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A newsletter from the International Tropical Timber Organization to promote the conservation and sustainable development of tropical forests



African Promise

AFRICA has long languished at the bottom of most global league tables of economic, social and environmental development. The reasons for this are many and inter-related but include poor governance, instability and civil strife, inadequate public health and education, undiversified and poorly managed economies and a lack of public and private investment in all kinds of infrastructure. Forest management is no exception to this bleak trend: of the three tropical regions, Africa was found to have the smallest overall area of sustainably managed forests in ITTO's 2005 *Status of Tropical Forest Management* report, at only 6 million ha (around 5% of its permanent forest estate), compared with 19.8 million

ha in Asia and 12.5 million ha in Latin America. Recent FAO estimates show that Africa accounts for over one-third of global deforestation with only around 15% of global forest cover.

However, there are signs that Africa may be on the verge of significant improvements in forest management. As identified in this issue (p23), several countries are undertaking regulatory reforms that, if fully implemented and maintained, should lead to improved and sustainable management. Forest cer-



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tification is gaining a foothold on the continent, with the granting of the first Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved certificates in the Congo basin in 2006 to a large (nearly 300 000 ha) concession managed by Congolaise Industrielle du Bois (CIB) in the Republic of Congo. Certified sustainable timber from that concession is now flowing into Europe, attracting the attention of other operators seeking to cope with increasing scrutiny on tropical hardwoods in such markets, including increasingly demanding public procurement policies in some countries.

Undertaking the transition to sustainability (and, if desired, seeking certification for it) is not easy in the tropics, as ITTO has documented in many studies over the years. In Africa, ITTO has focused its assistance to countries trying to make this transition through a large regional project implemented jointly with the African Timber Organization (ATO). This project, the first phase of which has just ended (p3), has assisted ten west and central African countries to implement the ATO/ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI) for Sustainable Forest Management at the national level and to develop the capacity to audit the performance of forest managers against the PCI. This has allowed some countries (e.g. Cameroon, Republic of Congo) to move to the next step of seeking independent auditing of forest management performance through third parties such as FSC. Subsequent phases of the project aim to move more countries to this stage.

Because of its large number of forest dependent and indigenous people, Africa is also playing a leading role in the transition to community-based management of its forests (see *TFU* 17/4). While the degree of involvement varies by country, almost all countries have some provisions for community forestry. Countries like Cameroon are increasingly involving communities in the management of both production and protection forests, and are making efforts to ensure equitable benefit sharing with them (p6 and 23). While community forestry is generally lauded as an important step to achieving sustainability, very few such communities, which are often small and remote, have the means to seek certification (and thus unfettered market

access) for their forests and forest products. ITTO is undertaking activities to assist communities in Africa and elsewhere to achieve certification (see p16).

For historical and geographical reasons, African countries have traditionally been more reliant on European markets for their forest products than other tropical exporters. Partly for this reason, they are in the vanguard of negotiating voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs) with the European Union under its forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) initiative. Cameroon and Ghana are expected to complete VPAs this year, while Republic of Congo, Gabon and Liberia are expected to start negotiations soon. Liberia has made a noteworthy transition from chaos to a model forest management regime, awarding its first forest concessions this year following the lifting of a multi-year embargo on timber imports from the country imposed by the UN during the country's civil war. All timber from Liberia's new concessions will be strictly controlled through independently monitored log tracking and chain of custody systems. ITTO has assisted several African countries to improve governance of their forest sectors, especially in the Congo Basin (p10) and looks forward to continuing work within the region to help more countries achieve legality and sustainability.

Many problems remain, however, not least the always vexing question of funding improved forest management practices in the region. Several important meetings (details on p30) will help to address this issue. At the end of April, as the *TFU* went to press, ITTO was convening an expert meeting to consider the role of tropical forests in mitigating climate change and the role of the Organization in assisting member countries to benefit from any funding arising from forest-related provisions in any new global climate change convention. While several African countries have high deforestation rates and could therefore benefit under schemes currently being proposed for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), several others (including some of the largest) have low deforestation rates that, perversely, would exclude them from assistance under REDD

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Promoting SFM in Africa

An ITTO project develops C&I and manuals for the management of African tropical forests

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By the book: Auditing conformity with ATO/ITTO PCI in Ghana. *Photo: M. Mbolo (University of Yaoundé)*

CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICAN countries are globally important suppliers of tropical timber and timber products to Asian and European markets. Natural tropical forests are the major sources of timber designated for export markets or domestic use. In 2004 the ten major timber producing countries in the region¹ produced 436 million cubic meters of timber, veneer, panels and wood fuel. Cameroon, Gabon and Ghana are the most important exporters of timber and timber products. The total value of tropical timber exports from the ITTO producer countries of Africa was estimated to be close to 1.9 billion US dollars in 2005.

Forest degradation and the related adverse impacts on living conditions for forest dependent people and for species

diversity in general can result from commercial harvesting operations or from forest clearance for agriculture. ITTO recognized early the importance of linking environmental protection and social justice to the commercial use of tropical timber and took the first initiatives to draft Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for sustainable management of tropical forests already in the early 1990's.

During the 1990s the African Timber Organization (ATO) commenced, with the support of Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the European Union, a regional process to draft a set of Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI) for the sustainable management of tropical African forests with a focus on Western and Central Africa.

ATO and ITTO recognized the need to strengthen and harmonize the two sets of C&I and provide their member countries with a unique set applicable to African tropical

¹Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo.

► ... continued from page 2

schemes as currently envisioned. ITTO will be working with member countries and partners to ensure that sustainable forest management (including sustainable timber production) is an eligible activity for any assistance to be offered under an eventual climate agreement. Such topics will no doubt also be raised at a meeting to be hosted in June by the government of Japan on technologies required to implement any eventual REDD scheme.

In May, ITTO's host city, Yokohama, will welcome the fourth meeting of the Tokyo International Conference on African

Development (TICAD IV). Many heads of state are expected to attend this high-profile meeting, where environmental issues (including forests and climate change) will feature prominently. Because of its wealth of natural resources, including timber, Africa is experiencing an unprecedented wave of investor interest from a range of developed and developing countries. While TICAD IV will focus on general issues of development, ITTO will be highlighting its role in sustainable forest development on the continent during the meeting.

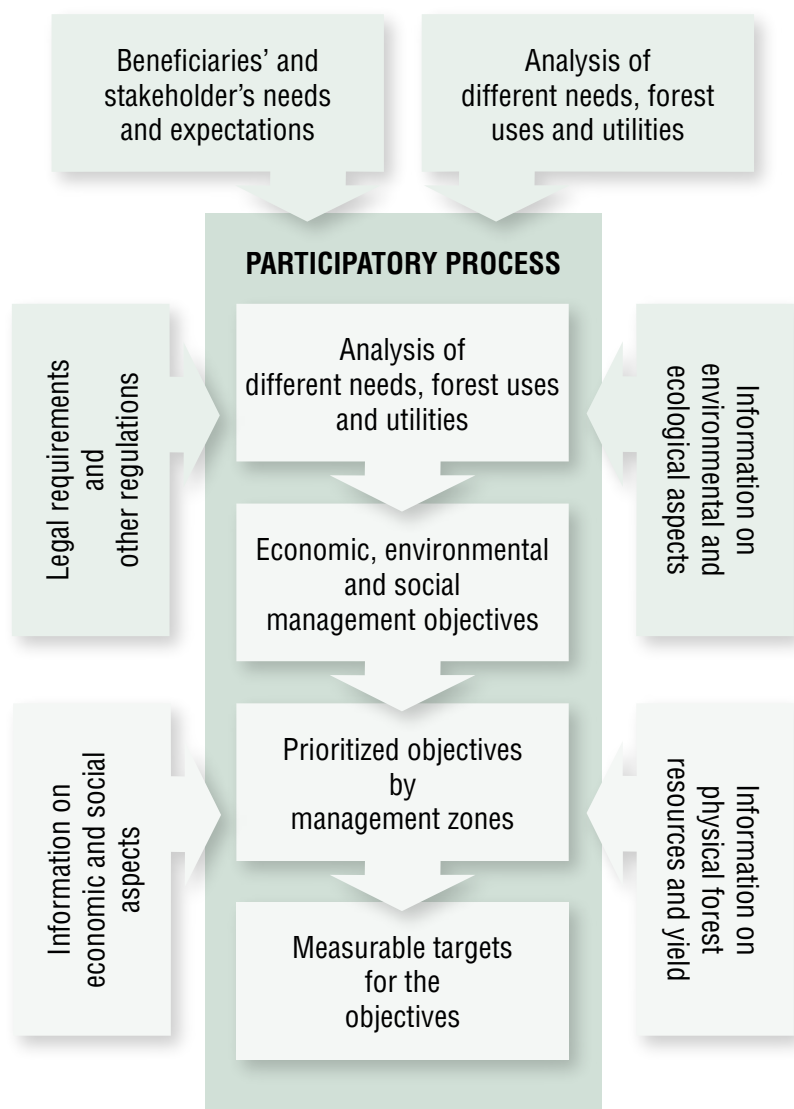
It would not be realistic to predict a rapid transition to forest sustainability in all

African countries given the level from which most are starting and the problems that still afflict many. However, increased political will in almost all countries coupled with investor enthusiasm and prospects for forest management funding under a new climate change regime provide grounds for optimism. ITTO will be working with its member countries and partners in the region over the coming years to help realize Africa's promise.

Steve Johnson

Participatory

Figure 1: Defining forest management objectives



forests. The ATO/ITTO *Principles, criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of African natural tropical forests* was published as ITTO Policy Development Series No 14 in 2003. The regional principles, criteria and indicators (PCI) can:

- serve as a baseline to implement and monitor sustainable forest management
- serve as support for the control of the effectiveness of national forestry programs
- provide a preliminary reference base (standard) for forest certification
- assist in strategic and participatory planning
- provide a reporting framework when communicating development trends to national and international stakeholders.

Implementing the PCI

Concurrent with the development and adoption of the harmonized PCI, ATO and ITTO made a significant

contribution to the practical promotion of ecologically, socially and economically viable forest management in their member countries by developing a joint regional project on the *Promotion of sustainable management of African forests* (PD 124/01 REV.2 (M)). The main project objective was to disseminate and encourage implementation of the PCI through practical guidelines and related regional training courses. The project has also assisted in establishing national PCI working groups in almost all member countries of the partner organizations and has contributed to certification efforts in some.

To ensure effective implementation of ATO/ITTO PCI in practical forest management and monitoring, the project produced in 2005 an *Auditing manual for the implementation of ATO-ITTO principles, criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of African natural tropical forests* and organized two training courses on auditing techniques including a case study audit in an operational concession area. The course in French was organized in December 2006 in Sangmelima, Cameroon and the corresponding course in English in January 2007 in Takoradi, Ghana. Participants represented practically all ATO and ITTO member countries in the region.

The auditing manual provides instruction for the evaluation of forest management quality but does not provide guidance for practical planning, implementation and monitoring. ATO and ITTO recognized the need to develop or update practical forest management guidelines for tropical Africa and commissioned Indufor under the joint project to draft a *Manual for the management of African natural forests*. The objective of the task was to:

- prepare comprehensive forest management guidelines that cover the whole management cycle from planning to operational level management and address all the provisions of the ATO/ITTO PCI;
- provide forest managers tools to reach conformity with the ATO/ITTO PCI through systematic implementation of the manual and pave the way for optional forest certification; and
- inform on the existing guidelines and instructions for the management of tropical forests in Africa through comprehensive references to published documents.

Forest management manual

The manual interprets the ATO/ITTO PCI in practice, drawing on relevant experiences in forest management in Africa. It outlines the appropriate planning and implementation procedures to practical forestry operations and illustrates how environmental and social constraints can be taken into consideration. The manual considers the characteristics of large and small concessions as well as community/village forestry and helps concession holders and forest managers to strengthen management procedures and give appropriate oversight to forestry operations.

As per the ATO/ITTO PCI, the manual integrates environmental and social values and constraints (including the empowerment of local people) into all forest management and planning. It provides guidance for identifying the environmental and social impacts of forestry operations and for finding appropriate mitigation measures at the planning phase. Participatory elements are important in the strategic, tactical and operational level planning. The manual highlights the differences in various participatory approaches and suggests guidelines for working with stakeholders.

Forest management objectives are defined in consultation with stakeholders, usually resulting in recognition of the multiple uses of forests and the need to adapt the objectives for different management zones (Figure 1).

Monitoring of forestry operations and their impacts is essential for the continuous improvement of forest management and its adaptation to the changing social and ecological environment. The manual provides guidance on the indicators that forest managers should regularly use in monitoring and sets the minimum requirements for consideration and documentation of the collected information.

Due to its very extensive scope in concept and field of application the manual does not give precise field level instructions. It rather provides the forest manager a framework under which he can update and amend existing field level guidelines and procedures to meet the basic requirements of the ATO/ITTO PCI set for sustainable forest management. The manual provides an applicable framework for the following essential elements of forest management:

- recognition of land tenure and property rights;
- assessment of social and environmental impacts of forest management and mitigation of adverse impacts;
- participatory processes in forest management planning;
- forest inventory and strategic planning;
- operational planning of forestry operations;
- provisions for practical harvesting, transportation and post harvest treatment guidelines;
- preconditions for infrastructure development;
- development of health and safety services for forest workers and forest dependent communities; and
- training of staff to become aware of the provisions of sustainable forest management and appropriate working methods.

The manual also gives information on current options for forest certification in Western and Central Africa. The ATO/ITTO PCI will be used as a reference basis for forest certification within the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC—www.pefc.org) scheme framework in ATO/ITTO member countries.

The draft manual was validated in a regional seminar held in Libreville, Gabon in late 2006. The seminar participants evaluated each section of the manual and gave recommendations for its improvement. Based on the recommendations the manual structure was reorganized and clarified to become more accessible and useful for forestry professionals, and was finalized in 2007.

Conclusions

Authorities and forestry professionals representing both the public and private sectors have highly praised the ATO/ITTO initiative to adapt the international ITTO C&I to the regional level and apply them to the practical operations of a forest management unit. The approach to train professionals in regional seminars who can then disseminate the information at the national or company level has proven successful, although a lack of resources and professional support can prevent the efficient transfer of information into practical skills that would change established practices.

The interest in applying sustainable forest management to all African forests is strong but it requires additional resources to meet the large scale information and training needs to empower people to learn and adapt the new approaches and techniques in practice. Local authorities and company staff are key players in improving forest management to achieve SFM under the ATO/ITTO PCI.

In African countries the availability of information can also be an obstacle to development. It is important that the guidelines and manuals developed under ITTO financed projects are readily available on-line and accessible to all interested parties. Some promotion may be needed (e.g. in forestry companies and forestry schools) to familiarize forestry people with the new requirements and guidelines.

A second phase of the joint ATO/ITTO project to promote the PCI (currently on-going) will address many of these issues. ATO and ITTO will also organize detailed training sessions at the national level of each member country in Africa under this follow-up phase of the project. These training sessions will be facilitated by the trainers who were involved in the regional sessions organized in Cameroon and Ghana. Each ATO/ITTO member country will then possess a pool of forest management specialists capable of disseminating sustainable forest management practices at the sub-national and forest management unit level.

All project outputs referred to are available from the ITTO Secretariat (ecmi@itto.or.jp).

Forest and protected area management in Cameroon

Progress has been significant, but challenges remain

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CAMEROON is located in Central Africa and is often considered as Africa in miniature due to the presence of various types of ecosystems and climates within its frontiers. Cameroon ranks fifth in terms of biological riches in Africa after Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Tanzania and South Africa (McNeely, 1988). Cameroon's forestry sector policy is considered one of the most advanced in the Congo basin (Carret 2000, Karsenty 2006). It was the first country to have produced and implemented a coherent forest code in the sub-region, immediately after the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992. The elaboration of sector policies relating to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development in Cameroon mainly includes the Forest and Wildlife Policy (enshrined in the Forestry and Wildlife Law No 94/01 of 20.01.94) and its various implementing decrees, the objectives of which include:

- protection of the nation's forest and wildlife heritage by participating in the conservation of the environment and the preservation of biodiversity in a sustainable manner, as well as renewing the forest and wildlife resources through better management;
- regular supply of forest and wildlife products in a sustainable manner for present and future generations; and
- involvement of rural populations, partners and stakeholders in its implementation, notably by the ownership of community forests.

Cameroon's forest code is interesting because it takes into consideration the three main dimensions of the sustainable use of forests as formulated by the convention on biological diversity: the ecological, the social and cultural and the economic dimensions.

Growing for posterity

Table 1: Protected areas and hunting zones in Cameroon

TYPE	1995	2003	2007
National parks	7	10	14
Wildlife reserves	7	6	6
Zoological gardens	3	3	3
Sanctuary	–	1	1
Sport and community hunting zones	–	45	62
TOTAL AREA (HA)	4 264 803	7 211 800	8 138 800
PERCENT (%)	9.0	15.2	17.1



Road to recovery: Forest concession in Cameroon's East Province five years after logging. The large tree in the middle is *Irvingia gabonensis*, the fruits and seeds of which are highly sought-after by local people for food and income generation.

