threatened by over logging, illegal logging and deforestation process on the natural ecosystems where this specie is growing, in a context in which around 10 species of <i>Dalbergia</i> naturally were found in Indonesia - ranging from small plants to large timber trees including <i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> (known as Sonokeling) and <i>Dalbergia sisso</i> (known as Sonobritz).</p>	<p>increase due to current Indonesian policy to encourage small holders industries. In Java only, a number of small industries have received SVLK certificate and also FSC certificates.</p> <p>These industries also export <i>Dalbergia</i> sourced from community forest. However, there was not enough information on the real population figures of <i>Dalbergia</i> in their range of distribution. There is also possibility of mix timber sourced from illegal cutting from the natural forest, which is going to be further explored under this proposed project.</p> <p>Well noted.</p>
<p>Synergies</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>1. Ian Thompson</i></p> <p>While they talked about FLEGT early on, they <u>do not discuss it further and the EU should be involved in some way in this project.</u> The involvement of multiple</p>	<p>This will be elaborated more in the body of the proposal, instead of mentioned only in the introduction. EU could take part in the monitoring and evaluation of the project progress during the</p>

	<p>agencies and dissemination via workshops appears satisfactorily planned.</p> <p><i>2. Jorge Malleux</i></p> <p>It is necessary to further develop the participation and the roles of the different agencies and stakeholders, taking part in the whole process, as well as the other actors and potential users of the information to be produced</p>	<p>course of project implementation. Of course, funding from EU for monitoring and evaluation would be much appreciated.</p> <p>There will be involvement of local NGO who has been so far assisting local farmer in managing Dalbergia and also supervising small-scale timber industry pursuing mandatory and voluntary certificate. This might include local government, forest management units, community forestry (farmers), small-scale timber industries.</p>
Agency	<p><i>1. Ian Thompson</i></p> <p>Several agencies and experts are involved and well-qualified.</p> <p><i>2. Jorge Malleux</i></p> <p>The project will be implemented by the Forest Research and Development Center (FRDC) of the Forestry Research, Development and Innovation Agency (FORDIA) in cooperation with the Indonesian CITES Management Authority (Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation) and the Scientific Authority (Indonesian Institute of Sciences/LIPI (Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia)). This is an enough guarantee that the project will be executed by high level and prestigious agency.</p>	<p>No further comment.</p>
Context	<p><i>1. Ian Thompson</i></p> <p>This is a developing country with one of the highest deforestation rates in the world. Although there is a huge amount of foreign aid, the country has not</p>	<p>I don't see it that way. I think our country has changed much and we have strong commitment to protect our environment. We have been so active and play an</p>

	<p>advanced well and is in need of employment assistance and environmental protection</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2. Jorge Malleux</i></p> <p>More information is necessary on the geographical location of the target area; also, a simple map indicating the location of the target area for field survey and the establishment of permanent sampling plots (PSPs)</p>	<p>important role in any of the international convention and ratify them into our policy and regulation (UNCCC, CBD, RAMSAR, Kyoto-Protocol, Cartagena, CITES, and many others). We have been integrating all the programs related to the convention commitment into our national strategy and long term national planning, down to the local government. In part of our commitment to climate change we have so far reduce deforestation rate from 1.8 in year 2000 down to 0.4 in 2014.</p> <p>In this case, reviewer should have brought up strong evidence in stating that Indonesia has not advanced in saving and protecting the environment.</p> <p>We agree with this and plan to develop distribution map from the ground survey. PSP will also be established. We will provide more clear information on the proposal.</p>
<p>Background</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>1. Ian Thompson</i></p> <p>The need for the project is not well-developed, although they do make the case that the species may be declining, yet still it is only listed as ‘vulnerable’, but with a lack of population information. A literature search provided very little information on the status of the species in Indonesia, only what is already documented in the proposal. It is likely that these populations are far worse off than they are suggesting here, based on the country’s deforestation rate alone.</p>	<p>This proposal may fill these gaps. Thus, we will revise the proposal so that it will accommodate comprehensive information concerning Dalbergia population in the wild and in the plantation. Country’s deforestation rate sourced from the natural forest (mainly in Kalimantan and Sumatra), while Dalbergia mainly comes from plantation, which is now commonly planted widely in</p>

