

Pericopsis elata Exports from the DRC

A CASE STUDY OF CITES APPENDIX II TIMBER SPECIES LISTINGS

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Roadmap

- The DRC and Afrormosia
- Concerns in the DRC: applicable to other CITES timber species
 - Quotas
 - Permits
 - Transparency



Overview of *P. elata*

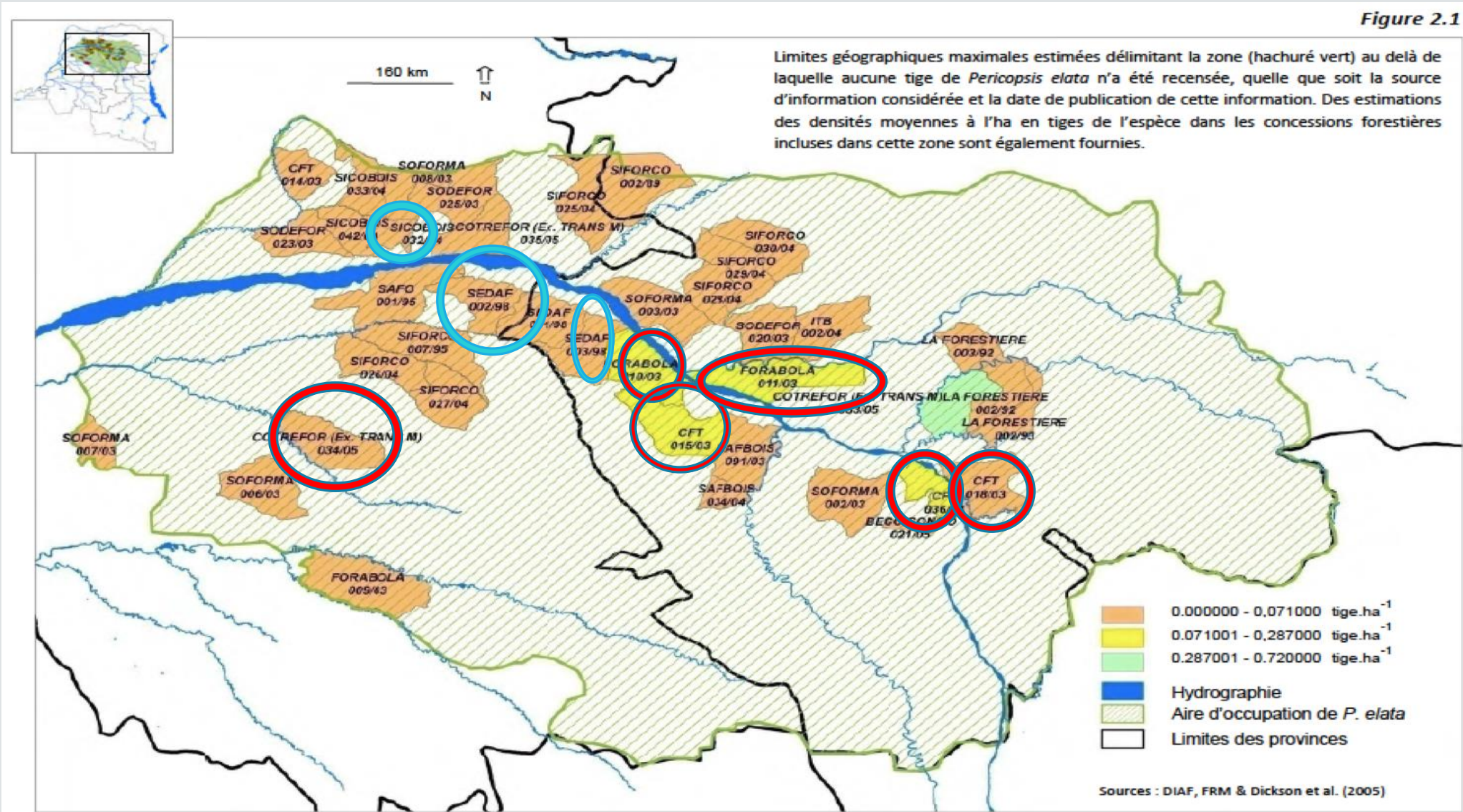
- Listed in 1992 as a CITES Appendix II Species
- Has 6 Range States: Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Republic of Congo & the DRC
 - The DRC has the highest quotas and exports
- Uses
 - Hardwoods, boat construction, decorative veneer, interior woodwork
- Review of Significant Trade
 - Enforcement Mechanism of CITES