Photo: T.J. Chupezi

Dimensions of forest products use

In Cameroon, the evolution towards the sustainable use of forest products can be classified into five main dimensions: ecological, social, economic, institutional and technical. For sustainable forest management to be achieved, the social, economic and ecological aspects need to be properly integrated and understood by all stakeholders involved in the forest sector of Cameroon (Tieguhong and Ndoye, 2008).

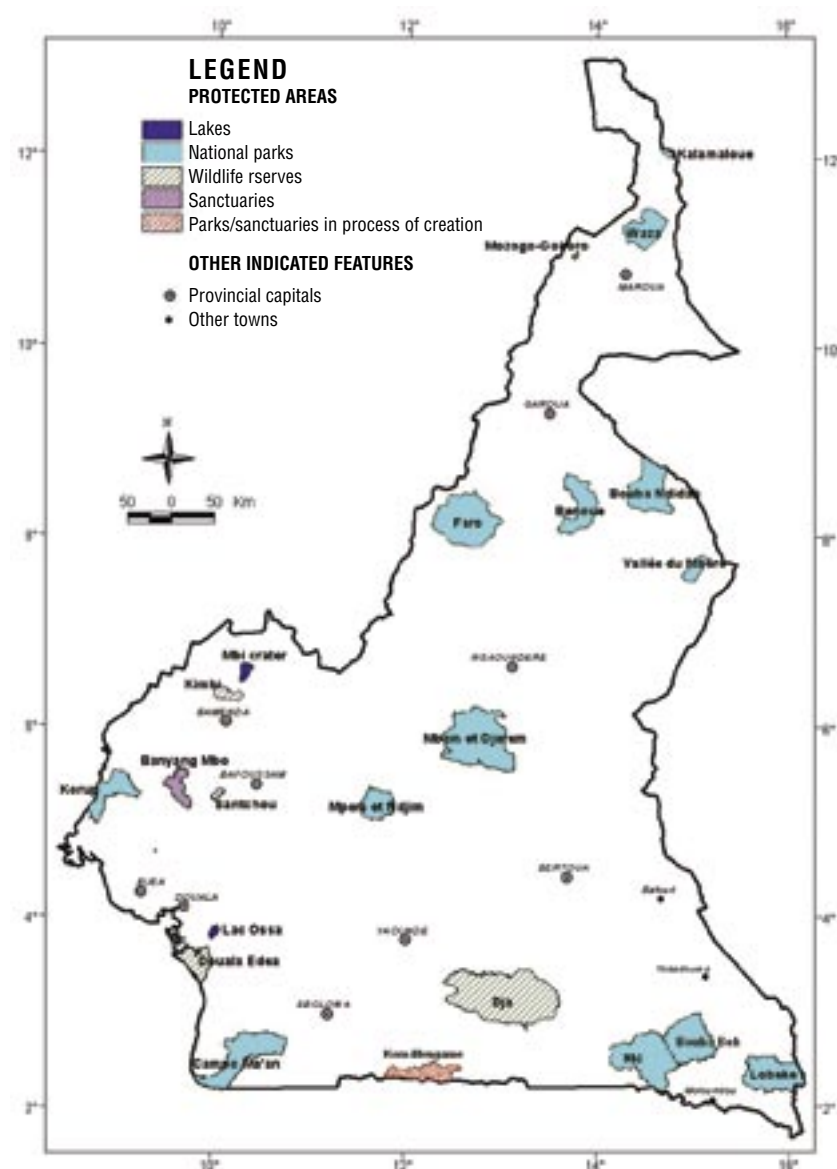
Ecological dimension

The ecological dimension aims to promote and guarantee the conservation of forest resources for future generations. To this end, the Cameroon government carried out several logical steps: national inventory conducted to acquire better knowledge of the resource; the zoning of the country and land distribution into various land uses; and the enhancement of forest and wildlife control and monitoring mechanisms. The national inventory, conducted during the 1980s, led to the division of the forest zone into two main domains, namely the permanent and the non-permanent forest domain. The permanent domain comprises production forests also known as forest management units

Forest management units (FMUs) are assigned for the sustainable production of wood and other forest resources (eg. non-timber forest products) while maintaining conditions that ensure the preservation of forest ecological, environmental, and sociological functions. To date, a total of 83 FMUs have been allocated covering a total area of 835 367 ha. Two FMUs are in the process of allocation and nine have been reserved for the conservation of biodiversity. In the process of allocating a FMU to a given company, a preliminary three year agreement is signed between the forest administration and the timber company. The terms of this preliminary agreement states that the timber company has to produce, within three years of the agreement, a management plan in respect to the norms and regulations indicated in the forest law. At the end of the preliminary agreement, a definitive agreement is then signed between the timber company and the Cameroon government for a period of 15 years, renewable. More than 20 timber companies have produced their management plans, some of which are in the process of validation by an inter-ministerial Committee established to this end. The implementation of the management plan requires the company to respect the area of the forest to be exploited per year (blocks of about 2500 ha) and to respect the minimum exploitable diameter (DME) specified for each species. Community forests (about 5000 ha) are also exploited according to guidelines prescribed by what is known as a simple management plan. The community to which the forest is allocated has three main responsibilities including respect of the forest area to be exploited annually (one year exploitation block), respect of the minimum exploitable diameters for all tree species, and respect of the total volume of timber to be harvested.

Well distributed

Map 1: Network of protected areas in Cameroon



Map 1 shows the network of protected areas in Cameroon including the 14 national parks, six of which have well-elaborated management plans. These are Waza, Benoue, Campo Ma'an, Korup, Mbam/Djerem, and Lobeke national parks. The management plans of three other protected areas (Dja, Mengame, and Nkom) are being finalized.

Less fraud, more money

Table 2: Forest taxes since the creation of the Forest Revenues Enhancement Program

YEAR/PERIOD	AMOUNT OF REVENUE (in billions of FCFA)	% INCREASE OVER 1999 FIGURE
1999	11	–
2000 – 2001	27	145
2001 – 2002	38	245
2002 – 2003	39	255

Source: PSRF 2004

Social dimension

This dimension states that local people may participate in the management of forest resources and may profit from the exploitation of those resources. Concrete measures undertaken by the Cameroon government in this direction include the obligation of timber companies or wildlife companies to develop social benefits and/or infrastructure in villages adjoining their areas of operations. This may involve creating schools and health centers for the benefit of the local communities, or paying a specified proportion of the annual forestry tax (*redevance forestière annuelle*) to local communities. The annual forestry tax is based on the area of the forest under exploitation. This tax is shared between the public treasury or the forest administration (50%), the local council (40%), and local communities (10%). The annual forest tax exists for both timber and wildlife (hunting) sectors (Kamga-Kamdem and Tiebou, 2006).

Experimental measures underway to protect wildlife include the involvement of local populations in the management of protected areas and the granting of community forests and traditional hunting concessions to local communities (Kamga-Kamdem and Tiebou, 2006). The Cameroon government intends to transform protected areas into pools of development, which provide alternative sources of livelihood for those who currently depend on poaching. To date, a total of 19 community hunting zones have been allocated to local people by the government.

Economic dimension

The exploitation of forest resources should contribute to the national budget. To achieve this objective, the Cameroon government revised the forest sector and initiated a forest fiscal reform (FFR) in the allocation of forest concessions. This was not easy, since the FFR did not only aim at increasing tax rates, but also to ensure the conservation of forest products through the implementation of reduced impact logging techniques. Although increasing tax rates was an unpopular measure, the goals of the FFR, (generating revenue and providing incentives for environmentally sustainable resource use) are widely accepted. These goals could only be achieved by other measures such as enhancing the enforcement and efficiency of existing fiscal measures as well as implementing the competitive allocation of concessions.

Cameroon has an estimated forest cover of 22 million hectares of dense forest. With recent economic crises,

the importance of the forestry sector generally, and the industrial use of timber, in particular, have increased within the national economy. The forestry sector contributes over 10% of GDP and 30% of export income.

According to Sholl (2005) and Betti (2007) a fair forestry tax should increase forest revenues while conserving forest resources. The Cameroon government sought this balance through two important measures: the allocation of FMUs through competitive bidding and by the creation of the Forest Revenues Enhancement Program (FREP). The competitive allocation of FMUs ensures higher revenue generation, greater efficiency and fairer allocation of harvesting rights. The creation of the FREP in 1999 aimed to combat fraud in the payment of taxes and to ensure an increase of the contribution of forest revenues to the national budget. During the early years of implementing the FREP, forest revenues increased from 11 billion FCFA in 1999 to 39 billion FCFA in the 2002–03 fiscal year, a 255% increase (see Table 2).

Institutional dimension

Cameroon experienced a serious economic crisis in the 1980s and early 1990s but with the positive completion of its 1997–2000 three-year economic recovery program the government submitted an application to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to reduce its public debt, which in October 2000 was accepted. The period of economic crisis was characterized by increased poverty and a deterioration in public morality (including high levels of corruption) with consequences on governance structures. To reverse these negative trends, the Cameroon government formulated both poverty reduction and good governance strategies. These strategies targeted all sectors of Cameroon's public life including the forestry sector. Given the potential contribution of the forestry sector to poverty alleviation, the Cameroon government included the sector in its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

The government focused on the formulation and adoption of a modern legal and regulatory framework for forest resource management with key elements enshrined in the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fishery Law and its various implementation texts. The institutional framework was improved with the creation of the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry (MINEF), now the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOP). The government also created the Programme to Secure Forest Revenue (PSFR) that links MINEF/MINFOP to the Ministry of the Economy and Finance (MINEFI) with the aim of ensuring better collection of tax revenue from logging activities. MINEF set up an Urgent Action Programme (UAP) for the monitoring and regularization of logging concessions, with the aid and supervision of the donor community.

To ensure the control of logging and the protection of wildlife in the country, the forest administration created

a National Brigade for the Control of Forest and Wildlife, which works closely with an independent national observer (Global Witness). The objective is to ensure conformity with Cameroon's forest law and to promote sustainable exploitation of timber and the sustainable exploitation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs). The forest code also aims to diversify and ensure that value is added to most forest resources. This has led to the establishment of appropriate and high performing processing units (industries), and to studies aimed at balancing industrial capacity with the availability of resources. Other related measures and rules include:

- the prohibition of log exports for many tree species;
- the implementation of additional taxes on log exports for the remaining tree species; and
- the obligation of logging companies to install a processing unit.

Following these measures, the number of forest industries increased, log exports declined and the volume harvested per hectare stayed relatively constant.

Technical dimension

A Computerised Forestry Information Management System (SIGIF) has been established which enables the partial monitoring of most forestry activity. Procedures for formulation, approval and monitoring of management plans are in the process of being developed. The Allocation Planning Strategy, adopted in June 1999 and revised in June 2000, is being implemented. The procedures for allocating concessions and sales of standing timber have resulted in greater transparency, thanks partly to the presence of an independent observer. This improvement in transparency is resulting in increased tax revenue from forestry. Certification and timber tracking tools are coming into the limelight in Cameroon with four logging companies already in possession of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificates and many others trying to follow suit by improving their operational, technical, social and ecological performance in the field. Sustaining this trend will mean a better future for sustainable forest management in Cameroon.

Conclusion

Sustainable forest and wildlife management is becoming a reality in Cameroon, especially with the implementation of the concession auction system and the creation of a significant number of protected areas with technical experts overseeing management. Cameroon has over the past two decades made institutional reviews of the forestry sector to enhance strategies for monitoring logging operations and protected areas. The need to strengthen capacities has resulted in several organizational metamorphoses shaping and reshaping the ministry in charge of forests as well as encouraging the participation of civil society in forest and wildlife management.

Collaboration and fine-tuning of management requirements by concessionaires, civil society and the public are yielding their first results, notably with the issuance of FSC certificates. A number of forest offences remain unresolved or difficult to resolve but with proper motivation of an adequate numbers of foresters and technicians, the future of forest management in Cameroon should be assured. Poor salary structures in the public sector still create the incentive for corruption, which once rooted is extremely difficult to exterminate. Problems also remain in ensuring equitable sharing of benefits with local communities and ensuring that the negative impact of logging on the availability of useful plant and animal products is minimized (Tieguhong and Ndoye, 2007). Cameroon's policy of increasing its total proportion of protected areas needs to be combined with rigorous efforts to ensure that such areas remain economically and socially viable. This requires major investments in both management and infrastructure development. Cameroon needs to work internally and with international partners to address these issues so that forests can reach their full potential in contributing to the country's development.

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Improving forest governance in the Republic of Congo

An ITTO-supported remote sensing project assists mapping and monitoring

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THE FOREST ESTATE of the Republic of Congo, extending on both sides of the equator, covers a surface area of more than 22 million ha, more than 65% of the national territory. Close to 75% of the forest area, or more than 15 million ha, constitute the production estate. Conservation of fauna and flora is well established in the country's several large national parks and fauna and hunting reserves. The total cover of such protected areas represents more than 11% of the national territory.

The government of Congo is engaged in a process of monitoring the forest activities on its territory, in order to improve its capacity for the planning and sustainable management of its forests. It is in this context that the Congo Ministry of Forestry Economics (MEF) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) have agreed to cooperate. The implementation of this collaboration is primarily based on the three year ITTO project PD 176/02 REV.1 (F) initiated in February 2004 entitled *Application of the techniques of remote sensing and geographical information systems to support the control of the forest legislation in Republic of Congo*. The project was implemented through close cooperation between WRI, the

Northern bounty

Map 1: Vegetative cover and road transport network



National Center for Inventories and Management of Forests and Fauna (CNIAF) and the national NGO 'Friends of the Environment' (CAE).

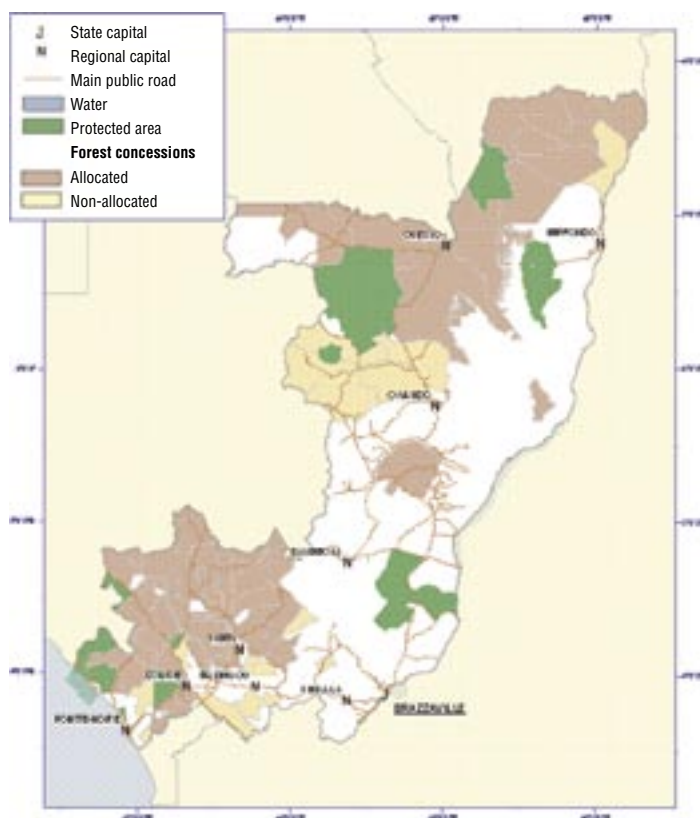
Implementation

The strategy set out by the project was to facilitate the enforcement of the forest legislation by developing a system which provides forest data deemed essential for law enforcement and encourages the use of these data to reduce the frequency of illegal activities. This strategy was based on four themes:

1. **Strengthening the national capacity.** Training of the project's technical managers in the fields of remote-sensing, geographical information systems, database management and use of the GPS. Raising the MEF executives' awareness of the potential of these tools to facilitate their work and the process of decision-making for a more effective application of the forest legislation. Setting up of a well-equipped remote-sensing and GIS laboratory and establishing technical procedures and methods as well as effective and comprehensive working practices.
2. **Data acquisition.** The project has ensured that the government received regularly updated GIS-based national scale information on the limits of the zones theoretically open to logging; information on the locations of actually logged areas and forest tracks derived from remote-sensing; and, using a series of indicators, information on logging practices.

Spreading the wealth

Map 2: Allocation of production forests



3. **Data analysis.** The data generated has been compared with the measurements prescribed by the forest legislation and other commitments made towards sustainable management.
4. **Dissemination of the project's results.** The results were made available to the public by means of forest maps, spatial maps and information workshops held in Brazzaville and in the provinces in order to show the efforts made by the MEF to curb illegal forest activities.