	<p>They provided considerable background on the silvicultural aspects of the species.</p> <p><i>2. Jorge Malleux</i></p> <p>The proposal requires further improvements with a more complete and consistent background, regarding previous research activities, and data, as well as the current status of the level of depletion of the natural habitats where <i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> occurs, further elaboration on the expected outcomes at project completion, more information on the economic aspects of the project and its beneficiaries;</p>	<p>the community forest in Java and East Nusa Tenggara. However, we will clarify this in the proposal.</p> <p>We will revise base on the reviewer's comment.</p>
Objectives	<p><i>1. Ian Thompson</i></p> <p>There are clearly and simply stated.</p> <p><i>2. Jorge Malleux</i></p> <p>Necessary refinement of the key problem and underlying causes and sub-causes; improvement of the indicators for the development objective to support relevant national level initiatives; and improvement of the sustainability after project completion; It is also important that the outcomes should be elaborated more directly linked with the project objective: to provide information on how the results on the genetic, ecology, population distribution, growth and yield of <i>D. latifolia</i>, will be incorporated in the national strategy for the conservation of <i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>.</p> <p>Capacity building output could be further developed aiming to identify target population and actors.</p>	<p>Well noted.</p> <p>We will take into account these comments.</p>
CITES	<i>1. Ian Thompson</i>	All well noted.

	<p>The proposal is for developing an NDF and so meets the programme criteria.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2. Jorge Malleux</i></p> <p>The project objective is relevant for CITES on: i. in the establishment of a transparent mechanism for the regular evaluation of trade and biological information on species subject to significant levels of international trade, ii. the CITES-related studies and projects utilize scientifically sound methodologies and are based on the best available scientific information, and, iii. CITES capacity building materials and training emphasizing the importance of sound science in decision-making and transparency in the development of wildlife trade policies.</p> <p>This proposed project is also relevant to the ultimate Indonesian objective of conservation of biological diversity by Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation, Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (DG PHKA): to achieve self-sufficient management of conservation areas, conservation of biological diversity, ensuring state rights on state areas, however It would be advisable to further elaborate how the project could contribute to the non-detrimental finding reports.</p>	
<p>Work Plan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>1. Ian Thompson</i></p> <p>PSPs can be used for growth rates, natural stocking and age distribution but these plots provide limited or no information about distribution or population status. Sampling and established PSPs will not provide all data needed for an NDF and we are given no idea how many plots occur and how many more that the project will establish and sample. <u>There is no discussion of how the bar-coding will</u></p>	<p>Based on the new proposal taking into consideration the relevant comments, the revised proposal will put more focus on the population distribution, management, and conservation status. Thus, PSP will stand as complimentary activities to complete data and information with regard to growth and yield</p>

	<p><u>be done, samples sizes and what the comparisons will be. (This work could be linked to the Thailand proposal, for example, which would bring their costs down.)</u> Activities 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 will probably take far longer than 2 months to accomplish, depending on how much forest they intend to sample. Much of the project could be done on these two latter activities alone. It appears as though they are not planning any large-scale systematic survey of forests for distribution and population data but this requires some clarity.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2. Jorge Malleux</i></p> <p>No details are given, this is the weakness part of the proposal.</p>	<p>of Dalbergia which remain lacking.</p> <p>Of course, activities 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 will take longer time as needed and practically the other activities will be adjusted. We will clarify this in the revised proposal.</p> <p>With regard to DNA works, the work load will be adjusted as focus will be more on NDF.</p> <p>This will be refined.</p>
<p>Likelihood</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>1. Ian Thompson</i></p> <p>The section on sustainability says nothing about an NDF. There is little doubt that the project will meet the objective of assimilating available data, gathering some new data, and developing manuals, but I do not think that they can achieve an NDF, except for some local management units. If they scale back their objective to collect information leading to an NDF, and clearly state the areal basis for the work, their work would have greater success.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2. Jorge Malleux</i></p> <p>It is necessary to give more details about the possible status of the specie and the sustainability of the process and activities, after the project completion .and how the capacity building (output 2.2) will be achieved.</p>	<p>Good and constructive comment. We will indeed revise as per reviewer’s suggestion. Thanks.</p> <p>We will refine the statement.</p>