Afrormosia in DRC

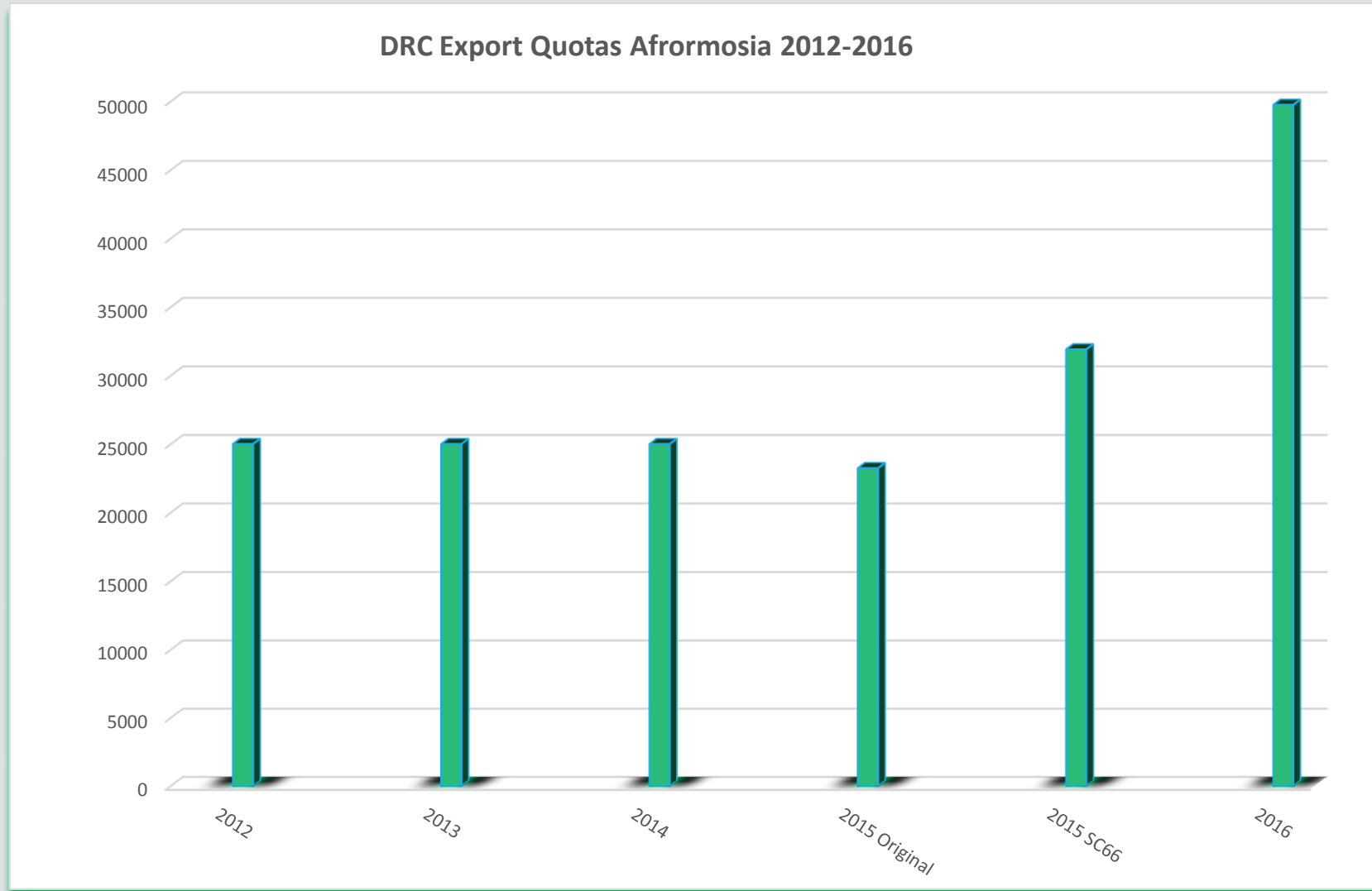
- Since 2000 Afrormosia has been placed under RST twice
- 2012: Secretariat recommended a trade suspension; SC recommended the DRC complete a NDF
 - 2014: NDF submitted; removed from RST prior to SC65
- 2014: Secretariat announced ongoing Art. XIII Review, update provided January 2016, information will be reviewed at COP17 “which may make whatever recommendations it deems appropriate”

P. elata concessions in the DRC

Figure 2.1



“Annual” Quotas for exports from the DRC



Export Quota Issues

Contrary to CITES Guidance:

- Quotas not run by calendar year
- Quota is used as a target rather than a limit
 - Countries seeking to maximize exports do not start subsequent year's quota until prior year's is "met"



CITES Permit Issues

- Permits, 2014 missing and unaccounted for notification
- Rotating staff issue permits
- Permits issued at start of quota year but only valid 6 months, frequently cancelled and re issued
- Management Authority should be making Legal Acquisition Finding (LAF)
 - No CITES LAF guidance; not expanded upon in CITES model legislation; many countries lack regulations

CONCLUSION

- Countries may export unsustainable levels of CITES-listed species without adequate legality verification
- In the DRC, in spite of serious concerns over ability of the country to comply with CITES, warranting an Article XIII review, 2016 export quota is nearly double that of prior years
- No certainty for importers that timber has been legally harvested from concessions with verified inventories
- One tool in the DRC—a real time tracking system accessible to the Secretariat and Parties upon request, as proposed in the 2014 NDF—would help with due diligence inquiries, but does not yet exist