



CITES Tree Species Programme

Minutes of the 5th Advisory Committee Meeting

Lomé, Togo

Wednesday, 4 December 2019, 11:30 – 13:00

1. List of Participants

Mr. Hugo-Maria Schally (European Union)
Mr. Achille Orphée Lokossou (Benin)
Mr. Anicent Ngomin (Cameroon)
Mr. Mesmin Sebiro (Central African Republic)
Ms. Christiane Anzan née N'Guessan Ahou (Cote d'Ivoire)
Mr. André Kondjo Shoko (D.R. Congo)
Ms. Natacha Nssi Bengone épouse Ona Abiaga (Gabon)
Mr. Bruno Enrique Arias Rivas (Guatemala)
Mr. Armiastho Adi Saputro (Indonesia)
Mr. Sigit Pramono (Indonesia)
Ms. Noni Eko Rahayu (Indonesia)
Ms. Toky Nirina Randrianjafimanana (Madagascar)
Mr. Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani (Malaysia)
Mr. Zawadi Mbwambo (Tanzania)
Mr. Balakyem Awesso (Togo)
Mr. Amah Atutonu (Togo)
Ms. Aysha Ghadiali (U.S.A.)
Mr. Labode Popoola (Nigeria)
Ms. Daniéle Marie Viviane Ramiamanana (REFACOF)
Ms. Chiméne Musanga Timani (REFACOF)
Ms. Ivonne Higuero (CITES Secretariat)
Ms. Milena Sosa-Schmidt (CITES Secretariat)
Dr. Jean Lagarde Betti (Regional Coordinator for Africa)
Mr. Steven E. Johnson (ITTO Secretariat)
Ms. Kanako Ishii (ITTO Secretariat)

2. Opening and selection of Chair/Rapporteur

Ms. Ivonne Higuero (CITES) welcomed participants to the 5th Advisory Committee (AC) meeting under the CITES Tree Species Programme in Lomé, Togo, being convened in conjunction with the Fifty-fifth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC). Participants received customized USB sticks and cup lids, with an explanation on how eco-friendly silicone cup lids would be to keep drinks in cups hot/cold. Ms. Ishii (ITTO) agreed to take notes to assist in preparing the minutes.

3. Agenda

The agenda as contained in Annex I was adopted by consensus.

4. Confirmation of meeting participants

All participants introduced their names and country/organization.

5. Advisory Committee – ToRs – Membership – *modus operandi* – to note

Ms. Milena Sosa-Schmidt (CITES) referred participants to the Terms of Reference of AC (Annex II) and a list of designated AC members (Annex II), as per advice by the European Commission.

6. Briefing of latest updates

(i) Progress made since the 4th Advisory Committee meeting;

Ms. Milena Sosa-Schmidt (CITES) referred participants to progress reports in all three regions (Annex III), summarizing the following points:

- a) Regional Coordinators continued to assist proponents to finalize agreements and opening bank accounts;
- b) Funding reached all countries except for two (2);
- c) With in-kind contributions from each country, executing agencies could commence implementation of projects;
- d) Organizing meetings were convened for all projects;
- e) Experts have been identified and recruited after terms of reference for projects were developed with assistance of Regional Coordinators; and
- f) Field work started in some cases, however, majority has not taken field work yet.

A brief progress report was requested to executing agencies in all three regions and all submitted by mid-November 2019. Details of progress reports are available in Annex III.

(ii) Administration and financial matters

Ms. Ivonne Higuero (CITES) informed the participants that the new financial system at the CITES Secretariat would take much longer to process bank transfer and apologized for delays. She further referred participants to status update per project within the Tree Species Programme funded by EC (contribution grant DCI-ENV/2017/384-816) (Annex IV). To summarize the CITES Tree Species Programme team has achieved:

- Reviewed and helped revising and finalizing 18 approved project proposals; out of which 17 have been prepared in a contract and signed with the implementing partner (IP) and, one was withdrawn;
- Fully financially committed 15 contacts and two pending; one banking information to be provided by IP and one recording in Umoja;

- Disbursed funds of the first installments for 15 projects that have received their first transfer as per the signed contract; and
- Prepared a preliminary monitoring and evaluation plan for each of the three participating regions and for the upcoming year 2020 that could go up to early 2021.

Ms. Higuero affirmed that shortly the table will have information on where each project stands and how far each country has gone.

7. Monitoring of implementation and mid-point evaluation reviews - 2020 - 2021.

Ms. Milena Sosa-Schmidt (CITES) explained to the participants each project will have three-levels of monitoring and evaluation work: 1) work monitored and evaluated by Regional Coordinators; 2) work evaluated by external evaluators; and 3) mission sent by the European Commission. In her power point presentation, Ms. Sosa-Schmidt stressed importance of the monitoring work and of the mid-term evaluations as tools to increase transparency and address possible implementation problems through recommendations and corrective actions to solve any possible deviation of the work or problems encountered.