This ITTO project provided the foundations for the implementation of a support project financed by the CARPE (USAID) program to continue the remote-sensing and GIS activities which made it possible in June 2007 to produce and publish Congo's first interactive forest atlas, giving access to easily generated information on Congo's forests. In addition, also through CARPE, the ITTO project made it possible to implement collaborative activities between the WRI and the Marian N'Goubai University's Institute for Rural Development for the development and implementation of a curriculum in geographical information systems, remote-sensing and cartography.

The project is in line with and contributes to the efforts made at the sub-regional, regional and international levels by a multitude of entities (e.g. COMIFAC, PFBC, AFLEG, FLEGT, FORCOMS) as regards the fight against illegal logging and towards sustainable forest management.

Congo's forest sector

Until 1972, timber was the country's primary resource and represented more than half of its exports. It has since been relegated to second place by oil and now contributes roughly 7% of GDP. The Congo's recent programs of economic revival have laid a particular emphasis on the development of the timber processing sector, recognizing that the forest sector in general constitutes a significant source of added value and job creation. In 2004, the production of roundwood reached 1.3 million m³, almost double 2001 production.

To facilitate forest management, and pursuant to the recent forest code (law 16/2000 of November 20 2000) and its various application texts, the permanent forest estate is divided into forest management units (FMUs). These are basic forest districts devoted to activities such as planning, management, conservation, restoration and production. The FMU classification decrees define their geographical limits, as well as their planning objectives and their management methods. The country currently has established 39 FMUs totaling a surface area of almost 19 million hectares, divided into allocated forest concessions (12 million ha), non-allocated forest concessions (3.3 million ha) and protected areas (3.7 million ha).

Forest legislation

The use of the forest area is governed by law 16/2000 of November 20 2000 instituting the forest code. It takes into account the developments relating to forest management and environment conservation which have occurred in the last few years at the international level and the new socio-political context of the Congo. The recent organizational audit of the forest administration's structures has shown a trend towards the modernization of the forest sector's system of governance and of the State's financial sector. From the point of view of forest regulation, the forest code and its decrees of application have set up a framework whose broad outline meets the current challenges of the planning and sustainable management of the resources.

Although the principles of these reforms are moving in the right direction, there are nevertheless significant implementation difficulties due to the inadequacies of the institutional framework, the low local capacities and the scarcity of modern management tools to make it possible to increase

the operational performance of the administration. Greater effectiveness and transparency require the establishment of a system of control which would make it possible to centralize the operations relating to each FMU. The project has attempted to respond to some of these difficulties.

Contribution to SFM

The ITTO project has made a significant contribution to the sustainable management of the forest resources of the Republic of Congo by strengthening the capacities for systematic application of the forest legislation and by securing broader access to international timber markets. Congo is now equipped with powerful tools and qualified technical staff allowing for a better monitoring of forest activities in the country. Project contributions include the following:

- establishment of a laboratory for remote-sensing, GIS and operational forest cartography, making it possible to meet the needs of the administration and the private sector;
- official recognition by Ministerial Circular 1159/MEFE/CAB-AAJ of 25 April 2006 of the data generated by the project's laboratory as the national reference data in terms of forestry development and planning;
- production of a management guide to the geographical data and a dictionary of the attributes of the areas mapped in order to harmonize the data and relevant information on the forest sector;
- use of the remote-sensing data supported by missions on the ground has made it possible to identify irregularities such as logging outside approved concessions or illegal trans-boundary logging activities (e.g. on Congo—Central African Republic border); and
- ongoing mapping of operational forest concessions to assist in levying/allocating surface area based taxes.

The publication of the first version of the interactive Congo forest atlas is a significant innovation in the forest sector because it collects within a user-friendly tool the spatial data and qualitative information relating to management of the forests and the governance in the sector. Users of the atlas will be able to visualize and produce essential timely information within the framework of control activities and informed decision-making. The atlas also provides examples of possible applications: priorities for surveillance missions on the ground; application of laws and regulations; resolution of conflicts relating to the boundaries of areas dedicated to forest utilization; information on previous logging activities; and regional planning (including for biodiversity conservation). *Maps 1 and 2* show the type of information available from the atlas.

Access to reliable and up-to-date data on the forest sector, as well as an improvement of capacities and effective actions to monitor logging activities, as promoted by the project, are essential components of greater transparency and better governance. The image of the Congo, and of the forest products which the country produces, is enhanced at the international level and the confidence of the timber importers is maintained through the ready availability of such information.

Thanks to the information generated, the senior decision makers and the various stakeholders can henceforth easily access and process the most recent and relevant data relating to the monitoring of the forest activities as well as view, and as required produce, maps. The interactive forest atlas of Congo will be able to help the forest administration, NGOs, donors, intergovernmental organizations, research institutes and forest companies in their efforts to improve forest governance and management.

Project outputs are available from the ITTO Secretariat (rfm@itto.or.jp).

Exchanging experiences on sustainable forest management

ITTO takes stock of its projects to promote SFM

by
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DURING THE 39TH SESSION of the International Tropical Timber Council, ITTO decided to organize regional workshops to exchange experiences on the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) through ITTO supported projects and to consider the results and share lessons learned. The workshops were carried out from late May until mid-July 2007. The first, for Africa, was held in Lome (Togo); the second, for Asia and the Pacific, was held in Denpasar, Bali (Indonesia); and the third, for Latin America, was held near the city of Medellin (Colombia). The local organizers or host institutions were the *Office de Développement et d'Exploitation des Forêts* (ODEF) in Togo, the Bureau of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Forestry in Indonesia and the *Corporación Autónoma Regional Rio Negro-Nare* (CORNARE) in Colombia.

The planning process included the following aspects: (1) definition of criteria for project selection, (2) definition of criteria for selection of participants, (3) preparation of terms of reference for the project reports, (4) preparation of terms of reference for the country reports, (5) design of the format of the workshops and, (6) design of the format for the proceedings of the workshops. Four consultants (one international and three regional) were appointed to conduct the workshops.

The workshops assembled 129 participants from 26 producer countries, including 69 project leaders and 25 ITTO country focal points. Two kinds of projects were included. The first related to natural forest management and/or forest plantations at the forest management unit (FMU) level. These projects aim at effectively managing forest resources, often in association with local communities. The second group includes all projects that deal with forest management techniques or forest management tools, which does not imply actual management through the project itself, such as planning, criteria and indicators, reduced impact logging, fire and pest control, forest inventories, remote sensing, seeds and seedling production, research, etc.

Common issues of concern

There were almost no unique issues to any one region, with almost all problems or concerns raised in one region also



Poor site: Below average growth in a community plantation established in Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines under PD 21/97 Rev.2 (F). Photo: M. Dourojeanni.

mentioned in the other two, although the priority accorded to various issues varied by region. As expected, complex projects, such as those intending to apply SFM at the FMU level with local communities' participation are those facing more complex problems, especially regarding continuity or sustainability. These problems pertain to: local people's initial reluctance to participate in forestry projects; complex land tenure issues and resource access rights; inadequate forestry, legal and institutional frameworks; deficient economic analyses resulting in lack of adequate income to participant communities; lack of political priority assigned to the forestry sector and corresponding weakness of the forestry institutions; insufficiency of scientific information; lack of quality planting material; scarcity of trained staff; and difficulty to identify and retain qualified field staff. These are well known problems in community based projects in tropical forests.

The projects included under the heading of 'forestry techniques' faced much less significant difficulties during execution because of their limited scope, more precise objectives and their significantly shorter list of assumptions and risks, as they usually do not deal with people or with economic issues. Neither have they usually faced serious difficulties to recruit qualified professionals, as the executing agencies (governments, research or academic institutions) usually use their own staff to carry out these projects. Also, they do not always require continuity of the project actions, avoiding the critical sustainability issue. However, they often failed to convince top forest administrators or policy makers to make use of project results.

Both types of projects face similar problems regarding ITTO. The most common concerns are delays between project approval and project financing and gaps between project

¹Assisted by Dr Kokou Kouami for Africa, Dr Agus Justianto for Asia and the Pacific and Dr Heliadora Sánchez for Latin America.

phases. The lack of clarity/understanding of project formulation guidelines and of the process of evaluation of project proposals were also frequently cited as concerns. There is near unanimous complaint about ITTO project durations that are generally considered as being too short to complete objectives and ensure sustainability of results.

Lessons learned

Lessons learned and associated implicit recommendations were formulated and grouped under five headings: those that are common to every project (general matters) and those mostly relevant to technical (forestry), social, economic, policy, legal or administrative aspects. Over 100 lessons learned and 46 recommendations were registered.

General lessons

The three workshops highlighted the value and significance of ITTO support to forestry development in their countries. Any criticisms of ITTO administrative procedures were outweighed by the evident appreciation of the participants for ITTO's role with regard to tropical forestry worldwide. Participants praised ITTO's conceptual framework, the nature and scope of its contributions, the usefulness of its policy and technical guidelines and the possibility it afforded to apply and test new management options through the projects. They also recognized the dedication and efforts of ITTO's small staff.

Many, if not most, of the problems faced in project execution are a direct consequence of the low quality of project preparation. Flawed project design elements such as: incoherence between objectives and means, including execution period and budget; lack of strategic thinking; limited information on the technical, social and economic context; and deficient use of project design tools such as logical frameworks, are the most frequent causes of problems and failures. In SFM projects with local communities the proponents also often fail in achieving early participation of beneficiaries and, especially, at testing the economic viability of the proposed venture, including a clear exit strategy that ensures post-project sustainability. Most projects involving local communities, planned to be sustained, simply stop their activities when external funding ends. The importance of project preparation is confirmed by one of the most commonly cited lessons learned: projects that benefited from a preparation phase (a pre-project or project preparation facility) were the most successful. Projects with two or more phases were also more successful than single phase projects. There was consensus on the need for projects aiming at developing forest management or forest plantations with local communities to have substantially longer execution periods to be effective. These projects must take the time required to get initial revenues flowing to effectively cover maintenance costs, ensuring sustainability.

Participants recommended that ITTO seek to reduce lag times between project approval and funding, including funding of subsequent project phases. Such delays mean that proponents must often redesign substantial parts of the project due to institutional and legal changes and may need to recalculate project budgets, often requiring further ITTO approval. Local communities, if previously contacted, must be re-contacted and, frequently, may have already lost motivation. Gaps between project phases often result in the desertion of project staff, abandonment of equipment and nurseries and disillusionment among local communities. There is no intrinsic opposition to project phasing provided there are no execution gaps between phases.

No clear lesson was reached regarding executing agencies. Governmental agencies seem to be better at achieving policy, legislation and planning, including C&I application projects while, as expected, academic and other scientific institutions are good at research and technical innovation projects. The private sector (including public enterprises), mostly in Africa, has been an excellent executor of projects that developed or tested forestry techniques or improved natural forest management. Such enterprises also appear more likely to take advantage of project results. Another clear benefit of private or public enterprises as executors is their often significant financial and manpower contributions to projects. NGOs, especially those associated with forest services, seem to be best equipped to handle SFM projects with local communities. However, some projects in Africa and Latin America faced very serious problems with small national or local NGOs that mismanaged resources or ceased operations during project execution. International NGOs do well as project executors when locally incorporated but are considered expensive and often an imposition on locals when the project is managed from abroad.

Finally, there is consensus on the benefits of mid-term reviews of longer and more complex projects. These reviews, to be useful, must be preceded by field visits and effective communication with stakeholders. It was considered important to have national or international independent experts involved in mid-term reviews.

Forestry lessons

The importance of good basic information on forestry in the project locality was stressed in all workshops. The absence of detailed maps, weather information, soil studies and/or appropriate forest inventories have resulted in severe problems and even in failure of proposed actions in several projects. Limited availability of affordable quality planting material is also frequently mentioned as a serious obstacle in reforestation programs.

Natural forest management projects were often hampered by lack of basic scientific information, especially in Africa and Latin America. Tree taxonomy, phenology and other basic biological or ecological facts about tropical forest dynamics are often unknown or not available. The establishment and maintenance of growth plots is considered essential to monitor SFM actions undertaken by projects.

In addition to funding for forest plantation maintenance after project termination, the main concern related to reforestation projects is the availability of seeds and other planting material. Some ITTO projects are testing cloned material and other propagation techniques. However, more efforts are needed to assure the demand for planting stock can be met at the time of project preparation. The integration of plantation projects into national reforestation programs was considered as important to ensure support and continuity. Natural regeneration should receive more consideration as an option for restoring degraded forests in ITTO projects.

Who came

Table 1: Workshop participants

WORKSHOPS	PARTICIPANTS		OBSERVERS, CONSULTANTS & ITTO STAFF	TOTAL	COUNTRIES
	Project leaders	Focal points			
AFRICA	17	7	4	28	7
ASIA & THE PACIFIC	21	9	18	48	9
LATIN AMERICA	31	9	13	53	10
TOTAL	69	25	35	129	26



Management talk: PD 44/99 Rev.2 (F) assisted a community forest enterprise to engage in natural forest management in Bolivia's Tarija Department. *Photo: M. Dourojeanni.*

Training, considered a key element of almost every SFM project, should be demand driven and practical, with well planned lessons in the forest more effective than those undertaken in a classroom. There was a general concern about the lack of professional foresters adequately trained to work on SFM projects and willing to spend time in the field. Training needs to focus primarily on forest management and economics.

In conservation projects (protected area management) there were two kinds of concerns and corresponding lessons. In Latin America, workshop participants agreed that biodiversity conservation in managed natural forests was essential, however many disagreed about the utilization of ITTO financing to manage parks and similar categories of protected areas (PAs). The consensus was that ITTO funding should be applied to sustainable management in appropriate PAs as well as in PA buffer zones. The management and administrative difficulties inherent in transboundary conservation projects need to be explicitly recognized and addressed during project formulation. Finally, wildlife and other non-wood forest products such as bamboo, were considered underutilized in ITTO projects, despite their potential to improve the profitability of forest management.

Social lessons

Several lessons that have been found in other assessment exercises were reiterated by the workshops. The initial difficulty of raising awareness and interest of local communities to participate in forestry projects is generally compensated for by their consistent and enthusiastic participation after being informed of the possibilities of the initiative for community and personal improvement. The early and well informed involvement of communities in project planning may avoid serious mistakes and miscalculations. Reliable social and economic assessments provide a solid base for project planning and implementation. Analyses of the land tenure situation and of the rights to use the forest resources are essential to project success, as are respect for all signed agreements and transparency during project execution.

The most common source of failure in ITTO SFM projects with local communities is the absence of incomes that at least reach the level necessary to maintain project assets at project completion. If at this point there are no incomes generated by the project's activities, the usually very poor local people would, unavoidably, abandon plantations, nurseries and all activities that do not provide them with essential resources for family survival. It thereafter becomes very difficult to reinstate any forestry operation with such people. Community development projects must be designed to ensure at least minimal incomes for participating communities following project completion.

Other lessons include the importance of building a sense of project ownership by participants, the avoidance of paternalism and the value of having trained local people

actively participating in project monitoring. Local people should be given preference to work as rangers and in other staff positions. The establishment of community enterprises or cooperatives is also useful to prepare local people to become independent, more competitive and better equipped to face the post-project situation.

Economic lessons

The main lesson regarding economics is the already mentioned lack of serious economic or cost/benefit analysis in projects aiming at establishing forestry ventures with poor local communities. Failure of such projects is almost unavoidable but may be delayed if the project is extended or if other funding is available after project completion.

Other economic lessons include the need to avoid considering payment for work in the projects as a 'benefit' instead of recognizing it as a cost. The distribution of real benefits (excluding costs) should focus on those community members that are active participants in the project (e.g. those that provide the land for plantations) instead of being transferred to the community as a whole, since usually not all community members participate in (or even support) the project.

In plantation projects occupying areas that are also being cultivated for food crops it is necessary to pay attention to the length and compatibility of the production cycles of both the agricultural crops and the tree species. Incomes from forest plantations should become available when the tree canopy is closing, thus hampering intercropping and reducing income from agricultural crops.

The importance of devising financial mechanisms and associated tools to allow fair remuneration to owners of well managed natural forests for environmental services provided was stressed in all three workshops, but especially in Latin America. Several participants considered this to be the main option for sustainable management of remaining natural forests.

Policy and legal lessons

Many of the lessons in this category pertain to the legal and regulatory framework. Land tenure issues are particularly complex in Africa where customary rules regarding land frequently confront current legislation causing problems that are compounded by recent internal migration patterns. African SFM projects with local communities often bear a uniquely complex approach to participation and benefit sharing. Often as many as five different parties, including the government, are somehow related to the

same piece of land. Projects in such areas usually require serious social, anthropological and legal research even before approaching stakeholders. Some Latin America SFM projects with local communities also face legal problems; however, these are more related to their access to the forest resources than to the land, as a consequence of frequent policy and regulatory changes. It is not uncommon that newly elected governments introduce new policies, which may condemn to failure projects designed under a different policy framework.

