

An Overview of the CITES Tree Species Programme in Asia

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1. Background

- Invitation letters were sent to CITES MA in 38 countries in Asia in mid-August 2017.
- Received 17 proposed project resumes and evaluated 14 of them from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam in mid-October 2017.
- The total value of the 14 evaluated project proposals was US\$ 5.54 million with the CITES contribution amounting to US\$ 2.91 million. The area of work are as follows:
 - (i) Assessment of population distribution and conservation status of selected *Aquilaria* species, *Pterocarpus* species and *Taxus* species in Indonesia. They include genetic improvement of agarwood-producing species, trade in *Pterocarpus* species, and a conservation action plan for *Taxus* species.
 - (ii) Establishment of arboreta and germplasm to conserve *Aquilaria malaccensis*, and the development of guidelines for identifying wild *Aquilaria* species for agarwood extraction in Peninsular Malaysia, Malaysia.
 - (iii) Strengthening the sustainable management and enforcement capacity of *Gonystylus macrophyllus* and *Aquilaria malaccensis* in Malaysia.

- (iv) Assessment of the conservation status of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* and *Aquilaria crassna* in Cambodia. They include small-scale plantation of the species, a NDF report for *D. cochinchinensis* and a conservation strategy for *A. crassna*.
- (v) Collection of information on the population distribution and production system of *Dalbergia latifolia* in Indonesia, including the development of a reference set of DNA fingerprinting and anatomical structure for identification of its products.
- (vi) Development of DNA makers to identify *Dalbergia* species and the geographic origin of its wood and wood products in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States.
- (vii) Further development of the existing DNA barcode reference data to include all Indo-Burma Hotspot's *Dalbergia* species and protocol for molecular identification of rosewood timber.
- (viii) Collection of information on the biological, ecological, harvest, trade and management practices of *Aquilaria* species in India, including the development of marking and traceability mechanism, and registration and verification systems.
- (ix) Development of a management plan and NDF report for *Dalbergia* species in Vietnam, including a trade and harvest database, and manual for identifying all rosewood in Vietnam.
- (x) Holding an international meeting on CITES-listed tree species to further enhance cooperation, improve trade data monitoring and CITES compliance.

2. Approved Proposed Projects

- At the CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP) First Advisory Committee Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland on 27 November 2017, a total of 5 proposed projects were approved and the proponents of the proposed projects were invited to prepare full project proposals for approval and funding, namely:
 - (i) Integrating the Piloting of Small-scale Private *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* Plantation Registration with Forest Landscape Restoration in Preah Vihear Province in Cambodia.
 - (ii) Sustainable Management of *Dalbergia latifolia* in Indonesia.
 - (iii) Reducing Harvesting Pressure on the *Aquilaria malaccensis* (Thymelaeaceae) Natural Populations in Peninsular Malaysia through the Establishment of Arboreta and Germplasm.
 - (iv) Development of DNA Markers to Identify the Origin of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* Wood in Selected ASEAN Member States.
 - (v) Strengthening the Management and Conservation of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* and other Rosewood Species in Vietnam.

- The 5 proposed projects were assessed by two independent scientist evaluators and presented to the Second CTSP Advisory Committee Meeting held from 12 - 15 March 2018 through e-mail.
- The proponents of the 5 proposed projects in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam were requested to revise their full project proposals, taking into account the comments and suggestions of the 2 evaluators, ITTO, CITES, and the EU, in late March 2018.
- Currently, only 2 revised proposed proposals have been submitted to CITES, namely:
 - (i) Integrating the Development of Guidelines and Incentives for Piloting the Establishment of Small-scale Private *Dalbergia* Plantations with the Determination of a Non-detriment Findings Report in Preah Vihear Province in Cambodia.
 - (ii) Reducing Harvesting Pressure on the *Aquilaria malaccensis* (Thymelaeaceae) Natural Populations in Peninsular Malaysia through the Establishment of Arboreta.

3. Future Activities

- Continue to assist countries to revise their full project proposals.

- Assist countries in executing the approved projects, including monitoring and reporting of their progress in implementation.
- Revised the prepared 2-year Roadmap for Asia starting from August 2017.
- Assist in conducting a Mid-Term Review of the CITES Tree Species Programme in August 2019.

THANK YOU