Dr. Steve Johnson (ITTO) shared with participants experiences of two mid-term evaluations carried out during the ITTO-CITES Programme. The objective of evaluation was to focus on areas where problems occurred, to ensure executive agencies would do a better work, not being left off the trail.

Ms. Sosa-Schmidt referred participants to the schedule table of monitoring missions (Annex V) and state the tables as preliminary and subject to change. Monitoring missions will be organized in the course of 2020. Regional Coordinators for all three regions reported that no evaluations would take place in 2020 and possibly happen in the first half of 2021.

Mr. Mohd Kheiruddin Mohd Rani from (Malaysia) requested a delay in the first monitoring mission currently scheduled for December 2019 in the referred table since there was no progress made to report.

In response to the above remarks made by participants, Ms. Higuero stressed that the timing of monitoring missions is not something to be agreed during the 5th Advisory Committee meeting as countries do not have the same projects and it is an introductory time schedule. She confirmed that in next few months, there will be a detailed discussion with Regional Coordinators on how to establish criteria for monitoring milestones.

8. CTSP Web Site

Ms. Milena Sosa-Schmidt (CITES) invited participants to visit the website: the English version being available at www.cites-tsp.org; the Spanish version at <https://cites-tsp.org/es/>; the French version at <https://cites-tsp.org/fr/> .

Ms. Aysha Ghadiali (U.S.A.) gave her preliminary reviews on the web site, indicating an attractive and user-friendly design, with logical and interactive layout, and requested a future option to add live videos from the project field.

9. Regional/International workshops

Ms. Milena Sosa Schmidt (CITES) informed the AC that, beyond the 3 regional meetings organized in 2018-2019, there were other three regional workshops for the purpose of finalizing proposals and subsequent regional workshops notably on the launching of the tri-national projects. Progress reports for each region are available in Annex III. There will be an international meeting towards the end of the CTSP to share lessons learned and discuss how to proceed with outcomes from projects. She also indicated that there would be a possible international meeting on identification co-funded by ITTO with contribution of the U.S.A. and dates are to be confirmed.

10. Time and venue of the 6th Advisory Committee meeting.

Ms. Milena Sosa-Schmidt (CITES) informed the AC that the CITES would possibly organize the next AC6 meeting in conjunction with the CITES Plants Committee in Geneva at the end of July 2020. At the AC5, all members and alternates will be invited to strengthen communications between all and encourage further cooperation.

11. Any other business

Ms. Daniéle Marie Viviane Ramiaramananana (REFACOF) raised a question whether community level and women issues would be considered. In response Ms. Ivonne Higuero (CITES) stated that there is no specific project focusing on the afore-mentioned issues, however, each project could consider guidelines by UNEP on women representation and this would be addressed at a later stage for all CITES programmes (MIKES, ICCWC and the CTSP).

Mr. Labode Popoola (Nigeria) questioned the reason why Nigeria was not invited to the AC5 meeting. In response, Ms. Milena Sosa-Schmidt (CITES) reminded all about the list of AC members, Nigeria is not a Member of the AC, she further explained that in order to maximize participation of African countries at the AC5, the meeting was opened for the 1st time and invited as observers all non-AC Members that are participating at the CTSP and that were participating at the 55th ITTC.

12. Closure of meeting

Ms. Ivonne Higuero (CITES) thanked all participants for attending and closed the meeting.

Annex I



Fifth Advisory Committee Meeting CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP) 3 December 2019

**Physical meeting conducted in the margins of the 55 International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC)
Togo, Lomé
Room number 2
13.00 pm to 14.30 pm**

Agenda

Opening

CITES Ivonne Higuero (Secretary General)

Welcoming remarks

1. Confirmation of:
 - a- Chair: Ivonne Higuero
 - b- Rapporteur: Ms. Kanako Ishii
2. Adoption of agenda.
3. Confirmation of meeting participants.
4. Advisory Committee - ToRs - Membership - *modus operandi* – to note.
Replacement of Bahamas by Cuba;
5. Briefing of the latest updates.
 - (i) Progress made since the 4th Advisory Committee meeting; and
 - (ii) Administration and financial matters.
6. Monitoring of implementation and mid-point evaluation reviews - 2020 - 2021.
7. CTSP web-site
Publishing the Advisory Committee membership on the CTSP website.
8. Regional/International workshops.
9. Time and venue of the 6nd Advisory Committee meeting.
10. Any other business.
11. Closure of meeting.