A very common lesson, especially in Latin America, refers to the lack of capacity of the forestry institutions to effectively apply relevant legislation. This situation may impact projects in different ways, such as delaying (sometimes beyond the project life span) essential decisions such as approval of forest concessions or utilization permits, management plans or yearly logging authorizations. In large Asian countries there is not always homogeneity of views between the central government forestry agency and the regional branches of the same agency or other agencies involved in the decision making. Some projects are not necessarily viewed a priority for all parties. In all three regions there is a lack of institutional capacity to enforce forest laws, prevent forest estate invasions and control deforestation, illegal logging and poaching. Such realities must be taken into account when planning new projects.

The success of projects that aim at the development or testing of new policy, planning or regulatory tools largely depends upon the links of the forestry sector with key elements of the executive and/or the legislative branches of government. Experience shows that the earlier representatives of these branches are involved in the project, the better the chances are of having the results applied.

Administrative lessons.

Many lessons in this category are quite obvious, but nonetheless important, such as clear initial definition of administrative pathways and responsibilities, careful budgetary control to avoid excesses or deficiencies of funds, contingency planning to address unexpected exchange rate movements and effective communication between field operations and administrative services staff. Many of the lessons refer to project staffing. It is always difficult to find well trained staff willing to work in harsh field conditions. Almost every project stressed the need for training activities for staff to help overcome this difficulty. All three regions also agreed on the importance of careful selection of the project manager or team leader to project success, and the need for an adequate compensation package to prevent turnover in this key position.

ITTO country focal points were considered an asset that is underutilized in project formulation and implementation. They are viewed as an important source of guidance and support for project preparation and approval. In some cases they were instrumental in obtaining timely project counterpart funding or to solve other issues during project execution. Inputs from ITTO regional representatives should also be sought during project formulation and implementation.

What they talked about

Table 2: Subject and regional distribution of the project and national reports

THEME	SUB-THEMES	AFRICA	ASIA	LA	TOTAL
FM		2	–	4	6
FP		4	3	3	10
FM/FP		2	2	1	5
CO		1	3	4	8
FT	Planning & forest management plans	2	3	8	13
	C&I (including training)	3	3	3	9
	Forest inventories, remote sensing & measures	3	1	1	5
	Fire & pest control	2	–	–	2
	Management techniques (logging, growth tests, including training)	–	2	4	6
	Silviculture techniques	1	4	–	5
PO	General	3	6	6	15
	Policy & Legislation	2	2	3	7
	C&I	1	–	–	1
TOTAL		25	29	37	91

FM: Natural forest management; FP: Forest plantation; FM/FP: Combination of natural forest management and forest plantation; CO: Conservation or protected areas management; FT: Forest management instruments; PO: Forest policy (national reports)

Problems regarding delays in project counterpart funding disbursements were highlighted. Producer country governments must respect the obligations assumed with regard to counterpart funding, including retaining project staff after project completion where appropriate.

Finally, there was a general complaint about the long time necessary to obtain disbursement of funds from ITTO to allow project execution to commence. Responsibility for these delays seem to be shared by all parties: the project executors in the field and their administrative services, the national forestry administration and ITTO's administrative service. A special analysis may be required to make proposals for reducing the time between project funding and the actual release of funds to project executors.

Conclusion

The workshops were considered a highly productive ITTO initiative. Participants praised the value of the exchange of experiences about SFM and about ITTO projects directly among project executors. All three workshops recommended that ITTO continue to convene such meetings every two to three years, possibly grouped in future by project theme rather than (or in addition to) geographic region.

The full report of the regional workshops (including an assessment of the extent of implementation of the ITTO C&I by project executors) is available on request from the ITTO Secretariat (rfm@itto.or.jp).

Getting certified in Papua New Guinea

An indigenous community attains FSC certification with ITTO assistance

by
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IN A RURAL COMMUNITY in Papua New Guinea (PNG), indigenous forest resource owners are managing their forest resources according to FSC standards for sustainable forest management. The members of the Madang Forest Resource Owners Association (MFROA) have committed themselves to managing their forests under the auspices of the FSC PNG National Standards with technical assistance from the Foundation for People and Community Development (FPCD). This partnership has been in place since 1997 when the MFROA approached FPCD for assistance in managing their forests sustainably.

The MFROA is made up of indigenous resource owners who have experienced the unequal distribution of benefits under (and sometimes destructive practices of) foreign logging companies and have decided to develop and manage their own forest under sustainable forest management practices. FPCD, a local non-government organization, promotes ecoforestry as its main program. It assists resource owners to develop their forests by providing them with small portable sawmills. The timbers milled are exported to buyers in New Zealand under the Eco-timber label.

FPCD has been working with MFROA under this arrangement and has transferred skills and technology to members of MFROA. Since they have begun managing and developing their forests with assistance from FPCD, their lives and living standards have improved. The income generated from the sale of Eco-timber is higher than concession fees received from foreign logging companies.

Most of the forests on or around the land of members of MFROA consist of secondary regrowth, having been previously logged by foreign companies. These operations typically left little or no long term benefits for the indigenous resource owners, who received only a fraction of the income generated by these export logging operations.

In 2005, FPCD developed a group certification scheme, the Indigenous Community Forestry certification scheme (ICF), to demonstrate sustainable forest management and to make certification accessible to forest resource owners in PNG. In June of the same year, FPCD engaged US based FSC third party accredited certifier, Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), to conduct a preliminary assessment of the ICF scheme.

The assessment was intended to identify potential areas of non-conformance with FSC standards that could constitute a barrier to the issue of a group certificate by FSC. The SCS auditor identified certain areas or gaps that FPCD/MFROA needed to address in preparation for the full evaluation. These gaps included technical training for staff and resource owners, updating documents and the development of FPCD policies and guidelines for sustainable forest management according to the FSC Principles and Criteria.

In January 2006, ITTO, under ITTC Decision 5(XXXIII), provided financial assistance to FPCD to address these gaps and allow for the full evaluation of its ICF group certification



Certified: ICF group members with timber stacked for grading and export. *Photo: Y. Bun*

scheme. This assistance enabled FPCD to conduct a gender sensitization workshop, two first aid training workshops for FPCD staff and MFROA members, and also to purchase safety equipment for the chainsaw and sawmill operators. A database was established and the development and updating of forest management policies was also carried out. MFROA members were prepared for the full evaluation under the FSC certification process through awareness raising and information distribution.

The full evaluation was conducted in June 2006 by SCS with the assistance of a local consultant. It included document review, stakeholder consultation and field visits. The SCS auditors visited ICF group members in Uya, Aronis, Jobtor and Malas villages in Madang, interviewing local resource owners and checking FPCD's operations within the sustainable forest management area. FPCD and MFROA staff were also interviewed and FPCD's forest management and development documents were reviewed. Stakeholders from various government and civil society organisations including the PNG Forest Authority, The Nature Conservancy, WWF, FORCERT, and the EU Eco-forestry Program were also interviewed.

The full evaluation resulted in the issue of 12 corrective action requests (CARs). Three of these were major CARs that were to be addressed before the issuance of a group certificate. The remaining nine were to be addressed over a period of 12 months. The three major CARs were addressed in the six months after the evaluation was carried out and work to address the remaining nine is nearly complete.

In May 2007, FPCD was issued a FSC group certificate by SCS. FPCD and MFROA can now clearly demonstrate sustainable forest management in this area. The FSC certification has also made a strong contribution to FPCD's goal of improving the livelihood of the indigenous people of PNG through sustainable forest development. The group certificate will enable the members of MFROA to obtain higher prices for their export timber while still obtaining their basic subsistence needs from the forest.

Details of ITTO-supported work are available from emi@itto.or.jp.

Expanding timber species utilization in Guyana

An ITTO project helps to increase forest potential through LUS testing and marketing

by
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SINCE commercial logging began in 1624, Guyana has used just a few of the over 1000 tree species found in its tropical forests. In 2004, drafting of a project commenced to address the promotion and development of lesser used species (LUS) in Guyana. ITTO project PD344/05 REV.2 (1) focused on enhancing knowledge and use of LUS in the forest industry of Guyana. The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) began implementing the project in 2007 and has since worked towards: 1) analyzing physical and mechanical properties of a selected set of LUS; 2) increasing awareness and use of LUS; and 3) improving wood processing techniques for LUS used by local industry.

Expanding species utilization

When implementing the project, the GFC formed key linkages with the Forest Products Marketing Council (FPMC) of Guyana, a body set up in 2005 to boost Guyana's marketing of forest products in a more coordinated manner, focusing on providing market intelligence and product development functions for the forest sector. The Council's promotion of Guyana's wood products regionally and internationally fit well into the activities of the ITTO project.

The fifteen species targeted under the project were selected following a thorough review process examining key factors such as availability (based on forest inventory data), species distribution and accessibility of identified areas of occurrence, feedback from the local industry, physical and mechanical properties as well as possible end use applications. The following species were chosen for inclusion under the project: limonaballi (*Chrysophyllum pomiferum*); black kakaralli (*Eschweilera sagotiana/E. subglandulosa*); muniridan (*Qualea rosea*); burada (*Parinari campestris*); iteballi (*Vochysia surinamensis*); darina (*Hymenolobium flavum*); fukadi (*Buchenavia fanshawei*); tonka bean (*Dipteryx odorata*); wadara (*Couratari guianensis*); itikibororalli (*Swartzia benthamiana*); morabukea (*Mora gonggrijpii*); futui (*Jacaranda copaia*); suya (*Pouteria speciosa*); dalli (*Virola surinamensis*); and kurokai (*Protium decandrum*).

Trada Technology, a UK based consultancy firm, was contracted under the project to review and conduct tests on these species. Following the review, it was concluded that many of the species are strong potential substitutes for prime commercial species, especially for marine and



Next dock over is LUS: Greenheart piles from Guyana in Miami (USA).
Photo: Demerara Timbers Limited

construction purposes as well as other added-value end uses. The selected fifteen species will undergo abrasion testing applicable to use in both marine construction and decking, and will be benchmarked against other well established species in these end use applications, such as greenheart, ekki, oak and balau. Marine borer testing will also be conducted on selected species and benchmarked against greenheart and ekki, species traditionally used for marine applications. Natural durability tests will be used to assess suitability in end-use applications. In natural durability tests, reference to the European Union Standard EN 350-1 will be made for each species tested. This will, in part, aid marketing throughout the EU and other markets due to the international recognition of this standard.

Marketing work has also commenced with the design and production of sample boards to promote targeted LUS. In addition, promotional booklets are being prepared and published for dissemination to local stakeholders and target markets locally, regionally and internationally. Training in the utilization of LUS, including dissemination of information on results of the testing, was conducted in the fourth quarter of 2007 with forest concession holders, saw millers, lumber yard operators, exporters, education institutions and other stakeholders.

Challenges and lessons learned

Guyana's unique timber species mix and high species diversity often pose challenges for forestry enterprises. Grouping species by properties and end-use application, a key recommendation of the project, will assist greatly in consolidating larger volumes and more reliable supply. The FPMC is currently engaged in promoting Guyana's timber

Continued on page 24 ►

Briefing on ITTO's project work

The new projects summarized below were financed at the 43rd session of the International Tropical Timber Council. More information on all projects and activities funded by ITTO is available from the ITTO Secretariat (itto@itto.or.jp).

Promotion of Sustainable Management of African Forests (PD 124/01 Rev.2 (M), Phase II Stage 2)

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 544 070
	ATO:	US\$ 47 000
	Total	US\$ 591 070

Funding sources Japan, The Netherlands

Implementing agencies African Timber Organization (ATO) and ITTO

This project is developing a framework of cooperation between ITTO and ATO for the promotion and application of ATO/ITTO principles, criteria and indicators (PCI) for the sustainable management of African forests, which could eventually lead to credible assessment and certification systems. The specific objectives of the project are to establish key elements of adequate capacity:

- to implement ATO/ITTO PCI at national level in the African member countries of ITTO; and
- for effective regional-level cooperation through the ATO to support individual Member countries to implement the ATO/ITTO PCI.

Under Phase I and Phase II, Stage 1 of the project, the draft ATO/ITTO PCI were finalized and some 160 relevant forestry staff in 7 countries were trained in their implementation. An auditing framework for African forests was also developed. More than 100 trainers were trained to conduct audits based on the ATO/ITTO PCI at the forest management unit level. National PCI/certification standards were developed in 5 countries, collection of data on PCI was undertaken in 9 countries, improvement of national monitoring/auditing frameworks commenced in all 10 African producer countries, and ATO's advisory and dissemination capacity in relation to PCI was enhanced (see p3). Phase II Stage 2 will result in all 10 countries having nationally agreed and internationally accepted C&I/auditing frameworks.

Tropical Forest Fire Monitoring and Management System Based on Satellite Remote Sensing Data in China – Phase II (PD 228/03 Rev.3 (F))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 165 028
	Government of China:	US\$ 103 845
	Total	US\$ 268 873

Funding source Japan

Implementing agency Research Institute of Forest Resources Information Techniques of the Chinese Academy of Forestry

Forest fire statistics indicate that annually more than 3000 forest fires occur in the tropical regions of China, damaging more than 10 000 hectares. The high forest fire occurrence can be attributed to insufficient fire prevention capability, which in turn is due to the lack of adequate mechanisms for fire detection and monitoring as well as for forest fire data collection, management and information dissemination. The project is aimed at reducing the frequency of forest fires and forest losses from fire, strengthening forest protection and accelerating the sustainable development and utilization of tropical forests in China. Its specific objectives are: a) to improve forest fire monitoring and fire danger forecasting in the experimental and demonstration area in Guangdong Province; and b) to promote forest fire management at the provincial, district and county levels through the establishment of TropFireMAS (Tropical Forest Fire Monitoring and Management System Based on Satellite Remote Sensing Data in China) and through demonstrations and technical training.

Development of Marketing Chains for *Eucalyptus citriodora* Essential Oils – a Processed Forest Product with High Added Value – by Village Communities in Congo (PD 364/05 Rev.4 (I))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 480 511
	Government of the Republic of Congo:	US\$ 141 750
	Total	US\$ 622 261

Funding source CFC

Implementing agency National Reforestation Service (SNR)

Essential eucalyptus oils constitute a high value-added non-timber product. Current research work conducted in Congo by the Multi-disciplinary Food and Nutrition Research Team (Equipe Pluridisciplinaire de Recherche sur l'Alimentation et la Nutrition—EPRAN) of the Marien Ngouabi University in

collaboration with the University of Clermont-Ferrand, France, have shown that essential oils from *Eucalyptus citriodora* extracted in Congo possess qualities that could make them competitive on the international market: relatively high oil concentrations (over 5% dry matter) and no less than 90% citronellal contents (valuable essential and medicinal oils). Current international market prices for these oils are around US\$ 400/kg. The project aims at contributing to poverty alleviation in rural areas through the value-added processing of non-timber forest products such as essential oils of *Eucalyptus citriodora*, and fulfilling the Government's commitment to develop community and private forest plantations.

Development of Cloning for Samba (Obéché), West African Mahogany and Tiokoué Tree Species (Côte d'Ivoire) (PD 377/05 Rev.3 (F))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 421 060
	Government of Côte d'Ivoire:	US\$ 227 134
	Total	US\$ 648 194

Funding source Japan

Implementing agency Société de Développement des Forêts—SODEFOR (Forest Development Corporation)

Côte d'Ivoire has experienced severe forest degradation for several decades, an on-going cause for concern. Significant reforms have resulted in the development of the 1988 Forest Master Plan covering the years 1988–2015. Unfortunately, reforestation objectives set for a number of years have not been attained for selected species (obéché, African mahogany and tiokoué) due in part to problems with both the quality and quantity of improved planting stock. The project will contribute to the diversification of tree plantation species in Côte d'Ivoire through the establishment of a program of cloning and seedling production aimed at accelerating the development of obéché, African mahogany and tiokoué industrial plantations.

Industrialization, Marketing and Sustainable Management of Ten Mexican Native Species (PD 385/05 Rev.4 (I,F))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 314 678
	Government of Mexico:	US\$ 1 650 441
	Total	US\$ 1 965 119

Funding source Japan

Implementing agency University of Guadalajara

The objectives of this project are to acquire technological knowledge on ten native tropical timber species; to enhance their productivity and forest management; and to assess their commercial market potential.

Tropical forests in Mexico have a wide range of species that are lesser known in the international markets and even in the domestic markets. These species have market potential because of their colour, physical appearance, beauty and technological properties. However, no extensive studies have been carried out to generate the necessary information to use these species based on their characteristics and properties. As a result, these tropical timber species are currently under-utilized in Mexico, which leads to highly selective logging and eventually to deforestation and tropical forest fragmentation. The generation of scientific and technological knowledge on the proposed tropical timber species is considered to be an urgent need and an excellent opportunity to promote more profitable timber utilization activities. Furthermore, it is also important to promote development and/or innovation as appropriate regarding the use of silvicultural management practices for each species so as to ensure the sustainable management of resources.