Guatemala

Con relación al proyecto “GENERACIÓN DE CAPACIDADES Y LINEAMIENTOS TÉCNICOS DE MANEJO PARA ELABORAR DICTAMENES DE EXTRACCIÓN NO PERJUDICIAL ORIENTADOS A LAS ESPECIES DEL GENERO DALBERGIA EN GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR Y NICARAGUA”, presentado por Guatemala, El Salvador y Nicaragua, queremos comentar lo siguiente:

1. Se espera que la estrategia regional propuesta en el texto del documento, sea una herramienta de planificación que oriente a la implementación de acciones nacionales dirigidas a la conservación y el uso sostenible de las especies arbóreas del género *Dalbergia* en la región, las cuales puedan ser medidas a través de indicadores y evaluadas en períodos intermedios, hasta llegar a alcanzar los objetivos planteados para cada una de las líneas de acción que se definan en consenso entre los Países participantes.
2. El planteamiento regional se justifica en que los problemas a resolver son comunes en los tres países y muy posiblemente en toda la región de América Central y cada País definirá si adoptará la estrategia para su estricto cumplimiento a nivel nacional respetando su soberanía.
3. En el marco del proyecto se incluyó un taller para compartir experiencias y capacidades con relación a *Swietenia* a solicitud de El Salvador, quien presentó la necesidad de que se compartan los trabajos realizados sobre este género en la región. Sin embargo, estamos abiertos a discutir nuevamente este tema y de ser necesario plantear alguna modificación.
4. Atendiendo sus recomendaciones, se hará una explicación más amplia sobre cómo se elaboró la propuesta y en qué momento y porqué nos involucramos Guatemala, El Salvador y Nicaragua en una sola propuesta, también se ampliará la información sobre el contexto socioeconómico en la región.
5. Con relación a la pregunta: ¿si la agencia implementadora tiene un apoyo equitativo de los tres países, y si será capaz de desempeñar un papel tan complejo a nivel internacional?, les compartimos que la agencia implementadora contratará los servicios de profesionales locales en común acuerdo con las agencias de gobierno participantes en cada país para implementar las actividades. La experiencia del trabajo de la ONG en América Central ha demostrado que es posible realizarlo de esta forma.
6. El Proyecto no persigue como objetivo que la ONG elabore un NDF para los Países concernidos. A través del proyecto únicamente se propondrán los lineamientos técnicos para el manejo sostenible de las poblaciones silvestres de las especies arbóreas del género *Dalbergia* y para el desarrollo de procesos productivos en Plantaciones y Sistemas agroforestales con estas especies. Los lineamientos técnicos que se definan servirán para fortalecer la labor de las autoridades gubernamentales para elaborar los NDF para estas especies.
7. El propósito de este proyecto no es necesariamente la incidencia política, sino únicamente disponer de una herramientas de planificación y monitoreo para la conservación y el uso sostenible de las especies arbóreas del género *Dalbergia* en los tres países participantes, así también el de contar con lineamientos técnicos que serán útiles para que las entidades de gobierno elaboren los NDF y para que los productores

desarrollen una gestión sostenible de las poblaciones silvestres e implementen procesos a través de plantaciones y sistemas agroforestales.

8. Estamos conscientes de que los comentarios de los evaluadores reconocen que la propuesta tripartita de Guatemala, Nicaragua y El Salvador es ambiciosa y que el presupuesto es limitado, así como el tiempo de ejecución, con ella buscamos respetar los trabajos que los tres países necesitan realizar. Sin embargo, se llevará a cabo una reunión entre los tres países para acordar la propuesta revisada, en línea con las recomendaciones de los evaluadores.

Al respecto del proyecto “ANÁLISIS INTEGRAL DE LAS ESPECIES ARBÓREAS DEL GÉNERO DALBERGIA Y SIMILARES A TRAVÉS DEL LABORATORIO FORENSE DE MADERAS PARA EL FORTALECIMIENTO DE LA APLICACIÓN DE LA CITES EN GUATEMALA”, presentado por Guatemala, comentamos lo siguiente:

1. Se ampliará la descripción de los roles y compromisos de las tres principales entidades involucradas (CONAP, INAB y MP) y se hará mención de que la FAUSAC ya tiene convenios suscritos con CONAP e INAB y que únicamente quedará pendiente formalizar la relación con el Ministerio Público, la cual se hará durante el período de ejecución del proyecto.
2. Sobre el contexto geográfico en el cual se enfocará el trabajo de campo, es importante compartirles que para las colectas botánicas, los dos proyectos anteriores (financiados por el Programa OIMT-CITES) proporcionaron información básica para identificar áreas con presencia de las especies arbóreas del género *Dalbergia* que serán sujetas al estudio, además hay información contenida en la Flora de Guatemala e información en los herbarios sobre la ubicación de las colectas botánicas registradas de las especies objeto de estudio en el proyecto. Sin embargo, parte del proyecto también contempla continuar con la búsqueda de especímenes de éstas especies en las áreas de distribución potencial en Guatemala (ya definidas en los proyectos anteriores).
3. Es muy importante informar que este proyecto no plantea la utilización de la tecnología NIRS como método de trabajo, las metodologías a emplear se basan en métodos botánicos, anatómicos y moleculares, incluyendo estudios fitogeográficos y fenológicos, complementados con información sobre el comercio de todas las especies listadas como objeto de estudio. Sin embargo, como ya sucedió en el pasado se pueden establecer nuevas coordinaciones con Brasil en la búsqueda de apoyos mutuos para el caso del NIRS.
4. En el texto del documento se detalla que se trabajará con algunas especies del género *Dalbergia* como: *Dalbergia tucurensis*, *D. cubilquitzensis*, *D. glomerata* y otras, para resolver la confusión que existe a nivel botánico; para lo cual, se utilizarán herramientas botánicas y de genética molecular para lograr una mejor identificación y dilucidación. Las otras especies que se trabajarán por la similitud con *Dalbergia* en cuanto a las características macroscópicas de la madera y por su similitud a nivel botánico son: *Platymiscium dimorphandrum*, *Platymiscium yucatanum*, *Enterolobium cyclocarpum*, *Lonchocarpus castilloi* y *Astronium graveolens*.
5. Con relación a la propuesta de Jorge de que: los objetivos deben considerarse como productos y que la propuesta debería mejorarse, re-considerando los resultados con indicadores mensurables, creemos que sería conveniente conocer la opinión de ambos con relación a esto, ya que Ian por su parte indica que existe una alta probabilidad de que esta propuesta logre todos sus objetivos (OIMT 4) y que la propuesta parece estar bien pensada, con un flujo lógico. Lo anterior, es muy importante considerando que replantear modificaciones de objetivos implicaría cambios profundos en todo el documento.

European Union

The assessment of the project proposals has benefitted from the precious contribution of colleagues in the EU Delegations in the countries that applied to this call. Please find our joint comments outlined here below.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS on PROJECT PROPOSALS

AFRICA

Benin, Togo and Nigeria : *Sensibilisation et renforcement de capacités pour la gestion durable de Pterocarpus erinaceus (Fabaceae) au Bénin, Nigeria et Togo.*

Comments for Togo : En principe la demande à sa raison d'être, mais il va falloir aller plus profonde sur les aspects de la commercialisation et de la gestion durable en moyen et long terme. Le Togo a, depuis 2016 et suite aux premiers résultats (interne) de l'Inventaire Forestière National, placé un moratoire sur l'exploitation de Pterocarpus. L'IFN montre qu'il y a un potentiel pour cette espèce point de vue régénération naturelle (petit diamètre jusqu'à 20cm), mais tous les diamètres exploitables ont disparues (sont déjà exploités), il va falloir de mesures de gestion durable des forêts pour que d'ici dans 20 ans au plus top une exploitation durable de Pterocarpus puisse reprendre au 3

Togo. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH a élaboré pour trois régions (Maritime, Plateaux et Centrale) des Plans Directeurs Régionales des Ressources Forestières, sur base des résultats de l'IFN qui démontres l'état de la ressource (aussi pour des espèces de haute valeur) et des mesures sylvicoles à prendre dans les prochaines années. Le projet AMCC s'apprête à vouloir appuyer l'élaboration des telles plans dans les régions de la Kara et Savanes pour compléter. Le MERF a financé un Schéma Directeur National des Ressources Forestières sur fond propres, le travail n'est pas encore fini. **Le contexte sous régionale (avec Nigeria et Bénin) est intéressant, mais pas assez exhaustive** pour un travail qui vise à moyen et long-terme et qui doit toucher des aspects de la commercialisation (exporte), faudra voir si le Ghana et la Cot d'Ivoire ne pourrais pas être impliquées, aussi avec **une allusion au processus FLEGT** qui est promu dans ces deux pays.