Annex II

CITES Tree Species Programme – **Advisory Committee** Terms of Reference

1. Mandate and key tasks

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

The tasks of the Advisory Committee will include the following:

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

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

2. Composition

The Advisory Committee consists of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

3. *Modus operandi*

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

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

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

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

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

List of Advisory Committee members

Asia		
Cambodia*	Indonesia*	Vietnam*
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Annex III

Progress made since the 4th Advisory Committee meeting

Asia Region

Brief Progress Report – Country activities implemented by 31 November 2019 Preliminary plans for monitoring and evaluation missions in 2020

Cambodia

Project Title: 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.

Implementing Agency: The Department of Forest Plantations and Private Forest Development and the Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity in the Cambodia Forestry Administration.

Progress Report

Since the CTSP contract was signed on 15 August 2019, the project has initiated ground preparation and discussion with relevant target villages and local communities which will be involved in piloting the establishment of small-scale private *Dalbergia* plantations under the project, including the implementation of the project planned activities such as, the establishment of an coordination structure for the effective implementation of the project, conducting rapid field assessment to study the current distribution of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* in natural forest as well as in plantation, and initiating literature review on the taxonomy, biology, ecology, and the status, trend, and population structure and dynamics of *D. cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri*. It also included undertaking assessment of the extent and effectiveness of the current management practices and conservation status of *D. cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri*, as well as in reviewing the current harvest control and monitoring of the two species and initiating procurement process of *D. cochinchinensis* seedlings for planting from public nurseries.

Indonesia

Project Title: A Non-detriment Findings Report and a DNA Database for *Dalbergia latifolia* in Java and West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

Implementing Agency: Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation, Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia.

Progress Report

Indonesia has signed the CTSP's contract on October 9, 2019. Following this, the implementing agency has registered the grant and is now in the process of obtaining the approval for opening a bank account for the project. During this first month, the implementing agency has started the gathering of information required for the NDF and DNA work from literature review and direct communication (by phone) with some local stakeholders. The information gathered from the literature review were on taxonomy, ecology, reproductive biology and morphological characters of *Dalbergia latifolia*. The NDF guidance for trees (Wolf *et al.* 2018) is also being reviewed as a valuable input which may be applied for *D.*

latifolia from Indonesia with certain modification. Information for the DNA work were gathered from related published articles, genes or regions where *Dalbergia* species occur that are available in the public domain, such as those from the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) and the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL). They were used in the preliminary assessment on markers selection and/or development. Based on the information gathered from the local farmers and local forestry agencies in Central Java and West Nusa Tenggara, *D. latifolia* in Yogyakarta province and in some parts of West Nusa Tenggara are now flowering. Additional locations of populations of *D. latifolia* from Java and West Nusa Tenggara were also being recorded based on the information received from the local people.

Malaysia

Project Title: Establishment of Arboreta and Strengthening Institutional Network for the Conservation of *Aquilaria malaccensis* in Peninsular Malaysia.

Implementing Agency: Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

Progress Report:

Discussions between FRIM and the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM) on the Selangor arboretum site are on-going. A pre-project meeting was held in January 2018 among the stakeholders to seek for potential collaboration. Two subsequent meetings were held in September 2019; namely a presentation and a follow-up discussion with FDPM regarding procedures for project application and implementation.

In November 2019, FRIM presented the project's background, objective and current progress to the Malaysian CITES Management and Scientific Authorities during the CITES National Committee meeting. Concurrently, internal meetings were held with FRIM other researchers on the arboretum establishment in Perak, including its potential site, initial planting layout design, cost and manpower requirements. Collection of seedlings has now reached 1,293 from 10 wild populations. These seedlings are currently being nursed in the FRIM nursery.

Current challenges that FRIM is facing are the lack of planting materials due to the low germination rate and the declining number of mother trees. To overcome this, more populations will be explored for seedlings collection in 2020.

Vietnam

Project Title: Strengthening the Management and Conservation of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri* in Vietnam.

Implementing Agency: Center for Nature Conservation and Development (CCD).

Progress Report:

To date, the project has recruited a Conservation Biologist and an Accountant. The project team has worked with relevant central and provincial government agencies to get permission for the operation of the project. The project team liaised with scientific institutions and management organizations at the central and local levels to collect reports, papers and documents on rosewood population, distribution, harvest and trade, and legislation with the emphasis on *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri* in Vietnam to support the review and documentation of the species.

The project has also developed three Terms of Reference (ToRs) and has recruited a Plant Conservation Specialist, a Forest Management Specialist and a Timber Management Specialist to undertake the activities required to successfully deliver Output 1 - A NDF report fully implemented for *D. cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri* in Vietnam, and recommendations provided to support better management and enforcement in Vietnam, including the enhancement of capacity of local authorities and management agencies, and Output 2 - A rosewood management and conservation plan prepared for *D. cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri* and piloted in four key sites in Vietnam of the project.