Sustainable Development of the Wood-based Industries in South Kalimantan (PD 397/06 Rev.3 (II))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 155 196
	Forestry Service of South Kalimantan Province:	US\$ 28 500
	Total	US\$ 183 696

Funding source Japan

Implementing agencies Forestry Service of South Kalimantan Province in collaboration with Directorate General of Forest Production, Ministry of Forestry (MOF) and Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA)

In addition to the above newly funded projects, two existing activities received additional funding as well: ITTO Fellowships – \$200 000; and PD 251/03 Rev.3 (F) – \$209 520 to extend work undertaken by a project to assess the status of Swietenia macrophylla in Peru to Cedrela odorata. In addition to the project funding listed here, nearly \$5 million was pledged to new activities under ITTO's 2008–09 Work Program.

This project aims to develop an integrated master plan for the development of a sustainable wood-based industry in South Kalimantan. It is expected that upon project completion, a large number of people in the wood-based industry and relevant agencies involved in the forestry sector, including local forestry authorities, will benefit from reliable information on the current status of the wood-based industry, and from a long-term plan which will facilitate the development of a flourishing wood-based industry in South Kalimantan from sustainable sources.

Extending the Area under Sustainable Forest Management in the Forest Lands of the Emberá-Wounaan Comarca, Darien, Panama (PD 405/06 Rev.3 (F))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 520 992
	Communities:	US\$ 108 400
	WWF-CA:	US\$ 195 800
	ANAM:	US\$ 142 800
	Total	US\$ 967 992

Funding source Japan

Implementing agency World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF—Central America

This project proposal was developed in response to the recommendations of the ITTO Technical Mission to Panama in August 2004 which emphasised the importance of replicating in other Emberá-Wounaan Indigenous Territory (EWIT) communities the Responsible Forest Management and Trade Model developed by WWF in the Tupiza river communities. The project seeks to increase the national processing and marketing of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests in the EWIT, destined for domestic and international markets, and increase Panama's GDP as a result. It also aims to increase the competitiveness of the forest sector in Panama by ensuring the supply of raw materials from well-managed forests, with the involvement of community groups organized as enterprises and businesses. The strategy of this project is to strengthen the capacity and knowledge of indigenous communities in Darien to manage forest lands within their territory with a view towards reversing the ever decreasing trend in the supply of raw material from natural tropical forests and the practices that lead to illegal logging and degradation of forest ecosystems in this region of Panama.

Production and Utilization Technology for Sustainable Development of Eaglewood (Gaharu) in Indonesia (PD 425/06 Rev.1 (I))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 499 975
	Government of Indonesia:	US\$ 119 250
	Total	US\$ 619 225

Funding source Japan

Implementing agencies Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA); Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia

Eaglewood plays an important role in gaining foreign exchange and as a source of income for people living near and within Indonesian forests. However, its production has declined rapidly due to lack of sustainable harvesting technology and limited dissemination of regeneration technology. If no action is taken, eaglewood production will not be sustained. As a consequence, pressure on the natural forest will increase significantly. This proposal is aimed at introducing regeneration technology to forest communities living in and around on the forest area. The technology will accelerate and promote eaglewood productivity in the natural forest. Dissemination of the technology will be carried out by establishing sample plots in West Kalimantan and at a forestry research site in Banten province, covering a total area of 100 hectares. It is expected that artificial regeneration on a large scale will improve communities' welfare and reduce the pressure on the forest.

Promoting Adoption of Sustainable Forest Management in the Brazilian Amazon (PD 432/06 Rev.2 (F))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 508 464
	IFT:	US\$ 678 651
	Total	US\$ 1 187 115

Funding sources Japan, USA

Implementing agency Instituto Floresta Tropical (IFT)

The project will build on the achievements of projects PD 45/97 REV.1 (F) *On-site training of tropical foresters and forestry trainers* and PD 206/03 (F) *Development of human resources in sustainable forest management and reduced impact logging in the Brazilian Amazon*, both also implemented by the IFT. Under these projects, training activities were conducted mainly for industrial forest enterprises and more recently for community forestry initiatives.

The objective of this project is to further promote sustainable multiple-use forest management on public and private forests in the Brazilian Amazon while increasing the socioeconomic and conservation benefits of forest management activities. More specifically, it aims to: i) strengthen the technical capacity of new Brazilian Forest Service and state agency officials responsible for promoting, regulating, and supervising forest management activities on federal, state, and private lands in the Brazilian Amazon; ii) raise awareness about the role of forest management (FM) in the sustainable development of the Brazilian Amazon and promote good FM practices through educational outreach that targets forest sector stakeholders with a particular emphasis in the new Sustainable Forestry District along the BR 163 Highway; and iii) increase the adoption of good forest management practices by communities, concessionaires, and other producers as well as foresters in the Brazilian Amazon—with a particular emphasis on the Sustainable Forestry District near the BR 163—through practical training.

Strengthening of the AIMEX Seed Laboratory and Nursery (Brazil) (PD 434/06 Rev.1 (F))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 396 201
	Implementing agencies:	US\$ 62 500
	Total	US\$ 458 701

Funding source Japan

Implementing agencies AIMEX (Pará State Timber Exporting Industries Association) in cooperation with SINDIMAD and EMBRAPA

The Government of Brazil is undertaking strategic structural changes in order to improve and consolidate sustainable management of its Amazon forests. The National Forest Program has been developed in order to implement this strategy, establishing that timber processing operations must be based on sustainable sources and that degraded areas must be rehabilitated. In this connection, a target of 630 000 ha of plantation per year has been established, with priority on the involvement of small and medium size land owners and local communities.

The project will build on the results of pre-project PPD 3/92 REV.1 (F) *Integrated Forest Project for the Production of Seedlings in Para State – Feasibility Study* which highlighted that all regions are facing an acute deficit of quality seeds and seedlings. The pre-project also analyzed an initiative by the Para State Timber Exporting Association (AIMEX) which had established a nursery and a laboratory for seed processing. It was found that this facility had limitations in terms of capacity and equipment for seed production.

The objective of this project is to strengthen this existing laboratory facility in order to promote plantation activities in the State of Para with the involvement of small and medium size land owners and local communities. The latter will benefit from the project through training, income generated from seed collection activities and employment in plantation

Producers

Africa

Cameroon
Central African Republic
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Gabon
Ghana
Liberia
Nigeria
Togo

Asia & Pacific

Cambodia
Fiji
India
Indonesia
Malaysia
Myanmar
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Thailand
Vanuatu

Latin America

Bolivia
Brazil
Colombia
Ecuador
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
Mexico
Panama
Peru
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Venezuela

Consumers

Australia
Canada
China
Egypt
European Community
Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom
Japan
Nepal
New Zealand
Norway
Republic of Korea
Switzerland
United States of America

establishment. The private sector will also benefit from the availability of good quality planting materials allowing them meet, *inter alia*, their legal obligations to establish timber plantations.

Sustainable Forest Management for the Forest Production Area of the Northern and Northeastern Regions of the Department of Antioquia, Colombia (PD 438/06 Rev.2 (F))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 547 917
	CORANTIOQUIA:	US\$ 624 556
	Total	US\$ 1,172,473

Funding sources Japan, USA

Implementing agencies Autonomous Corporation of Central Antioquia (CORANTIOQUIA)

This project proposal is the main output of pre-project PPD 86/03 REV.1 (F) *Formulation of a Sustainable Forest Management Project for the Production Forest Area in the Northern and North-Eastern Regions of the Department of Antioquia, Colombia*. The project envisages achieving sustainable forest management in a forest area covering the 277 123 hectares of the Magdalena Medio Forest Reserve situated in the Antioquia municipalities of Nechí, El Bagre, Zaragoza, Segovia and Remedios. Overall, it aims to contribute towards the integrated socio-economic development and environmental protection of the North and Northeast Regions of the Department of Antioquia. More specifically, it intends to launch a participatory forest management process to foster the rational use of production forests and environmental protection with a view to reaching a consensus-based vision among key stakeholders regarding the use and sustainable management of the Magdalena Medio Forest Reserve. To this end, the project will develop and implement a management plan for the Reserve, train forest workers, forest owners, loggers, assistants and carriers, and support the strengthening of local forest organizations, as well as providing awareness-raising services regarding the advantages of forest management certification.

Enhancing Forest Law Enforcement in Papua New Guinea (PD 449/07 Rev.2 (M))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 473 040
	Government of PNG:	US\$ 222 000
	PNG Industry:	US\$ 44 000
	Total	US\$ 739 040

Funding sources Japan, USA, Australia, JLLA

Implementing agency Papua New Guinea Forestry Authority (PNGFA)

PNG is committed to achieving sustainable management of its forest resources. Over the years, PNGFA has developed and implemented forest laws and policies to assist in attaining the objectives of sustainable forest management (SFM). However, weak forest law enforcement, including the lack of effective monitoring of forestry operations due to inadequate local capacity, is undermining the efforts of the PNGFA to achieve SFM to meet the requirements of some of its key markets. This problem has been highlighted consistently in recent years in reports by several international and local environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS). A cost effective forest law enforcement regime, complemented by enhanced capacity building for monitoring forestry activities, is now required to assure PNG's markets of the legality of the sources of its timbers, as well as to ensure the on-going effective implementation of PNG's forest laws, regulations and policies to support its sustainable forest management strategies.

Development of a Local Forest Industry based on Sustainable Forest Management in the South-West Sector of the Lacandon Highlands National Park within the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, Peten, Guatemala (PPD 117/05 Rev.2 (I,M))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 54 000
	ACM:	US\$ 10 010
	Total	US\$ 64 010

Funding source Japan

Implementing agency Mayan Centre Association for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Peten (ACM)

This pre-project has been conceived as a stage in the process of development of 14 community cooperatives located along the Usumacinta River, in the Buffer Area (BA) of the south-west sector of the Lacandon Highlands National Park (Parque Nacional Sierra del Lacandón—PNSL) within the Mayan Biosphere Reserve in Peten. The main problem in this area is the limited generation of

income to satisfy the basic needs of families. Community forests in the region have a wide diversity of timber and non-timber species, but because of the way these resources are harvested and marketed, incomes derived from them are limited. Thus, there is a high risk that forest protection and sustainable forest management may be discontinued, with communities converting forests to other production activities such as traditional agricultural practices and extensive cattle-raising. The pre-project will identify current problems in the sustainable forest management process and outline possible solutions to ensure effective integration between sustainable forest management and local industrial development. The potential solutions to be identified in this pre-project will be outlined in a full project proposal, including improvement of the production capacity of natural forests through intensified silvicultural treatments (fire prevention and management), improved utilization of lesser-used species, promotion of non-timber forest products, assisted natural regeneration, plantations and reforestation activities, and timber processing and marketing. The pre-project will be an appropriate mechanism for the gathering of information to consolidate the problem identification and project formulation processes.

Forest Promotion and Development by Native Communities in Peru (PPD 129/06 Rev.1 (F))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 56 538
	AIDER:	US\$ 26 164
	Total	US\$ 82 702

Funding source Norway

Implementing agency Association for Integrated Research and Development (AIDER)

The geographic area under native community ownership in Peru accounts for 17% of the country's total forest area. However, these areas are currently affected by the impacts of illegal logging and associated timber trade and other negative factors that seriously threaten not only the conservation of the potential of these resources but also the survival of these indigenous peoples, who are amongst the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the country.

This proposal envisages contributing to the sustainable development of Amazon indigenous peoples by outlining and implementing sustainable forest management strategies for the territories legally occupied by these communities. It will allow for participatory formulation of a project aimed at the development of sustainable community forest management in indigenous peoples' territories of the Peruvian Amazon.

Community-based Forest Management of Sungai Medihit Watershed (Malaysia) (PPD 135/07 Rev.1 (F))

Budget	ITTO:	US\$ 73 710
	Government of Malaysia:	US\$ 58 554
	Total	US\$ 132 264

Funding source Japan

Implementing agencies Forest Department of Sarawak (SFD) in collaboration with Hirosar Jaya Sdn Bhd

This pre-project proposal is a revision of PD 447/07 (F) *Community-based Forest Management of Sungai Medihit Watershed* in accordance with the recommendations of the 33rd and the 34th Expert Panels. It aims to promote multiple-use forest management in close cooperation with local forest owners and communities living in forest areas and dependent on forest resources. Its specific objective is to formulate a full project proposal to address the problems facing indigenous peoples and forest resources of the Sungai Medihit catchment area.

Mortgage meltdowns, monsoons and shipping costs impact tropical timber in last quarter of 2007 and early 2008

by
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PRICES OF LOGS, sawnwood and plywood in many countries were impacted by the sub-prime mortgage crisis beginning in the us and spreading to other regions. In December 2007, housing starts in the us fell 14% from November 2007 levels, hitting a 16-year low. In August 2007, Japan housing starts dropped 43% lower than August 2006 levels and the lows continued through the second half of 2007. After seeing gains immediately after the first half of the year, prices for many Malaysian and Indonesian species fell as international markets became more volatile. Prices were further affected by the monsoon season in October and November, which limited availability of logs. Despite these impacts on demand and prices, some countries such as China showed strong results in the second half.

Housing starts slow

us sub-prime mortgage losses significantly impacted the us housing market in 2007 (*Figure 1*). Some experts expected a further drop in housing starts in 2008. us housing projections for 2007 were estimated at 1.354 million units. Analysts speculated that the us economy was headed for a recession, which would impact housing and financial markets overseas. The decline in the us housing market was also causing demand for wood-based panels to drop (especially Oriented Strand Board), with panel producers scaling down, delaying their growth plans or canceling new mill construction altogether. Experts noted that as the us housing crisis worsened, there would be further deterioration in homebuilding and buying, which would impact markets for hardwood products. This, coupled with the falling value of the us dollar, has continued to impact the global hardwood market in early 2008.

Japan's housing starts and panel imports also plunged in the second half of 2007 (*Figure 2*). Analysts suggested the main reason for the drop in housing starts was due to confusion associated with new application procedures for building approval enacted in June 2007. Plywood imports fell with housing starts and also as a result of Japan's increasing reliance on domestic sources for plywood materials and the

rising costs of imported raw materials (*Figure 3*). Plywood continued to be imported at low levels until the end of 2007 due to continued weak demand. The Japanese yen was also appreciating during this time, weakening market prices for certain types of logs. Imports of Southsea logs from January to September 2007 were 828 450 m³ and total 2007 imports of tropical logs were likely to be the lowest in many years. Lumber imports dropped 15.1% in volume, mainly due to declining hardwood imports with softwood lumber sustaining the previous year's levels of imports.

The uk housing market also appears set for a correction. House sales stalled in late 2007 due to the credit squeeze and as a result of the Christmas holidays. House building also slowed and experts anticipated that housing price inflation in 2008 would reach near zero levels.

Europe showed a renewed interest in certain species from West Africa in late 2007, including iroko, afrormosia, azobe, douka and sapele. Prices rose for sapele sawnwood imported by eu countries, as Congo and Central African Republic reduced their supply of logs and Congo and Gabon worked to implement their log export quotas.

Freight rate changes also impacted timber prices (*Figure 4*). The London-based Far East Freight Conference (FEFC) enacted higher freight rates to major Asian ports effective 1 October 2007. Under the new system, once additional surcharges were added, shipping costs in 40-foot containers had in some cases increased by us\$700 per container. Higher freight rates impacted prices for okoume and redwood logs in West Africa. The higher freight costs had temporarily halted purchases of lesser used species in West Africa and traders were more focused on okoume and other premium timbers shipped in smaller vessels.

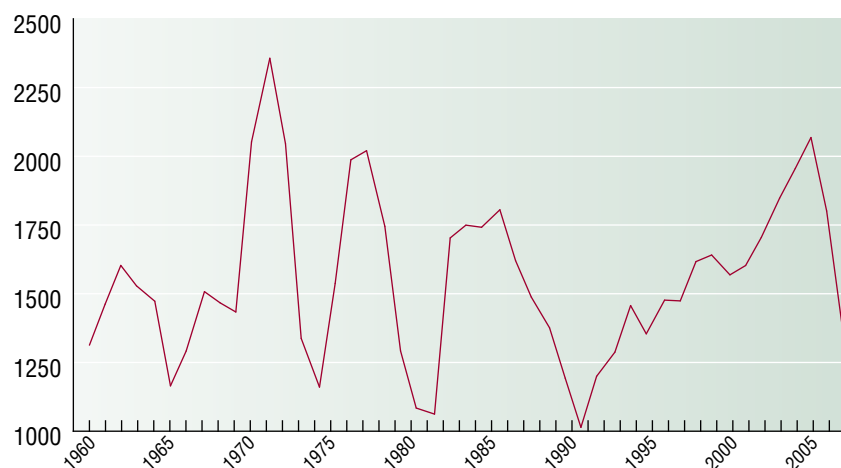
From June to October 2007, Indonesian and Malaysian prices for logs and sawnwood rose and many analysts expected the positive trend to continue. However, prices for Indonesian plywood and peeler logs dropped at the start of the monsoon season in October. Malaysian prices for sawn timber and logs rose modestly in the second half due to the monsoons, which limited availability of fresh logs (*Figure 5*). The monsoon season also affected areas of Northern Congo and the Central African Republic, which struggled to obtain raw material in the wet conditions.