Burundi : *Renforcement des capacités des parties prenantes en vue d'une gestion durable de Prunus africana.*

Les experts qui ont fait leur évaluation semblent ne connaitre bien la réalité du terrain, des capacités et spécificités de l'OBPE mais aussi de l'existence ou non d'autres projets similaires. Du **point de vue technique, le projet est intéressant** à la base puisqu'il propose de faire un état des lieux et de préparer un plan d'action. Il faut assurer que tous les activités proposées soient bien budgétisées.

Cameron: *Projet de renforcement des capacités des parties prenantes sur l'élaboration, la mise en oeuvre et le suivi des plans de gestion de Prunus africana au Cameroun*

Our overall assessment of this proposal is **unfavourable**. The quality of the proposal are not adequate, and require full revisions. Otherwise the project should not be funded. The evaluator also gave a negative opinion to this project. The reasons are explained here below.

- Cameroon has signed VPA FLEGT. **The project makes only a marginal mention** of FLEGT (see annex 1: "the Ministry is responsible to implement the VPA FLEGT"). Concerning the *substance*, the proposal does mention several times the issue of traceability, which is related to FLEGT. However: i) despite these mentions, the proposal does not explain at all how this issue will be solve. It claims that the existing

paper traceability will be reinforced without explain how. As a national traceability system is currently being developed in Cameroon with the close involvement of MINFOF, it is surprising that the proposal does not mention it anywhere. ii) FLEGT is not only about traceability, but also on legality, which is not mentioned.

- Major issues:
 - i. **Project key results are academic and not operational:** expected results are a "state of play" + "action plan" + "norms". What is missing out is clear information on how these outputs will be used in support of CITES's objectives. The evaluator made a similar assessment in the criterion 4: "***the proposed or expected outputs of the project doesn't match very well with the objective, since they are more scientific or theoretical approach rather than a practical focus with the active participation of the actors***"
 - ii. The objective of improving traceability is not translated into operationalization, and there is no reference about legality. The proposal is not addressing the 2nd expected outcome of the CITES programme: "Contribute to *legal, traceable, and fair trade* in products from CITES tree species"
 - iii. Lessons learned from previous projects in similar areas show that sustainability might be low.

RD Congo : AVIS DE COMMERCE NON PREJUDICIALE de *Pericopsis elata*, de *Guibourtia demeusei* et de *Prunus africana* en République Démocratique du Congo

- Il n'y a **aucune référence à une éventuelle relation avec FLEGT**.
- Aucun problème en ce qui concerne la pertinence de **la proposition**, dans la mesure où elle **répond précisément à des recommandations de la CITES** elle-même à la RDC. **D'accord avec les observations de l'évaluateur:** risque de trop d'ambition et suggestion de focaliser la proposition sur deux espèces plutôt qu'une (*Pericopsis elata* et *Prunus africana*), notamment aussi parce que la justification et la base documentaire sont beaucoup moins étayées en ce qui concerne *Guibourtia demeusei*. En ce qui concerne **l'efficacité**, on a en mémoire que l'exécution du projet précédent OIBT-CITES avait connu pas mal de lenteur d'exécution. Le transfert récent (décret d'août 2017) de l'organe de gestion de la CITES du ministère de l'environnement vers l'ICCN peut cependant laisser un certain bénéfice du doute. Cette nouvelle répartition de rôles (organes de gestion/autorités scientifiques) et l'approche "faire faire" préconisée par l'ICCN pourra probablement améliorer ce problème d'efficacité, mais en effet comme dit l'évaluateur, des ajustements et des précisions sont requis concernant le budget et les activités.
- We have reservations over the idea of reducing too drastically the number of target species under the project, in a context where DRC was asked to merge its 3 initial project proposals. We would therefore suggest exploring possibilities for maintaining activities on the three species (unless alternative funding sources can be identified). At the same time, we see room for reduction of the project scope concerning *Pericopsis elata*: the revision of the NDF is to our knowledge already underway under EU (EDF) funding involving FLEGT-ERAIFT-UNESCO. The production of an additional NDF report looks to us overlapping with the on-going project, i.e. there is a clear need to closely liaise with the EU Delegation to avoid duplication. At the same time, DRC was invited by SC69 to carry out a study on conversion rates and finalize its database to manage exports of *Pericopsis elata*. We would suggest that the project focuses on these 2 specific activities.