These specialists and the project team conducted two field visits in September and October 2019 to six provinces, namely, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Dak Lak, Binh Phuoc, Binh Thuan and Dong Nai, to assess the current management practices, conservation status, threats, harvest, trade, law enforcement and conservation efforts of *D. cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri*. In each province, the team worked with various agencies such as the provincial Forest Protection Department (FPD), the district FPD and the management boards of Dak Uy special use forest (Kon Tum province), Yok Don national park (Dak Lak province), Ha Thuan-Da Mi watershed protection forest (Binh Thuan province), Cat Tien national park (Dong Nai province), and Bu Gia Map (Binh Phuoc province). The team had also worked with the Center for Tropical Forestry in Gia Lai province, which is the main supplier of seedlings for the Central Highland provinces.

One-Paragraph Progress Report: Date Requested and Date Received - Asia

Country	Date Requested	Date Received
Cambodia	4 November 2019	17 November 2019
Indonesia	4 November 2019	14 November 2019
Malaysia	4 November 2019	13 November 2029
Vietnam	4 November 2019	14 November 2019

Africa Region
Brief Progress Report – Country activities implemented by 31 November 2019
Preliminary plans for monitoring and evaluation missions in 2020

Benin - Nigeria – Togo

Project Title: Action plan and capacity building for the sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (Fabaceae) in Benin, Nigeria and Togo.

Implementing Agency: Directorate General of Fishing, Forestry and Wildlife (DGEFC) of the Ministry of sustainable Development of the Republic of Benin.

Progress Report

This tri-national project started in November 2019, aims in 12 months to dress an action plan and build capacities of CITES authorities (MA and SA) in each country with the view to ensure that “international trade of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (Fabaceae) products is not detrimental to the conservation of that tree species in natural forests in the tree countries and in West Africa ». The sub-regional coordinating (Benin) is currently signing subcontracts of 40 046 USD with the coordination team of the project of each country. The inception workshop of the project is scheduled for December 2019 in Cotonou, Benin. The main subject of the workshop is the harmonization (standardisation) of methods to be used in the three countries. The Regional Coordinator suggests that this meeting be organized in Lomé, Togo, during the 5th AC of the CTSP or one day after the ATTO session, to save time and funds.

Burundi

Project Title: Capacity building of stakeholders in view to sustain *Prunus africana* harvesting in Burundi.

Implementing Agency: the Burundese Office for Environment Protection (OBPE)

Progress Report

The project started in June 2019 and aims in 18 months to train different stakeholders in implementing CITES and formulate the NDF on *Prunus africana* in Burundi, taking in consideration recommendations made in the national strategy of Prunus.

The inception workshop of the project was organized on 30th October 2019, at Bujumbura and aimed to:

1. present the project to different stakeholders including local administration and scientists from the University of Bujumbura,
2. to present members of the National Technical Committee and of the Scientific Committee, and
3. to revise the workplan

The coordination team has been appointed and has finalized in collaboration with the RC, the terms of references (ToRs) of the expert in charge of the evaluation of the regeneration of the *Prunus* barks in the previous sites inventoried and harvested in 2013 and 2014 in the Kibira national park. This activity will begin at the end of November 2019. The coordination team is currently finalising the questionnaire for assessing the socio-economic impact of *P. africana* harvest in local communities. The survey will start on December 2019 for three months. The RC proposed to postpone the *Prunus* inventories campaign by

June 2020, when he will be conducting his second monitoring mission in Burundi. The small delay observed in the beginning of the project was due to the change occurred at the Directorate General of the OBPE. In fact, the new Director General of OBPE and his staff had to understand the philosophy of the project before undertaking any action.

Cameroon

Project Title: Action plan and updating the non-detriment findings in view to sustain *Prunus africana* (Rosaceae), a CITES listing tree species in Cameroon.

Implementing Agency: Department of forestry

Progress Report:

The project aims in 24 months to dress an action plan and update the NDFs documents for *Prunus africana* in view to bring concrete answers to the concerns raised by the CoP 17. Although this project has not officially been launched yet, some activities that do not depend on external funds have started implementation:

- 1 – Coordination has been done with the National Forestry Development Agency (ANAFOR), the CITES Scientific Authority for flora;
- 2- the Minister of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) has settled the National Technical Committee (NTC) of the project;
- 3- The CITES SA for flora (ANAFOR) has settled the Scientific Committee (SC) of the project;
- 4- Work meetings have been developed with the RC and key secured production sites of *Prunus africana* have been selected in the Centre and Adamawa regions; and
- 5- The Terms of references (ToRs) of different experts have been drafted.

Côte d'Ivoire

Project Title: Conservation of *Pericopsis elata* (Assamela) and *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (Kosso/ African rosewood) in Côte d'Ivoire.