China continues to shine

Despite the volatility in global markets, China continued to show strong growth during the second half of 2007. Chinese experts estimated that the total value of China's wooden door output would exceed RMB 40 billion (us\$5.4 billion) by the end of 2007, with the value of wooden door exports reaching us\$700 million. Wooden furniture imports and exports grew 10.5% during the first three quarters of 2007 from the same period in 2006, with the total export value of wooden furniture (us\$4.78 billion) rising 4.5% from the same period in 2006. During the first three quarters of 2007,

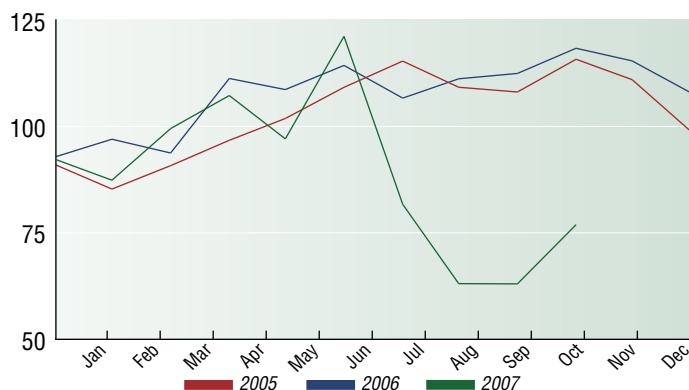
On the way down

Figure 1: US housing starts, 1960–2007



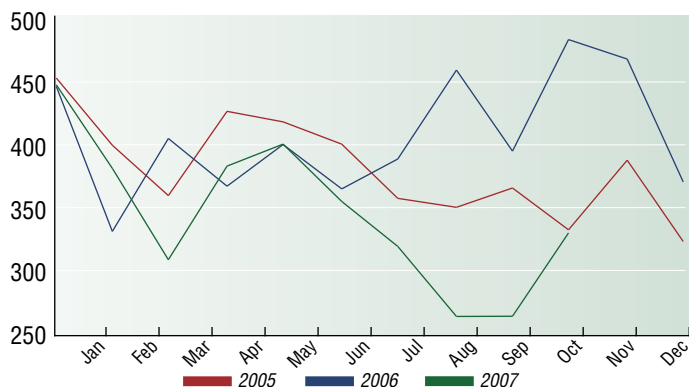
Summer doldrums

Figure 2: Japan monthly housing starts ('000 units, 2005–07)



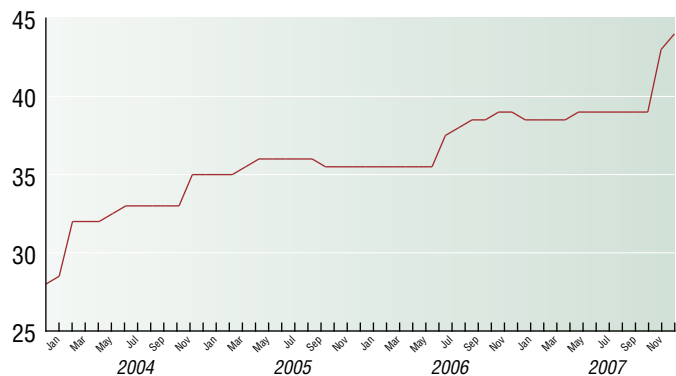
Volatile

Figure 3: Japan monthly plywood imports (m³, 2005–07)



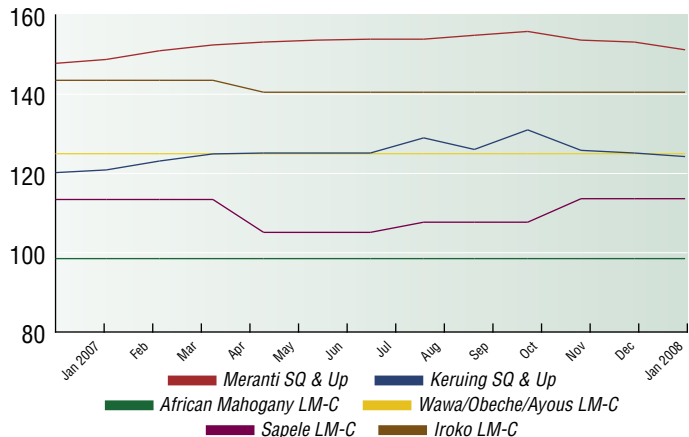
Shipping up

Figure 4: Sarawak to Tokyo ocean freight rates, 2004–07



Logs steady

Figure 5: Selected price trends for West African and Malaysian logs, 2007



the total value of China's major wood products imports and exports rose 31.9% to US\$42.43 billion.

Other exporters mixed

During the second half of 2007, however, results from other regions were less positive. Reports from Brazil indicated that the forest sector was contributing less to the state of Para's GDP, in part due to the slowing approval of forest management plans. Other Brazilian reports also drew attention to the increasing amount of illegal log transport, due partly to a lack of military police to conduct inspections on logging trucks.

In November 2007, exports of Brazilian wood products (excluding pulp and paper) increased 2.7% compared to the same month last year, growing in value from US\$344.8 million to \$353.9 million. The price of elliotis pine plywood also slumped in the second half, due to the uncertainty surrounding the US dollar and corresponding changes in plywood prices. During the second half, the price of pine plywood in the US was nearly 10% lower than in Europe (pine plywood prices in Europe have traditionally been lower than those in the US).

In other areas of South America, Guyana's forest products exports increased 3% in volume, or by approximately US\$2 million when compared to 2006. Total value of forest products exports for 2007 was US\$61.5 million. Sawn timber, round logs and plywood accounted for the bulk of the products exported. Other important exported products included garden furniture, shingles and doors.

Bolivia's wood exports slowed due to fuel scarcity during the period of August to September 2007. There were problems with fuel supplies in the autumn, which at times cut Bolivian companies' production capacity in half. Nevertheless, it was estimated that Bolivia's wood exports reached US\$115 million in value in 2007, a 10% increase compared to 2006. High-value added products accounted for 62.5% of total wood exports in 2007, compared to 55.5% in 2006.

Due to the response of the Myanmar government to civil unrest in 2007, the EU imposed (and the US strengthened existing) bans on timber from Myanmar and restrictions on other investments. Prior to the EU announcement, Myanmar log prices slumped in late September/early October. When the EU ban was implemented in mid-October, it prohibited European imports of logs from Myanmar and prevented European companies from providing machinery to and investments in Myanmar timber companies. In late December, the US Senate approved the Burma Democracy Promotion Act, outlawing the import of Myanmar timber by the US. Despite these actions, demand for Myanmar's natural teak remained strong, with prices rising for higher grades in December 2007, while prices for lower grades declined.

At the close of 2007, tropical timber trade slowed due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays in most markets. The holiday season and economic conditions (including increasing transport costs) continued to slow tropical timber demand in most markets into the first quarter of 2008.

Fellowship report

Two ITTO Fellowship recipients identify trends and developments in African forest management and governance

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AFRICA'S TROPICAL MOIST FORESTS are primarily concentrated in the countries of the Congo Basin (Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Central African Republic) and in the equatorial parts of West Africa (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria). They respectively cover 236 million and 75 million hectares and support a population of almost 200 million inhabitants. They are managed for various purposes: a quarter of the total area is assigned for multiple uses, a third primarily to the production of timber, a sixth to biodiversity conservation and approximately five percent to the protection of soils and water. African forests are currently characterized by the absence of a common model of sustainable management, with approaches to their management varying by use.

Industrial concessions

In tropical Africa (and Central Africa in particular), commercial forestry is primarily carried out under the concession system. Concessions are forests of variable size in which companies are awarded the right to the industrial exploitation of timber for a specified period. In recent decades, the management of production forests has been based on the concept of development-exploitation which involves the concessionaire-industrialist in all stages of the management plans, from development through implementation. Management plans, in addition to technical and economic aspects, must now take into account social and environmental considerations. Therefore, partnerships are established and various actors or parties concerned (governments, companies, NGOs and populations) take part in the management of forest areas. Many forest concessions in the Congo Basin have initiated a process of long-term development and certification, the latter being the recognition of good sustainable management practices. The

total areas of forest concessions in Central Africa committed to the process of sustainable management is estimated at almost 31 million hectares. Sustainable management is characterized by a thorough knowledge of the resource, a low rate of extraction per hectare, the introduction of reduced impact logging and long cutting cycles. Major gaps in the sustainable management of industrial concessions have included a low level of concern for regeneration of the forest and weaknesses in public participation and consultation mechanisms for permitting equitable access to the decision-making process by all stakeholders.

Protected forest areas

The management of protected forest areas in the region has undergone radical changes during the past decade. Protected forest areas cover approximately 32 million hectares in tropical Africa. Some of them, established before independence, were formerly characterized by the central government's monopoly over control and protection, including the exclusion of local populations and, frequently, the prohibition of traditional uses of the fauna and flora. Nowadays, the participation of rural populations living within or near protected areas in their management is generally accepted and is implemented under a combination of integrated development and conservation approaches. The need for managing protected areas by taking into account the needs and rights of the local populations was clearly stated at the time of the 1982 World Congress on Parks. The best way to achieve conservation goals is not to exclude people from protected areas, but to manage human activities so that they do not undermine the values which led to their establishment. Various initiatives throughout the region show that conservation entrusted to local communities can give satisfactory results (e.g. Dja fauna reserve in Cameroon, Lopé reserve in Gabon, ECOFAC in Central Africa). While the main characteristic of this type

Fellowships awarded

Twenty-two fellowships were awarded at the 43rd session of the International Tropical Timber Council in November 2007. Awardees were:

Mr Nelson Abila (Nigeria), to participate in a short training internship on 'Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Ecosystem Service Valuation'; **Mr Winston Adams Asante (Ghana)**, to undertake Masters research on 'Controlled Felling and Skidder Disturbance in Reduced Impact Logging'; **Mr Mvondo Samuel Assembe (Cameroon)**, to undertake PhD research on 'Sustainable Forests Management Principles and International Customary Law'; **Mr Constantino Aucua Chutas (Peru)**, to attend a training program on 'Use and Management of Cloud Forests in the Abra Patricia—Alto Nieva Private Conservation Area'; **Ms Teodora Dogup Balangcod (Philippines)**, to prepare a PhD thesis titled 'Geographic Distribution, Ecology and Reproductive Biology of *Lilium philippinense* Baker, an Endemic Species in the Cordillera Central Range, Luzon Island, Philippines'; **Mr Sharad Kumar Baral (Nepal)**, to undertake Masters research on 'Impacts of Forest Management on Selected Ecosystem Properties: A Case Study from Two Community Forests of Mid-hills in Nepal'; **Mr Diego Fernando Bermeo (Ecuador)**, to undertake a Masters program in 'Management and Conservation of Tropical Forest and Biodiversity'; **Ms Savita Bisht (India)**, to prepare a technical document on 'NTFPs in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, India'; **Ms Raquel Correias Bulegio (Bolivia)**, to undertake Masters program in 'Forest Science'; **Dr Claudio Henrique Soares Del Menezzi (Brazil)**, to participate in the 10th World Conference on Timber Engineering in Miyazaki, Japan; **Mr Arun Dhakal (Nepal)**, to prepare a technical document on 'Productivity and Silviculture of Five Economically Important Timber Species of Central Terai of Nepal'; **Mr Oyétoundé Djiwa (Togo)**, to prepare a Masters thesis on 'Participation of Populations in the Sustainable Management of Community Forests in Francophone West Africa: Case of Togo'; **Mr Jean-Pierre Kampé (Congo)**, to prepare a PhD thesis on 'Influence of the parameters of the soil on the space distribution and the growth of *Pterocarpus soyauxii* Taubert (Fabaceae) and its associated flora in Mayombe'; **Mr Kouakou Bob Kouadio (Cote d'Ivoire)**, to undertake a short training course on 'Forest Management Tools'; **Ms Alba Lucia Marin Valencia (Colombia)**, to undertake a Masters program in 'Wild Area and Nature Conservation'; **Mr Pierre Paul Mbarga (Cameroon)**, to attend a short training course on 'Forest Management Tools'; **Ms Mercy Che Ndikum (Cameroon)**, to undertake a post-graduate diploma in 'Sustainable Forest Ecosystem and Landscape Management in the Tropics and Sub-tropics'; **Ms Gladys Nchang Neba (Cameroon)**, to undertake a horticultural internship program; **Ms Philomène Nkoulou (Gabon)**, to undertake a program in 'Economics and Sustainable Forest Management'; **Mr Caleb Boateng Ofori (Ghana)**, to undertake PhD research on 'Monitoring Forest Resources using Amphibians as Indicators'; **Mr Josua Vu Ralulu (Fiji)**, to earn a diploma in 'Wood Manufacturing'; and **Ms Rina Susanti (Indonesia)**, to undertake a MSc program in 'Tropical Forestry and Management'.

of participative management remains biodiversity conservation, priority is also given to the supply of environmental goods and services to local stakeholders in order to guarantee the sustainable conservation of the ecosystem involved.

Community forests

Innovative approaches to the management of community forests are being experimented with throughout the region, especially in Cameroon. These forests are designed to meet the needs of local stakeholders for social justice, economic benefits, healthy forests and responsible use. They have evolved with the trend towards decentralizing forest management in many countries, in order to ensure the respect of customary rights and to ensure a more equitable distribution of the benefits derived from forests. However, the practice of community forestry gives rise to many controversies. Objectives to safeguard biodiversity resources and improve the well-being of the communities concerned are often not attained. The sharing of rights and responsibilities is often far from equitable. Nevertheless, the importance of engaging with local communities to improve forest management justifies on-going efforts to build technical and socio-economic capacity for SFM within them.

Plantation forests

Plantations cover 1 678 000 and 612 000 hectares in West and Central Africa, respectively. Plantation establishment has been most rapid in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Benin and Togo. Tropical plantations in the region are extremely diverse in terms of species, objectives and stakeholders (and, consequently, social, economic and ecological impacts). Large scale plantations are undertaken by State organisations or private companies. They are generally established on non-forest land or land that has long remained inactive. Plantations have been established with commercial species such as iroko, moabi, sipo, sapele, etc, or with fast growing species such as framiré, fraké, ayous, limba, teak, eucalyptus, pine, etc. In spite of the controversies they sometimes raise, the development of forest plantations generates potentially positive effects on sustainable development at the local, national and regional level. However, problems of land use allocation and the rights of local populations have raised questions about the management and sustainability of some plantations.

... continued from page 17

species by end-use application, grouping species by common physical and mechanical properties.

Forest-based communities and small forest enterprises will particularly benefit from the outputs of this project, since the areas available to them will have greater relative value compared to current levels of utilization and market focus. Often, these entities do not have knowledge of extended species utilization, nor the resources for marketing and product development. The entire forest industry will benefit from expanding the current species utilization base, allowing increased production while maintaining sustainable forest management principles.

Future activities

The results of all LUS testing and the subsequent forest industry training program will be included in the final report of the project. In addition, promotional booklets on targeted LUS will be distributed at the local and regional levels.

African tropical forest governance

The increased focus on sustainable management has led many African governments to initiate several activities to improve overall forest governance in the region. Prominent among these are the African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG) process, participative management of protected areas and new tax reforms.

AFLEG

Realizing that corruption, illegal logging and illegal trade of forest products created enormous economic and social costs, the G-8 countries and the World Bank launched a Forest Action Plan to fight against these problems less than a decade ago. The related African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG) process was subsequently initiated within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The first AFLEG ministerial conference was convened in October 2003. The AFLEG Declaration or Action Plan arising from the conference advocated actions relating to legislative and institutional reform, capacity-building, information, the enforcement of laws and follow-up actions, protection of faunal resources, management of forests and the financing of markets and trade. To this end, the majority of countries in the region have put in place new forest policies and initiated the development of rules applicable to either the whole forest sector or to particular fields which needed to be regulated. In addition, civil society, international organizations, NGOs and donors have become involved through new partnerships to assist programmes for the management of the forest sector and the implementation of forest codes.

Participative management

The largely government-led monopoly on management of national forests in Africa has led to decline of the sector and degradation of the resource. Democratic movements and the ongoing international dialogue on sustainable forests management prompted a search for solutions to the problems arising from traditional systems of forest management. Participative management or co-administration of protected areas has been defined as a form of partnership allowing the various actors involved in safeguarding nature to share the functions, rights and responsibilities of managing a territory or a range of resources enjoying statutory protection. This new alternative is at the heart of legislative reforms in Africa and has

The GFC has already commenced work on additional activities to boost development of the forest sector. The local industry in Guyana has shown significant interest in adding value locally and many mills have undertaken production of high quality timber products for niche markets. Demand has remained strong for Guyana's timber products for use in outdoor applications, including marine, construction and decking end-uses, along with indoor applications such as flooring and furniture. The GFC will continue to work with the forest sector in Guyana to ensure that a high level of quality is maintained in forest products to raise Guyana's image in international markets.