Cote d'Ivoire : *Projet de sauvegarde de **Pericopsis elata** (ASSAMELA) et de **Pterocarpus erinaceus** (BOIS DE VENE) en Côte d'Ivoire*

- The populations of *Pericopsis elata* are known to be extremely scarce in Côte d'Ivoire, and very close to commercial extinction. We wonder about the added-value of developing a Non- Detriment Finding document in a context where it is unlikely that exports of the species can be resumed in the near future. We would recommend raising this issue with the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire with a view to further evaluating the potential added-value of this component of the overall project.
- Le mot FLEGT ne figure même pas dans le texte de la proposition. Par contre la CITES fait partie du cadre légal prévu par le FLEGT. On partage les points de vue des évaluations: trop de sub-contracts, proposition à récrire, contexte insuffisant. Notre avis est que la question de la gouvernance n'est pas assez développé, notamment la lutte contre la corruption. Si le FLEGT n'est même pas cité, cela montre la vision partielle du contexte et des dynamiques en cours. Notre avis est négatif et nous suggérons la révision du projet.

Gabon: *Assessing the state of the art research on ecological dynamic, conservation status, management, harvesting, processing, traceability and trade of Kévazingo tree species in Gabon as the first step for making Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) in Gabon.*

- La délégation **a été informée** de l'intention du gouvernement de préparer une requête.
- Les négociations FLEGT sont en stand-by mais la conservation du Kevazingo est conflictuelle depuis longtemps.
- On est d'accord avec les évaluations que la proposition est une **bonne proposition et mérite d'être financée** d'autant plus que le gouvernement vient de prendre un décret pour interdire l'exploitation et la transformation des 3 espèces de Guiburtia / Kevazingo au Gabon.

Madagascar: *Gestion durable de la population de **Prunus africana** de Madagascar : évaluation de stock, agroforesterie, technique de prélèvement et cadre règlementaire.*

- Le plaidoyer pour la reprise de l'exploitation de *P. africana* n'est pas nouveau à Madagascar tant chez les scientifiques que des personnes du secteur privé, l'importance économique est avérée mais l'espèce a en effet souffert de surexploitation dans la région Nord. Actuellement c'est essentiellement commercialisé en petites quantités par les tradipraticiens.
- La mission UE FAO FLEGT sur l'établissement d'un ACNP sur le *Dalbergia* et *Diospyros* était au courant de la candidature de Madagascar, sans que la DUE ne sache à quel niveau de détail. Il est vraisemblable si l'appui ACNP au *Prunus africana* et à *Dalbergia* et *Dyospiros* se concrétisent (RINDRA 11ème FED et UE-FAO-FLEGT) des **synergies et des économies d'échelle devront être recherchées.**
- Les commentaires dans les grilles **d'évaluations semblent pertinents.**
- Il n'est pas possible d'émettre un avis sur la qualité du montage (ex : partage de rôles effectifs entre OG- et AS CITES), de la qualité de prestations techniques (inventaires, test d'écorage, ...) et de l'efficience (rapport qualité/prix), en l'absence d'information plus détaillées

- La proposition est a priori pertinente quant au sujet abordé et aux perspectives (chaines de valeur sur un produit forestier non ligneux répondant à une demande internationale avérée).
- Cette espèce ayant déjà fait l'objet de plusieurs d'études, la base de connaissance scientifique pourrait permettre d'avancer plus vite que chez les autres espèces (à confirmer). Nonobstant, les délais imposés par l'instrument TREES-CITES (2 ans, sans considérer les temps à consacrer à une proposition définitivement acceptable) paraît est incompatible avec l'atteinte des objectifs fixés par l'AàP pour Madagascar. Toutefois, des relais et des synergies peuvent / doivent être envisagées pour insérer cette subvention dans un ensemble qui lui assure davantage de pertinence et chances de succès, et notamment :
 - Avec le programme RINDRA (cf. demande du MEEF pour une AT dont une partie serait dédiées aux dossiers CITES, au-delà du cas particulier des bois précieux)
 - Avec le programme RINDRA pour les possibles interventions de terrain avec le DP
 - Avec l'appui RINDRA à l'AS-CITES sur Dalbergia et Diospyros
 - Avec l'appui UE-FAO-FLEGT en général à Madagascar (plateforme multi-acteurs, dialogue, gouvernance, amélioration du cadre légal)
 - Avec l'appui UE-FAO-FLEGT sur les ACNP Dalbergia et Diospyros (proposition de test filière ACNP en cours de discussions) et complément de financement en cours de discussions (FAO-DEVCO C2)
 - Le relais d'intervention dans le cadre des opérations de terrain dans le cadres des projets AFAFI (dont AFAFI-Nord avec PAGE, DREEF, ... sur chaîne de valeur, collecte de semences, agroforesterie et conservation des Bassins versants, CHTT : pour les processus extractifs plus efficaces des matières actives, moins destructives (ex : unité de Fianarantsoa, ...)