Implementing Agency: Ministry of forestry

Progress Report:

The project aims in 24 months to build capacity in implementing CITES for *Pericopsis elata* and *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Côte d'Ivoire. Although this project has not officially been launched yet, some activities that do not depend on external funds have started implementation:

- 1 – Coordination has been done with the SODEFOR for designing activities related to tree nursering;
- 2- The Minister of Forestry has settled the National Technical Committee (NTC) of the project;
- 3- The CITES SA for flora has settled the Scientific Committee (SC) of the project;
- 4- Coordination have been developed with the RC, which led to the development of the Terms of references (ToRs) of different experts

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Project Title: Updating Non detriment findings (NDFs) for *Guibourtia demeusei* (Bubinga), *Pericopsis elata* (Afromosia/Assamela) and *Prunus africana* (Pygeum) in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Implementing Agency: the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN)

Progress Report:

The project started in October 2019 and aims to update in 24 months the NDF documents for the CITES listing tree species in DRC including *Guibourtia demeusei* or Bubinga (timber), *Pericopsis elata* or Afromosia/Assamela (timber) and *Prunus africana* or Pygeum (barks). The implementing agency is working in preparing ToRs of experts in collaboration with the RC. The experts in charge of dressing the state of the art for the three species have already been selected and are currently in the field for data collection. Their reports will be presented to different stakeholders during the inception workshop scheduled on January 2019. The RC will conduct his first monitoring mission to Kinshasa in the beginning of 2020, with the aim to assist the coordination team and experts in designing forest inventories.

Gabon

Project Title: Assessing the ecological dynamic, conservation status, and trade traceability of Kévazingo (*Guibourtia* spp.) timber species as first step for making non-detriment findings (NDFs) in Gabon

Implementing Agency: Research Institute on Tropical Ecology (IRET)

Progress Report:

This project started in August 2019. The main objective of this project is to assess 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). The National Technical Committee (steering committee) was created, a PhD student was appointed to supervise all fieldwork activities that include local workers and technicians. The specific activity related to the updating of the work plan was not completed. The coordination team is still running the initial work plan. The work plan was supposed to be revised by the steering committee, but that steering committee meeting was delayed due to the change of CITES focal point in the Ministry of Forestry.

For the specific Activity 1.1.3: Drafting the ToRs of experts; the ToR of expert was completed, and especially for the implementation of Activity 1. 2: “Conducting a detail state of the art and conducting specific research on relevant topics related to the biology and ecology of Kévazingo tree species in Gabon.” For the specific Activity 1.1.4: Settlement of an ad-hoc Scientific Committee, the project will be running with one committee, which is the steering committee that will also play the role of scientific committee for the project. It will be a mix of scientists from CENAREST institutes and administration, NGO and CITES representatives. We are expecting 10 persons. For the specific Activity 1.1.5 related to the validation of the ToRs of experts, the ToRs were already validated by the coordination team, together with CITES regional coordinator in Yaoundé, Pr. Jean Lagarde BETTI. For the specific

Activity 1.1.6: Recruitments of experts for making state of the art; a Group of scientists were appointed for this task.

Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda

Project Title: Conservation and sustainable management of *Osyris lanceolata* for economic development in East Africa

Implementing Agency: The National Museum of Kenya (NMK)

Progress Report:

This project started in February 2019. The objective of this tri-national project is to assess the current (management, ecological and exploitation) status of *O. lanceolata*, with the aim of ensuring that the international trade of products is not detrimental to the conservation of the resource in the wild/forests of range States including Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The implementing agency has submitted the first activity report for the period March-August 2019.

Work implemented in the reporting period include:

- (a) Project Inception Workshop convened, and report submitted (Annex 1-attached),
- (b) Activity 1.1: Regional and National Technical Committees (NTCs) establishment,
- (c) Activity 1.2: Project Work Plan revised and updated,
- (d) Activity 1.3: ToRs of experts drafted,
- (e) Activity 1.4: Scientific Committee Established and ToRs drafted. For ongoing activities, the NMK has transferred funds to Tanzania for the lunch to be held on 25th November in Muhimbili University.

Uganda will lunch on December 2019. Kenya will lunch on the first week of January 2020.

Madagascar

Project Title: Sustainable management of *Prunus africana* populations in Madagascar: stock assessment, agroforestry, harvesting technics, and policy/regulation framework.

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF)

Progress Report: This project started in August 2019, for a duration of 24 months. The project aims to ensure the international trade of *Prunus africana* barks is non-detrimental to the survival of the plant species in Madagascar mountain forests. Three meetings were organized between the CITES authorities (MA and SA) in view to better design the implementation of the project. The first meeting was organized on 02nd October 2019, the second meeting on 10th October 2019, and the third meeting on 17th October. The coordination team is working with the RC to finalize the ToRs of different committees and experts. A total of four ToRs have been proposed to the appreciation of the RC on the 12th November 2019 including the Tors for (1) the coordination team, (2) for activity 1.1. (state of the art on the management tools of *P. africana* in Madagascar), (3) for activity 1.2. (state of the art on the harvesting tools and respect of norms), and (4) for activity 1.3. (state of the art on research issues). The coordination team has also drafted the manual of procedures for funds management, which were submitted to the appreciation of the RC. The RC will conduct the monitoring mission in the beginning of 2020, with the view to assist in designing forest inventories upon the results of the activity 1.1 and 1.3.