The project has been very successful in building a solid foundation for expanding the species utilization base of Guyana. This will certainly decrease the pressure on prime commercial species and continue to enhance the development of the forest sector in Guyana.

Project outputs are available from the ITTO Secretariat (fi@itto.or.jp).

been tested in several countries, including in the forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

New laws in many African countries have enshrined the participative process in the development of policies and programs relating to protected areas, community forests, program planning and forest management activities, through consultation mechanisms, decentralization and privatization. Community initiatives remain the main type of participative approach in Africa, although some countries are not particularly favourable to them.

Forest taxation

Studies of the contribution of revenue from forest taxation to the economic and industrial development of African countries have been on-going for many years. They have shown that taxes can increase forest rent and promote the economy if the proceeds are properly invested for the benefit of national entrepreneurs and to promote local processing of raw material. Recent tax reforms in many countries have been undertaken within the framework of improving forest governance. Others have been mandated by the World Bank as part of structural adjustment programs. The aim of many tax reforms is to define a dual economic and ecological objective of taxation (e.g. a tax on deforestation). In addition to more specific taxes and charges, the majority of the countries of the Congo Basin have retained taxes on surface area exploited and on felling and export volumes. In addition to the taxes stipulated by national forest codes, some countries, such as the Central African Republic, have retained forest taxes in the customs taxation system. In 2003, the Democratic Republic of Congo was applying nearly 155 different taxes and charges to an over-burdened forest sector. However, in spite of the multiplicity of taxes, rates are rarely adjusted and (at least individually) are not prohibitive. New tax mechanisms are also being tested, especially in Western Africa. They entail decentralization of the whole taxation system (Nigeria) or within a common national framework (Mali,

Niger and Cameroon) or under centralized management with the sharing of the revenue from taxation with regions (Ghana, Togo). The outcome of these at times controversial reforms remains debatable. In general government revenues from taxation have increased throughout the region but the sustainable management of forests has been slower to show improvements.

Generally speaking, the multiplication of taxes and charges, the absence or weakness of controls and the corruption of state agents facilitate illegal logging and illegal trade. These shady practices hinder the progress intended to result from the reforms, with the risk of competitiveness loss, decline of the sector, and obstacles to national development.

Conclusion

The need for sustainable management of Africa's forests is undeniable. Central and Western Africa are different in regards to the management of their forest resources because of their differing development in economic and demographic terms. In Central Africa, there is a desire to establish sustainable management of forest concessions and to establish protected areas for the conservation of biodiversity. West Africa is more concerned with not only the conservation and sustainable management of the remaining forests, but mainly with the restoration of its vegetation cover and its forest resources, hence the interest in establishing plantations, in particular with fast growing species. Decentralization and privatization initiatives are generally more effective in Western than in Central Africa. Forest governance has evolved at the theoretical level, with legislative reforms already carried out or in progress in many countries to fulfil the requirements of the AFLEG process. However, practical implementation of reforms has not yet proven effective because of the resistance to new reforms and insufficient capacity.

The complete reports of the ITTO Fellowships that this article is based on are available from the ITTO Secretariat (fellowship@itto.or.jp).

ITTO fellowships offered

ITTO offers fellowships through the Freezailah Fellowship Fund to promote human resource development and to strengthen professional expertise in member countries in tropical forestry and related disciplines. The goal is to promote the sustainable management of tropical forests, the efficient use and processing of tropical timber, and better economic information about the international trade in tropical timber.

Eligible activities include:

- participation in short-term training courses, training internships, study tours, lecture/demonstration tours and international/regional conferences;
- technical document preparation, publication and dissemination, such as manuals and monographs; and
- post-graduate studies.

Priority areas: eligible activities aim to develop human resources and professional expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- improving transparency of the international tropical timber market;

- promoting tropical timber from sustainably managed sources;
- supporting activities to secure tropical timber resources;
- promoting sustainable management of tropical forest resources;
- promoting increased and further processing of tropical timber from sustainable sources; and
- improving industry's efficiency in the processing and utilization of tropical timber from sustainable sources.

In any of the above, the following are relevant:

- enhancing public relations, awareness and education;
- sharing information, knowledge and technology; and
- research and development.

Selection criteria: Fellowship applications will be assessed against the following selection criteria (in no priority order):

- consistency of the proposed activity with the Program's objective and priority areas;

- qualifications of the applicant to undertake the proposed fellowship activity;
- the potential of the skills and knowledge acquired or advanced under the fellowship activity to lead to wider applications and benefits nationally and internationally; and
- reasonableness of costs in relation to the proposed fellowship activity.

The maximum amount for a fellowship grant is US\$10 000. Only nationals of ITTO member countries are eligible to apply. The next deadline for applications is **3 September 2008** for activities that will begin no sooner than 1 January 2009. Applications will be appraised in November 2008.

Further details and application forms (in English, French or Spanish) are available at www.itto.or.jp or please write to Dr Chisato Aoki, Fellowship Program, ITTO; Fax 81-45-223 1111; fellowship@itto.or.jp (see page 2 for ITTO's postal address).

Edited
by
Ken Sato

► **Alcalde, M. and Kingman, S. (eds.), 2007. *Bi-national Peace and Conservation in the Cordillera del Condor of Ecuador-Peru*. ITTO, Yokohama, Japan. ISBN 978-9978-58-141-4**

Available from: ITTO Secretariat (see page 2 for contact details)



This book aims to illustrate the natural and human importance of a trans-boundary region which at one time was an area of conflict. It is the result of joint efforts carried out over more than four years and promoted by both Ecuador and Peru, with the help of ITTO projects

PD 2/00 REV.2(F) 'Bi-national Peace and Conservation in the Cordillera del Condor, Ecuador-Peru, Ecuadorian Component' and PD 3/00 REV.2(F) 'Bi-national Peace and Conservation in the Cordillera del Condor, Ecuador-Peru, Peruvian Component'.

Available in English and Spanish

► **Magrath, W. B., Grandalski, R. L., Stuckey, G. L., Vikanes, G. B. and Wilkinson, G. R., 2007. *Timber Theft Prevention: Introduction to Security for Forest Managers*. The World Bank, Washington, D.C.**

Available online at: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXT/EAPINFRASTRUCT/Resource/10888-WB_TimberTheft-WEB.pdf?resourceurlname=10888-WB_TimberTheft-WEB.pdf



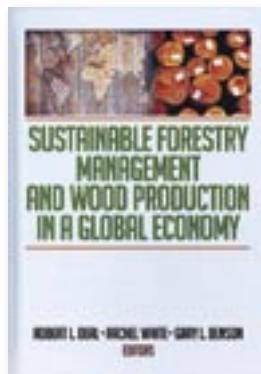
This report focuses on illegal logging as a predictable consequence of poor forest management planning and practice. It details the need to improve on the basics of good forest planning, resource assessment and consultation. The authors draw on such fields as criminology, economics, risk

management and industrial asset security for ideas to protect a wide range of forest products and values from theft. The authors recommend carefully planned efforts by forest managers to identify and target the most serious threats and to address the most vulnerable parts of forest supply chains. The report describes specific technologies and practices, while emphasizing that timber theft prevention is basically a matter of creative planning and that begins with the creation of honest and ethical organizations.

The report will prove a valuable resource for forest managers and enterprises, policy-makers, law enforcers, and everyone interested in forest issues.

► **Deal, R., White, R. and Benson G.L. (eds.), 2007. *Sustainable Forestry Management and Wood Production in a Global Economy*. Haworth Food & Agricultural Products Press, Binghamton, N.Y. ISBN 978-1-56022-165-4**

Available from: www.taylorandfrancis.com

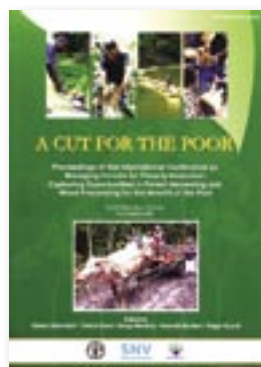


This book examines developing issues and key methods involved in sustaining wood production while maintaining other forest resources. A wide range of topics regarding sustainable forestry at local to global scales are discussed by internationally recognized forestry experts. It discusses issues such as the development of conservation reserves in Australia; the silviculture of Scottish Forests; opportunities and barriers for management in Central America; and monitoring sustainable forest management

in the Pacific Rim. It offers a diverse set of viewpoints that integrate wood production issues with sustainable forest management. Influences on decision making such as pricing, replanting, and subsidies are discussed, as well as future challenges such as pollution and climate change. The book is a valuable resource for forestry researchers, forest landowners and managers, forest policy specialists, educators, and students of sustainable forest management.

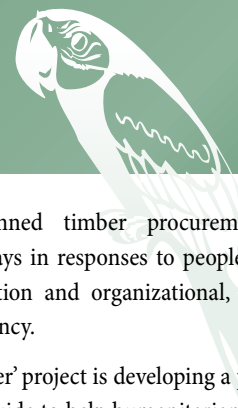
► **FAO, RECOFTC and SNV, 2007. *A Cut for the Poor*. FAO, Rome, Italy. ISBN 978-974-7946-97-0**

Available online at: www.recoftc.org/site/fileadmin/docs/e-letter-documents/eleter2007/CF_E-News_September_2007_FINAL.htm



A Cut for the Poor is the proceedings of the 'International Conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction: Capturing Opportunities in Forest Harvesting and Wood Processing for the Benefit of the Poor', held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in October of 2006. The conference was a collaboration between FAO, SNV, RECOFTC, ITTO and other organizations in an effort to recognize the challenges of both poverty reduction and sustainable forest management.

This publication will benefit development workers, government officials, policy makers, private-sector decision makers, and field practitioners in directing reforms and establishing support mechanisms that will facilitate the realization of poverty reduction objectives while protecting and sustaining forest resources for long-term benefit.



Edited
by
Ken Sato

Mangroves going fast

Mangroves, the salt-tolerant evergreen forests found along coastlines, lagoons and rivers in over a hundred tropical and sub-tropical countries and locations are being lost at an alarming rate. Halting the rapid loss of mangroves requires better protection and management programs in many countries.

Mangroves are essential for providing wood, food, and medicine for humans, and habitats for many animals. They also act as buffers by protecting land from erosion, cyclones and wind as well as filtering sediment and pollution from water upstream and preventing it from disturbing the delicate balance of ecosystems like coral reefs.

The main causes of the destruction of mangroves include population pressure, conversion for shrimp and fish farming, agriculture, infrastructure and tourism, as well as pollution and natural disasters. A recent FAO assessment (online at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1427e/a1427e00.htm>) shows that 3.6 million hectares of mangroves have been lost around the world since 1980. Although studies show a slowdown in the destruction between the years 2000 and 2005, the loss still continues at an alarming rate. The deforestation of mangroves is significantly higher than other forest and, if it continues, may lead to severe losses of biodiversity and livelihoods, as well as salt intrusion in coastal areas and siltation of coral reefs.

ITTO is currently working with the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems, FAO and other organizations on a World Atlas of Mangroves to be published later this year. This Atlas will provide a baseline for monitoring future changes in mangrove areas.

US chops visa permits to Cambodian officials tied to illegal logging

Cambodian officials tied to illegal logging could be denied visas to enter the United States according to the news agency AFP. The US law, which was enacted last December, will deny visas to Cambodian officials and their relatives who have been identified as guilty of destroying Cambodia's forests in a 2007 report by the London-based environmental watchdog Global Witness.

The report titled *Cambodia's Family Trees*, named several Cambodian Forest and Agriculture authorities as being actively involved in the destruction of Cambodia's natural resources. Although the travel ban on the Cambodian officials by the US is being seen as a strike against illegal logging, it remains to be seen whether it will have an impact on forest governance in the country.

Seeking inputs for humanitarian timber guide

Huge quantities of timber costing millions of dollars are consumed in humanitarian relief and reconstruction

programs. Poorly planned timber procurement can result in significant delays in responses to people's needs, environmental degradation and organizational, financial and operational inefficiency.

The 'humanitarian timber' project is developing a practical, consensus-based field guide to help humanitarian workers with the use, specification and procurement of timber. The guide will cover timber, bamboo and timber derivatives. The project is supported by UN/OCHA, IFRC and CARE International.

The guide will be published later in 2008 once peer reviews are complete. Workshops have been held in Indonesia, London and Bangladesh to date with future review workshops scheduled in North America and Kenya.

Visit www.humanitarian timber.org for more information and to participate in inputs to the current draft which can be downloaded from the website.

Return of malaria causes buzz

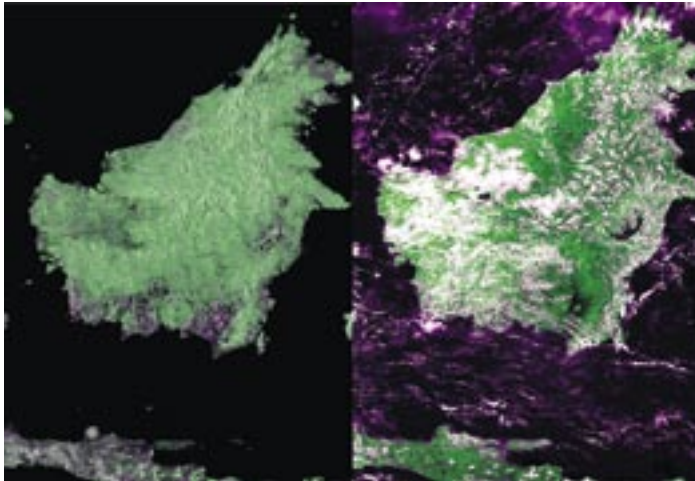
The buzz of saws harvesting trees is joined by a softer, yet, more alarming buzz of mosquitoes carrying malaria back into parts of Peru that were free of the mosquito-borne disease for 40 years. Deforestation and climate change are reported to be the main culprits that have returned the disease that causes fevers, permanent anemia and sometimes death in those afflicted by the illness.

According to an article released in late 2007 in the Guardian, the disease was almost completely eradicated within Peru 40 years ago, but in 2007 over 60 000 cases were reported. It is believed that many more cases have gone unreported in areas deep within the humid rainforest which are difficult to access for health officials.

Hugo Rodriguez, a doctor at the Andean Health Organization combating malaria in border areas of Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela by distributing mosquito nets to some villagers, stated that the disease is beyond the point of being eradicated and efforts now are only aimed at controlling it. Climate change in the form of off-season rain is leaving puddles and other bodies of still water which are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. In addition, deforestation is leaving large open areas which are also ideal in supporting the conditions for mosquito breeding grounds.

Indonesia and Japan reach agreement to introduce new remote sensing technology

The governments of Indonesia and Japan (through the Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA) recently reached an agreement to introduce the new PALSAR (cloud-free remote sensing) technology into Indonesia's Forest Resources Monitoring and Assessment System. Remote sensing technologies have contributed substantially to



Seeing clearly: PALSAR (*left*) compared to MODIS (*right*) image of Borneo (23 May, 2007)

ED addresses Yokohama Council



ITTO's Executive Director, Emmanuel Ze Meka, addressed the Yokohama City Council last December at a specially convened session. Yokohama has hosted the ITTO headquarters since the Organization commenced operational activities in 1986. Mr Ze Meka thanked the city and its residents for more than 20 years of support and urged the city to continue to back ITTO as it tackled new challenges to the sustainable management of tropical forests. He stressed that core issues addressed by ITTO such as climate change, poverty, illegal logging and biodiversity are all linked and that strategies to tackle them require the type of holistic approach embodied in the concept of sustainable forest management that ITTO has been promoting throughout its existence. He also focused on the importance of environmental education in tackling such problems and offered ITTO's input to engaging with local children (possibly together with those from other countries to promote international understanding) about important issues facing tropical forests.

Mr Ze Meka presented a plan for an ITTO-sponsored international conference on the role of sustainable management of tropical forests in mitigating climate change in Yokohama in April 2008. He stressed the importance of this initiative for helping ITTO to formulate activities to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from tropical forests. Mr Ze Meka noted that further enhancing cooperation between ITTO and the city of Yokohama in areas such as public education and sustainable management of tropical forests would contribute to the battle against climate change, a problem with grave implications for humanity.

Mr Ze Meka also congratulated the city of Yokohama for being selected to host the fourth international conference on African development (TICAD IV) in May 2008, an event which will also place the issue of climate change high on its agenda and in which ITTO will actively participate (meeting details on p30).

Photo: K. Sato, ITTO

better understanding of the status of forests. One of the weaknesses of conventional technologies that use optical sensors, such as those of Landsat-TM and MODIS, is their inability to penetrate through clouds.

Cloud-penetrating SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) technologies that use microwave-based sensors have recently become available. With Japan's assistance, PALSAR (Phased Array type L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar) technology will be used by Indonesia to monitor its forests in future. Recent studies indicate that this technology is unique even among other SAR technologies. In addition to monitoring forests, it allows experts to estimate biomass and CO₂ equivalent volumes at earlier stages of ecological succession relatively economically. The use of PALSAR technology in CO₂ inventories will also be tested. The same technology is contributing to monitoring illegal logging and deforestation in the Amazon.