Le sujet et le document soulèvent **plusieurs questions d'ordre technique** (filiales collecte de semences (en lien ou non avec la RPF), agroforestières, aires de distributions, coaching spécifique pour satisfaction des exigences ACNP, inclus dans une approche chaîne de valeur pour un PFNL, exploitation des feuilles à la place des écorces, alternatives usages traditionnels du Prunus africana pour charbon de bois de qualité fort recherchés, de ...) institutionnel (notamment au sein du MEEF), de coordination (avec FLEGT, et autres initiatives CE, UE et autres PTF, nature et implication de la DG ENV, ...), économique (état d'activité actuel des acteurs identifiés pour cette filière) qui ne pourront être approfondies qu'après confirmation du financement de cette subvention, ou à l'occasion de l'éventuelle implication de la DUE dans la négociation des ajustements de cette proposition demandés par le programme TREES-CITES, et des recherches de synergies avec d'autres initiatives.

Regional (Kenia, Uganda and Tanzania): *Conservation and Sustainable Management of Osyris lanceolata, for Economic Development in East Africa*

No major issues regarding relevance or effectiveness. Overall we agree with the comments made by other colleagues in the documents you forwarded.

EUD to Kenya confirmed that the unsustainable harvesting of the sandal wood is an issue of concern in Kenya and as such deserves highest attention and support. So this grant to public authorities looks like a good proposal.

EUD Tanzania highlighted the following points:

- While Tanzania is not involved in FLEGT, a feasibility study has been conducted with support from Embassy of Finland on engagement of Tanzania in the FLEGT so prospects to have the link is there.

- Most of the trade involving Sandalwood is done illegally, hence is one of the overexploited species and highly relevant. The following points should also be considered during the review of the project:
 - o Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) is the **key research partner** that is omitted in the consortium. TAFORI is best placed and mandated for tree and forest research in Tanzania. TAWA and TAWIRI are the focal points for the CITES, while for trees Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) and TAFORI that are most relevant. TAWA and TFS have been indicated in the consortium, yet these are high-level institutions, while the field research capacity and mandate rests with TAFORI. Early studies on the species in Tanzania were conducted by TAFORI and specifically by Mr. Mwangingo (as referred to in the comments) so inclusion of TAFORI in the research consortium will add value to the project Note: Mwangingo himself now works for Sokoine University of Agriculture, and recently vied for the position of Director General of TAFORI (outcome not yet known)
 - o The extent of **the geographical coverage is missing**. The region is large, especially the distribution in Tanzania, hence it will be good to get clarity on this.

ASIA

Indonesia: *Sustainable Management of Dalbergia latifolia in Indonesia*

EU Delegation (EUD) not informed of the preparation of this proposal but could discuss it with the CITES authorities. Based on the discussion, the project is considered relevant and has potentialities for positive linkages with FLEGT. It was encouraging to learn that the CITES authorities shared the proposal with their colleagues working on the FLEGT VPA process and that the latter welcomed such proposal too. The EUD is currently developing additional support to CITES and it will be important that the CITES Secretariat ensure good synergies with that.

Thailand: *Development of DNA Markers to Identify the Origin of Dalbergia cochinchinensis Wood in Selected ASEAN Member States.*

Looking at the recommendations by the evaluators, we would suggest a more cautious approach whereby a number of fundamental issues raised by the evaluators should be addressed before starting implementation of the project (need to clarify roles and commitments of executing and collaborating agencies, need to evaluate the final added-value and operational dimension of such a project in terms of enforcement support, making sure that the project does not remain a scientific undertaking but genuinely contributes to enforcement and support to the work of control agencies in addressing illegal trade, etc.)