Progress reports - Date Requested and Date Received - Africa

Country	Date Requested	Date Received
Benin-Nigeria-Togo	02 November 2019	14 November 2019
Burundi	02 November 2019	15 November 2019
Cameroon	02 November 2019	15 November 2029
Côte d'Ivoire	02 November 2019	15 November 2019
Gabon	02 November 2019	15 November 2019
Kenya-Tanzania-Uganda	02 November 2019	12 November 2019
Madagascar	02 November 2019	12 November 2019
RDC	02 November 2019	15 November 2019

Central and South America and the Caribbean Region Brief Progress Report – Country activities implemented by 31 November 2019 Preliminary plans for monitoring and evaluation missions in 2020

Argentina

Project Title: Bases for the sustainable management of Palo Santo or *Bulnesia sarmientoi* in the Gran Chaco region of Argentina.

Implementing Agency: The Government Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Argentina.

Progress Report: The first workshop was organized on October 31 and November 1 and technical representatives from the three provinces of the project intervention area (Salta, Chaco and Formosa) participated. The objectives and critical activities of the project were presented, highlighting the need for the participation of all jurisdictions in the implementation. The balance was very positive. Recommendations were agreed on the technical specifications for the regulations related to the use of the species in the three provinces, this is an important document that will serve to revise the national regulations. Currently an analysis of the national regulations it's ongoing, which combined with the provincial ones, will serve to develop the appropriate revisions and adjustments (it is important to note that being a federal country, the modification of local regulations is exclusive competence of the jurisdictional authorities).

Likewise, an evaluation of possible sites was carried out to implement the Adaptive Management Sites (SIMA) in the jurisdictions and preliminary results on research work on the species will serve as the basis for consultancies regarding population information of the species, its geographical and environmental distribution, its genetic variation and its population growth and dynamics.

Finally, two news items have been published in the local newspapers to raise awareness of the project and the of the work to come.

Brazil

Project Title: Rapid-field identification of *Dalbergia* woods and rosewood oil by NIRS technology.

Implementing Agency: Forest Products Laboratory (LPF/SFB). Brasilia.

Progress Report: Since the CTSP contract was signed on 25 February 2019, the Brazilian started implementation of the in-kind contribution work and with this the project has initiated a detailed survey of the *Dalbergia* material in the world's leading xylotheques:

- 1) Survey and spectra obtaining of *Dalbergia* samples available at the xylarium of the National Institute for Amazonian Research - INPA - Manaus - (Amazonas) August 2019.
- 2) Survey and spectra obtaining spectra of *Dalbergia* samples available at the xylarium of at the Forestry Institute - São Paulo (SP) July 2018.
- 3) Survey and spectra obtaining of *Dalbergia* samples available at the xylarium of the Institute of Technological Research - IPT - São Paulo (SP) July 2018.
- 4) Survey and spectra obtaining of *Dalbergia* samples available at the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden xylarium - Rio de Janeiro (RJ) July 2018.
- 5) Thesis defense for the master's degree in chemistry, student Filipe Snel, entitled "Study of PLS-DA and SIMCA in the identification of *Dalbergia* wood with portable NIR spectrometer" - December 2018.
- 6) Publication of a scientific paper with the dissertation results entitled "Potential field-deployable NIRS identification of seven *Dalbergia* species listed by CITES," Wood Science and Technology <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00226-018-1027-9>, June 2018.

Activities developed after the project started - CITES Project counterpart:

- 1) Survey of *Dalbergia* samples at the Royal Botanical Garden Garden xylarium - London (England), Tervuren (Belgium), and Leiden (Netherlands).
- 2) Hiring 01 Scientific Initiation Scholarship holder to perform the bibliographic survey.
- 3) Contact to collect *Dalbergia nigra*, over 30 years old, cultivated in Linhares (Espírito Santo) to be harvest in January 2020.
- 4) Poster presentation on *Dalbergia* discrimination by Near-infrared spectroscopy at the 29 IUFRO Congress, Curitiba (PR) September 2019.

Cuba

Project Title: Capacity building to achieve a more effective CITES implementation to timber species in Cuba.

Implementing Agency: Office of Regulation and Environmental Safety of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba

Progress Report:

Although this project has not officially been launched yet, some activities that do not depend on external funds have started implementation:

- 1- The evaluation by the Scientific Authority of the information of the National *Herbaria*, of the National Botanical Garden, on known historical distribution of the selected species has begun.
- 2- Seed collection and nursery preparation (started last year and has continued in 2019) we can say that we already have all the seed collected that we committed to the project, so we hope to exceed what was agreed.
- 3- National projects (by provinces) have been developed to access the National Forest Development Fund that allows obtaining national financing for the activities foreseen in the CITES project.
- 4 – Coordination has been done with other national projects (Ecovalor and Project OP15) linked to the forestry area, they have participated in their meetings and workshops in order to present the CITES project and to make synergies.
- 5- Work meetings have been developed with all project participants.
- 6- The documentation for the national approval of the project was prepared and presented to the different ministries.
- 7- Part of the improvements, planned in the project, of the wood laboratory and xiloteca of the Institute of Agro Forestry Research (INAF) has been completed. (Those of the Scientific Authority and the import of the equipment are pending).

Guatemala

Project Title: Comprehensive analysis of tree species of the genus *Dalbergia* and the like through wood forensic laboratory for the strengthening of the CITES application in Guatemala.

Implementing Agency: Faculty of Agronomy of the University of San Carlos de Guatemala.

Progress Report:

There has been a lot of progress made with implementation of the Project, the most important being: a) Comprehensive bibliographic review; b) Exploration and search of the species to establish their phytogeographic distribution; c) Establishment of sampling plots to determine the current situation of the populations; d) Phenological studies and e) Identification and botanical characterization of the following species: *Dalbergia retusa* var. *cuscatlanica*, *Dalbergia calderonii* var. *calderonii*, *Dalbergia melanocardium*, *Platymiscium dimorphandrum*, *Platymiscium* sp., *Lonchocarpus castilloi*, *Astronium graveolens* and *Enterolobium cyclocarpum*. Progress is also made in organoleptic, physical, microscopic and macroscopic studies of the wood of the first two species: *Lonchocarpus castilloi* and *Astronium graveolens*. Other fundamental activities for the execution of the Project are: 1) The establishment of strategic relations with Government Entities, NGOs, Forest Concessions, property owners and, 2) Project administration / management, personnel hiring, quotation and purchases.

Outputs generated:

- 1) Maps of potential geographical distribution and current geographical distribution of the species included in the study;
- 2) Dasometric characterization of the populations, as well as the physiographic and climatic characteristics of the habitat;
- 3) Botanical identification of accompanying tree species;
- 4) Phenological tables of the species and Climadiagrams with data from the corresponding

meteorological stations;

5) Characterization of tree quality in the identified populations;

6) Obtaining timber for the microscopic, macroscopic and physical studies of *Lonchocarpus castilloi* and *Astronium graveolens*;

7) Wooden specimens for the physical and microscopic studies of the two species;

8) Following databases: a) Geographic coordinates of trees located in the populations under study, b) Density and contraction of *Astronium graveolens*;

9) Permanent histological assemblies of *Lonchocarpus castilloi* wood;

10) Tables and rodels of two species for the Collection, organoleptic studies and Training Workshops.

Guatemala; El Salvador and Nicaragua

Project Title:

Capacity building and production of technical guidelines for the formulation of non-detriment findings on species of the genus *Dalbergia* in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

Implementing Agency: Nature for Life Foundation.

Progress Report:

The technical teams have been formed in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, under the direction of the Advisory Committees (Focal Points, CITES Authorities and the Nature for Life Foundation -NPV-); forming in this way a structure that will accompany the implementation and validation of the results. The implementation of the project has the governmental support of the governments of Guatemala (CONAP-INAB); El Salvador (MARN-MAG); and Nicaragua (MARENA-INAFOR). The process of systematization of the existing information in the three countries was initiated, with the purpose of creating a baseline to know the general context of the *Dalbergia* tree species in the region and start with the planning of construction workshops of a monitoring tool that contributes to the conservation and sustainable management of species.

Field visits have been made to the natural distribution areas of the tree species of the *Dalbergia* genus with the purpose of knowing the local context of the species. In addition, a methodology for the establishment of permanent monitoring plots has been standardized, the development of phenological calendars, the collection of information through the databases of management plans, and agreements have been established to work on the species population analysis per country. It is important to mention that a workshop has been held in Managua, Nicaragua, with the project team to standardize methodologies and systematize information in order to obtain sustained and consistent scientific results.

For the development of technical management guidelines for Production Systems in Plantations and Agroforestry Systems, the three countries agreed to develop methodologies to systematize the information obtained from the production in the forest nurseries to be implemented, the species of greater importance to work, and agreements have been obtained on the experimental models and designs to be implemented in order to obtain reliable statistical information.