Vietnam: *Strengthening the Management and Conservation of Dalbergia cochinchinensis and other Rosewood Species in Vietnam.*

There are some potential links between the proposed activities and FLEGT, although there is no explicit description on this. The proposed action is quite relevant to the country situation/context.

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina: *Bases para la gestión sostenible de la especie *Bulnesia sarmientoi* "palo santo" en la Región del Gran Chaco de Argentina.*

No additional comments on the proposal.

Brazil: *Rapid-Field Identification of *Dalbergia* Woods and Rosewood Oil by NIRS Technology*

The proposed project focuses on timber identification (for rosewood/*Dalbergia* species) in support of enforcement activities to prevent illegal trade. It should look at possible synergies with a project implemented by IBAMA (2014-2015) to be carried out a study of *Aniba rosaeodora* Ducke or rosewood financed under TAIEF.

Guatemala: *Análisis integral de las especies arbóreas del género *Dalbergia* y similares a través del laboratorio forense de maderas para el fortalecimiento de la aplicación de la CITES en Guatemala*

The proposal has a clear link with the FLEGT EU project because it takes into account the main public institution to play a role in the fight against illegal wood traffic. The proposal is high relevance with the government effort to fight against illegal traffic of *Dalbergia* sp. and other species. The forensic wood laboratory is a big step of the country to advance in the investigation, monitoring and the penalty of the illegal trade of wood. The proposal takes into account the main public institution involved in the thematic and will be an opportunity the EU contributes in the sector, complementing the FLEGT action. The proposal is aligned with the national plan of the fight against illegal wood traffic. A proposal very relevant, we recommend the next stage.

Regional project (El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua): *Fortalecimiento de la Conservación y el Ordenamiento forestal sostenible de especies en peligro y amenazadas de extinción en El Salvador*

EUDs not involved in the proposal.

- De acuerdo con las observaciones de los evaluadores respecto a mejorar elementos del marco lógico, demasiados objetivos, confusión entre objetivos y resultados y demasiados productos.
- Respecto al alcance de la acción tratándose de una acción cuyo objetivo es elaborar un estrategia regional para la protección de una especie en peligro *Dalbergia*, faltan más elementos que destaquen el carácter regional, justificación de la selección de los países que comprende la propuesta Guatemala, El salvador y Nicaragua. Por qué no Costa Rica y/o Panamá? En efecto, además en los antecedentes no se menciona que ya existe (adjunto) un "Dictamen de Extracción No Perjudicial (DENP) para la especie de Cocobolo (***Dalbergia retusa*** Hemsl., Fabaceae/Pap.) presente en Costa Rica", y de reciente elaboración (junio 2017), el cual es imprescindible considerar y aprovechar como base para los instrumentos similares que piensan elaborarse (ver 'objetivos' 1 y 2) en NIC, ESV y GUA.
- Explicara más el rol que jugarán las instituciones que implementarán la acción en los países, es decir las instituciones a cargo de recursos naturales. A nivel de la propuesta no hay mayores detalles al respecto.
- Se da a entender que esta propuesta es el resultado de una experiencia anterior y por ello se considero extender el área de intervención a Guatemala, El salvador y Nicaragua, pero no hay mayor información al respecto.
- The very ambitious proposal is certainly **relevant to the country** (we agree with the risk that it may be over-ambitious as pointed out by the first evaluator), where the government has taken initiatives to improve forest management, but there are fiscal limitations that could mean that financial commitments could be at risk, so would recommend to get more guarantees on their engagement as also recommended by ITTO.

- The proposal is very focused on El Salvador. Maybe in the second stage they should be improving the scope on Guatemala.
- In Guatemala there is a **FLEGT** project in the north of the country (reserve de la biósfera Maya). The proposal has a weak link with the geographical area under FLEGT project. **Improve the scope in Guatemala on the next stage.**
- La ONG ejecutora NPV naturaleza para la vida, es una ONG guatemalteca aparentemente con mucha experiencia en el tema y que ya ha aplicado a convocatorias CITES anteriormente con buenos resultados. En **general coincido con las observaciones de los evaluadores** de la propuesta. However Fundación NPV has never worked in El Salvador before. Its capacities to implement the project should therefore carefully assessed.