Progress reports - Date Requested and Date Received – Central and South America and the Caribbean

Country	Date Requested	Date Received
Argentina	04 November 2019	04 November 2019
Brazil	04 November 2019	25 November 2019
Cuba	04 November 2019	04 November 2019
Guatemala	04 November 2019	19 November 2019
Guatemala – Nicaragua – El Salvador	04 November 2019	19 November 2019

Annex IV Status update per project within the Tree Species Programme funded by EC (contribution grant DCI-ENV/2017/384-816)

Annex IV –

Status update per project within the Tree Species Programme funded by EC (contribution grant DCI-ENV/2017/384-816)

Project information				Financial information		
Project country / implementing partner (IP)	Project details / tree species	Project duration	Contract signed by IP	Project Amount - committed (USD)	Actual expenditure - 1st transfer	Disbursement Date
Argentina / SAyDS (Governmental organization)	<i>Bulnesia sarmientoi</i> (palo santo)	01.04.2019 - 31.03.2021	06.05.2019.	250,000	187,500	09.08.2019.
Benin, Nigeria, Togo / DGEFC, Benin (Government)	<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> (barwood)	25.09.2019 - 16.09.2020	25.09.2019	150,140	75,070	01.11.2019.
Brazil / FUNTEC-DF (NGO)	<i>Dalbergia</i> woods & rosewood oil	01.03.2019 - 01.03.2021	25.02.2019.	246,355	58,638	13.09.2019.
Burundi / OPBE (Government)	<i>Prunus africana</i>	05.03.2019 - 31.01.2021	05.03.2019	150,000	112,500	26.07.2019.
Cambodia / DFP (Government)	<i>Dalbergia</i>	15.08.2019 - 01.03.2021	15.08.2019	149,800	74,900	29.10.2019.
Cameroon / MINFOF (Government)	<i>Prunus africana</i> (Rosaceae)	01.07.2019 - 30.06.2021	08.07.2019	200,000	100,000	13.09.2019.
Cuba / ORSA (Governmental Institute)	<i>Guaiacum spp.</i> (Guajacum)	07.10.2019 - 30.09.2020	07.10.2019	114,455	74,396	10.12.2019
DRC / ICCB (Governmental organization)	<i>Guibourtia demeusei</i> , <i>Pericopsis elata</i> , <i>Prunus africana</i>	01.06.2019 - 31.05.2021	28.05.2019.	200,000	100,000	10.09.2019.
Gabon / IRET (Governmental Research Institute)	Kevazingo tree	05.04.2019 - 30.04.2021	05.04.2019	80,000	40,000	27.08.2019.
Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador / NPV, Guatemala (Governmental organization)	<i>Dalbergia</i>	03.05.2019 - 02.05.2021	06.05.2019.	250,000	80,000	12.07.2019.
Guatemala / SG-CSUCA (University)	<i>Dalbergia</i>	28.06.2019 - 21.06.2021	28.06.2019	199,999	119,999	28.08.2019.

Indonesia / DBC (Governmental organization)	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	09.10.2019 - 08.10.2021	09.10.2019	192,030	96,015	28.02.2020.
Ivory Coast / MEF (Governmental organization)	<i>Pericopsis elata</i> (African teak), <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> (African kino tree)	11.04.2019 - 31.01.2021	11.04.2019	155,840	60,000	29.10.2019.
Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda / National Museums, Kenya (State Corporation)	<i>Osyris lanceolata</i>	01.02.2019 - 31.01.2021	25.01.2019	250,000	150,000	24.06.2019.
Madagascar / CITES MG (Governmental)	<i>Prunus africana</i>	26.02.2019 - 31.01.2021	26.02.2019	199,789	129,863	24.07.2019.
Malaysia / FRIM (Governmental agency)	<i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i>	30.01.2019 - 31.12.2020	30.01.2019	48,000	35,000	24.06.2019.
Thailand / DNP (Governmental agency)	<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	Project cancelled	Project cancelled	Project cancelled	Project cancelled	Project cancelled
Vietnam / CCS (International Organization)	<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i> & <i>oliveri</i>	01.04.2019 - 31.03.2021	02.04.2019	249,980	162,487	12.07.2019.
Grand-Total:				3,086,388	1,656,368	

Annex V

Monitoring of implementation will take place in the course of 2020 and early 2021. Evaluations will be tailored to each project and aiming at having mid-point evaluations for all in the course of the first half of 2021.

Schedule of monitoring missions of the RC for Africa in 2019-2020

N°	Country	Period												
		Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020
1	Benin - Nigeria - Togo													
2	Burundi													
3	Cameroon													
4	Côte d'Ivoire													
5	Gabon													
6	Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda													
7	Madagascar													
8	RDC													

Schedule of monitoring missions of the RC for Asia in 2019-2020

No.	Country	Scheduled months												
		Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020
1	Cambodia													
2	Indonesia													
3	Malaysia													
4	Vietnam													

Table 2. Schedule of monitoring missions of the Central and South America and the Caribbean region in 2020 – 2021

N°	Country	Period												
		Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 20 – Jan 21
1	Guatemala Nicaragua El Salvador													
2	Argentina													
3	Brazil													
4	Guatemala													
5	Cuba													