Work to introduce PALSAR to Indonesia is expected to start in June 2008 and will continue for three years. Training opportunities for those who are involved in forest resources monitoring and assessment in Indonesia will be provided. The PALSAR sensor is currently on the ALOS (Advanced Land Observing Satellite) launched by JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) in 2006.

Letter

Dear Sir,

Recently, data regarding the increased deforestation in the Amazon has been widely publicized. This has led to generalized discussion and all sorts of proposals for changing this situation. These proposals focus on increasing law enforcement, which tend to present a solution with more restrictive legislation allied to more bureaucracy. This policy has been followed in the last few years but evidence suggests that it has not produced the expected results. One can note an absence of proposals to promote forestry development in the region which is unfortunate since I think forestry activities are more suitable to the region than agriculture. In fact, forestry activities, including forest management, are most of the time perceived as detrimental to the forest resources.

I would like to suggest that press releases with concrete examples (data, figures, photos, etc.) all over the world

2008 Training Course on Bamboo Technologies for Developing Countries

1 June–30 July 2008
Hangzhou, China

The objectives of the course, sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOCOM) and hosted by the China National Bamboo Research Center (CBRC), are to inform participants about the current situation in the bamboo industries of China and the rest of the world, to master basic theories and principles associated with bamboo technology and to create a platform for productive collaboration to broaden awareness and capacity of integrated development in the bamboo industry. Topics covered in the course include bamboo cultivation, processing, utilization, marketing, and policy making. Field visits to Zhejiang, Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces are scheduled. International participants are welcome. Support to cover tuition, travel and living expenses for participants is available on request.

Contact: International Cooperation Division, China National Bamboo Research Center (CBRC); Prof Ding Xingcui, Director of International Cooperation Division; No 310, Wenyi Rd., Hangzhou, 310012, Zhejiang Province, PR China; Tel/Fax +86 571 8886 9217; cbrc@mail.hz.zj.cn

ProForest Summer Training Programme

21–25 July 2008
Oxford, UK
Application deadline: July 6 2008

The following short courses will be offered by ProForest this summer:

1. Understanding forest certification
2. Responsible purchasing and production of agricultural commodities
3. Responsible purchasing of forest products including product tracing and chain of custody
4. The high conservation value concept: an introduction
5. Identifying and managing high conservation values within natural resource production systems
6. Forest governance and illegal logging: an introduction
7. Forests and climate change: an introduction
8. Understanding social requirements within certification: an introduction

Contact: Andry Rakotovololona; Andry@proforest.net; www.proforest.net

International seminar on protected area management

4–22 August 2008
Missoula, Montana, USA
Cost: US\$5400

Invited participants for this US Forest Service-supported course are selected to reflect the widest possible geographic distribution and diversity of experience. Program activities will take advantage of the experience of the participants, as well as the unique heritage of the Rocky Mountain field locations included in the seminar. The program is designed for English-speaking senior natural

resource management professionals who desire to improve their managerial capabilities and administrative skills.

Contact/application: Wayne Freimund, University of Montana; wayne@forestry.umn.edu; www.fs.fed.us/global/is

Environmental Management International Training

4–22 September 2008
Nahalal, Israel
Cost: 2250 € (Euro)
Application deadline: 15 July 2008

This course will assist participants in overcoming the present challenges in the area of environmental management by providing in-depth training aimed at acquiring new methodologies for approaching and dealing with difficulties involving the establishment and maintenance of efficient, cost-effective and economically safe environments.

The duration of the program is 19 days and is comprised of 150 academic hours. Requirements for participants are that they hold a first degree from a university – BA or BSc, are proficient in English and hold a managerial position in the field of environment or environment-related profession.

The program is conducted twice a year, usually at the beginning of the year and towards the end of the year. Participants may qualify for a tuition scholarship valued at 2250 € upon acceptance to the course and will need only to cover airfare to and from Israel and living expenses.

Contact: Environmental Management International Training; Mr Eyal Weissbuch, Programme Director; International Department, Galilee-College PO Box 208, Nahalal 10600, Israel; Tel: 972-4-642-8888; Fax: 972-4-6514811; eweissbuch@galilcol.ac.il; www.galilcol.ac.il

World Forest Institute international fellowships

Portland, Oregon, USA

The World Forest Institute Fellowship Program brings forestry and natural resources professionals from around the world to work at the World Forest Institute for six to 12 month periods. Fellows conduct an independent research project developed in conjunction with his/her sponsor. Projects are typically either policy or marketing studies, and may have an environmental, social or economic focus. Activities involve information gathering through interviews, meeting with forestry organizations, and taking organized field trips. Fellows typically summarize their projects in a report and poster published by the WFI. A large component of the program involves traveling and visiting with professionals in the Pacific Northwest forest sector. Fellows visit forestlands, research sites, manufacturing facilities, and NGOs. Additionally, Fellows gain valuable cultural experience and English language skills. Proposals are now being accepted, with a matching grant available to cover up to half of the Fellowship fee.

Contact: World Forest Institute, a program of the World Forestry Center; Angie DiSalvo, International Fellowship Program Manager; 4033 SW Canyon Road, Portland, OR 97221 USA; (503) 488-2137; adisalvo@worldforestry.org; http://wfi.worldforestry.org

Courses are in English unless otherwise stated. By featuring these courses ITTO doesn't necessarily endorse them. Potential applicants are advised to obtain further information about the courses of interest and the institutions offering them.

should demonstrate that the development of forestry activities can actually contribute to forestry conservation. I know that this information is available in your institutions, however, I think that it should be released not in the form of scientific papers, but in a language that allows those not knowledgeable in the subject to understand.

For example, excessive bureaucracy and unstable rules in Brazil have, indirectly, contributed to illegal logging and conversion of forest areas to other uses. In fact, in Brazil it is much easier to engage in agricultural activities than forestry activities. This serves as a disincentive to the development

of forestry activities and even pushes people to promote unsustainable forestry activities. My suggestion is that this and other related points should be presented to society in order to contribute to demystifying forestry activities and to promote sustainable forestry.

Warmest regards,

Sebastiao Kengen
Brasília – DF

► 30 April–2 May, 2008.

ITTO International Expert Meeting: Addressing Climate Change through Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests. Yokohama, Japan. **Contact:** Hwan Ok Ma, ITTO Secretariat; Tel 81-45-223-1110; Fax 81-45-223-1111; ma@itto.or.jp; www.itto.or.jp

► 12–16 May 2008.

Plant Diversity–World Congress on the Future of Food and Agriculture. Bonn, Germany. **Contact:** www.plant-diversity.org

► 19–21 May 2008.

Forest C&I Analytical Framework and Report Workshop. Joensuu, Finland. **Contact:** rhendricks@fs.fed.us

► 19–30 May 2008.

Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Bonn, Germany. **Contact:** secretariat@cbd.int; www.cbd.int/cop9/

► 28–30 May 2008.

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) IV. Yokohama, Japan. **Contact:** UNDP Tokyo Office; UNU Bldg. 8th Floor, 5-53-70 Jingumae Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001; Tel +1 81-3-5467-4751; kaori.ishii@undp.org; www.ticad.net/

► 2–5 June 2008.

10th World Conference on Timber Engineering

(WCTE 2008). Miyazaki, Japan. **Contact:** Yoshiyasu Fujimoto; Miyazaki Prefectural Wood Utilization Research Center, 21-2 Hanaguri Miyakonojo City, 885-0037, Japan; Tel 81-986-46-6041; Fax 81-986-46-6047; conference_s@wcte2008.com; www.wcte2008.com

► 9–12 June 2008.

Meeting on Operational Modalities of Future Work of the ITTC. Accra, Ghana. **Contact:** Collins E. Ahadome, ITTO Secretariat; Tel 81-45-223-1110; Fax 81-45-223-1111; ahadome@itto.or.jp; www.itto.or.jp

► 9–12 June 2008. **FAO North American Forest Commission–24th Session.** San Juan, Puerto Rico. **Contact:** FAO Forestry Department; www.fao.org/forestry/site/31117/en/

► 10 June 2008. **FAO Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products–49th session.** Bakubung, South Africa. **Contact:** Mr Wulf Killmann, FAO Forestry Department; wulf.killmann@fao.org; www.fao.org/forestry/site/9530/en/

► 25–27 June 2008. **UNFCCC Reducing emissions from deforestation methodologies workshop.** Tokyo, Japan. **Contact:** UNFCCC Secretariat; PO Box 260124, D-53153 Bonn,

Germany; Tel 49-228 815-1000; Fax 49-228 815-1999; secretariat@unfccc.int; <http://unfccc.int>

► 7–11 July 2008. **11th International Coral Reef Symposium.** Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. **Contact:** Nancy Copen, Meeting Manager; Tel 1-301-634-7010; ncopen@faseb.org; www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs

► 14–18 July 2008. **CITES Standing Committee 57th Meeting.** Geneva, Switzerland. **Contact:** CITES Secretariat; Tel 41-(0)22-917-81-39/40; Fax 41-(0)22-797-34-17; info@cites.org; www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/index.shtml

► 15–17 July 2008. **FAO/ITTO Regional Workshop on Improving Forest Law Compliance and Governance in Tropical West Africa.** Accra, Ghana. **Contact:** Eva Muller (Eva.Muller@fao.org); Steve Johnson (johnson@itto.or.jp)

► 25–28 August 2008. **Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Changing Climate with Emphasis on Forest Health: A Review of Science, Policies, and Practices.** Umeå, Sweden. **Contacts:** Ms Camilla Persson (registration and accommodation), Camilla.Persson@umea.fh.se; Dr Göran Hallsby (local organizer secretariat), Goran.Hallsby@ssko.slu.se; Professor Björn Hånell

(conference co-chair), Bjorn.Hanell@ssko.slu.se; www.forestadaptation2008.net/home/en/

► 29 September–3 October 2008. **FAO Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission–25th Session.** Quito, Ecuador. **Contact:** FAO Forestry Department; www.fao.org/forestry/site/31106/en/

► 5–14 October 2008. **IUCN World Conservation Congress: A Diverse and Sustainable World.** Barcelona, Spain. **Contact:** <http://cms.iucn.org/>

► 20–24 October 2008. **FAO European Forestry Commission–34th Session.** Rome, Italy. **Contact:** FAO Forestry Department; www.fao.org/forestry/site/31095/en/

► 3–8 November 2008. **Forty-fourth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees.** Yokohama, Japan. **Contact:** ITTO Secretariat; Tel 81-45-223-1110; Fax 81-45-223-1111; itto@itto.or.jp; www.itto.or.jp

► 10–15 November 2008. **Expert meeting on CITES non-detriment findings.** Huatulco, Oaxaca (to be confirmed), Mexico. **Contact:** Rafael Navarro; irinacer@uco.es; www.cites.org/

► 17–20 November 2008. **The FORTROP II International Conference: Tropical Forestry Change in a Changing World.** Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand. **Contact:** FORTROP II Secretariat; Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, 50 Phaholyothin Rd. Chatuchak Bangkok 10900 Thailand; Tel 66-2-579-0170; Fax 66-2-561-4246; FORTROP2008@ku.ac.th; www.forest.ku.ac.th/FORTROP2008/main/index.php

► 01–12 December 2008. **UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP), Fourteenth session and Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), Fourth session and sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies.** Poznań, Poland. **Contact:** <http://unfccc.int>

► 8–10 December 2008. **International Workshop on Promotion of Rubberwood Processing Technology in the Asia-Pacific Region.** Sanya, Hainan, People's Republic of China. **Contact:** Dr Zhao Youke, Ms Xiong Manzhen, Research Institute of Wood Industry, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Wan Shou Shan, Beijing 100091, China; Tel 86-10-6288-9407 or 86-10-6288-9412; Fax 86-10-6288-1937; yoke.zhao@htomail.com or kjc.mg@caf.ac.cn; www.paneltch.cn/rubberwood/workshop.htm

effortless elegance. She always dressed impeccably and more than one Council delegate remarked that she provided a welcome interruption when delivering an urgent message to the ED on the podium during a lengthy Council presentation or speech. Partly from her alternative medicine studies, Patty was quite health-conscious and insisted on eating well, with the exception of a weakness for fine chocolates. She was smart, sassy and extremely attractive, with a personality that might have been tailored for work in an international organization like ITTO. Patient, humorous and always willing to listen, it is no surprise that she was a favorite of all staff and the whole ITTO family. Perhaps most important, Patty was completely honest and unafraid to confront anyone she felt was not living up to her high standards, either professionally or personally. Such confrontations could be a bit bruising, but they inevitably left the person on the receiving end a better person.

Family ties

Patty was always close to her family, and her two older sisters ('Liliana' – Yuri and 'Doris' – Midori) together with her parents also immigrated to Japan from Peru. Her father was incapacitated when she was small, so the traditional roles of breadwinner and caregiver were switched as her mother went out to work to support the family. This left a deep impression on Patty, who often told her close friends in the office of her gratitude to her mother for working hard all her life to bring up the three sisters. She expressed her gratitude by planning a month-long trip around the world with her mother in September 2007. At the end of the trip, Patty fulfilled her long-time wish of telling her mother 'thank you', leaving both of them in tears.

Patty always cared deeply about her family's well-being, both physically and financially. In November 2007 she decided to finance her nephew's four year university tuition. At an interview, her nephew told the school that the reason he wanted to study languages was to become like his aunt and to work in the international arena, something that made Patty very proud and a little humbled to be a role model.

When Patty found out her cancer was spreading, her reaction was typical. Before leaving for Vancouver for treatment, she worked late hours making arrangements to leave the office in order while she was away. Even when her condition deteriorated in Vancouver and her doctors told her that she needed someone to take care of her, she kept it to herself. When Manami, her colleague and friend of 17 years at ITTO, went to Vancouver for what turned out to be Patty's final days, she found a newly-bought jacket in her hospital room. "Looking at the jacket made me realize that Patty strongly believed that she would overcome the cancer and was determined to come back to ITTO. I also saw a piece of paper full of her signatures. Probably the spreading of her cancer made it painful to write ... just imagining Patty practicing her own signature brought tears to my eyes."

Patty was truly a cornerstone of ITTO. She was one of the key people who helped to build the organization from a little known entity in 1990 to the well-respected, world-class body it is today. She leaves a big hole in the organization and in the hearts of her many friends. But Patty wouldn't want us to waste time mourning. She would tell us that the best way to honor her is to work hard, as she always did, to take ITTO to new heights. And to reward ourselves to a fine chocolate once in a while as we do so.

To Those I Love and Those Who Loved Me

*When I am gone, release me, let me go
I have so many things to see and do
You must not tie yourself to me with tears
Be happy that we had so many beautiful years
I gave to you my love, you can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness
I thank you for the love you've each shown me
But now it's time I travel on, alone
So grieve a while for me if you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust
It's only for a while that we must part
To bless the memories within your hearts
I won't be far away, for life goes on
So, If you need me, call and I will come
Though you can't see or touch me
I'll be near and if you listen with your hearts
You'll hear all my love around you
Soft and clear; and then, when you must
Come this way alone, I'll greet you with a
Smile and say, 'Welcome Home.'*

Message from Patty's family

The Hanashiro Family expresses their sincere gratitude for the kind words, prayers, cards, e-mails, and flowers given in memory of Patricia Hanashiro.

Your kindness and sympathy are more appreciated than words can ever express. As a daughter, sister and friend, Patty will be greatly missed.

ITTO loses a cornerstone

Elena Patricia (‘Patty’) Hanashiro

**26 April 1964 — 10 February
2008**

Passed away in Vancouver,
Canada after a battle with breast
cancer

PATTY HANASHIRO knew that the Peru of the late 1980s was no place for an ambitious young lady. A free-falling economy together with the poor security situation in the country convinced her to leave her native land for Japan, the country of her ancestors, in mid-1988. Patty had studied English and Japanese in Peru, so was well-placed to meet the burgeoning demand for bilingual office staff in the booming Japanese economy of the late 1980s. After 18 months of working for Tokyo-based Japanese companies, in early 1990 Patty answered a newspaper ad for a secretarial position in an international organization that had recently started operations in Yokohama. Thus started her long and distinguished career with ITTO.

Office of the ED

Patty first worked in the division of Management Services where she impressed with her attention to detail and ability to quickly master any task. Within a year her organizational capabilities had brought her to the attention of Dr Freezailah, ITTO’s first Executive Director, and she moved to manage the office of the ED in 1991. This she did exceptionally well, handling the diverse tasks of the office with poise and competence while earning the respect of her colleagues and the many friends she made among the delegates to various ITTC meetings along the way.

ITTO is a small organization and prospects for staff in the general services ranks to develop their careers through internal promotions are limited. In 1997 Patty decided to leave ITTO to undertake further education in Canada. She studied in Vancouver, excelling in her chosen field and making many new friends. She grew very fond of Vancouver, returning many times up until her final visit. In late 1999, Manoel Sobral was elected as ITTO’s second ED. His first (and what he always insisted was his smartest) move as ED was to invite Patty to return to ITTO as his assistant.

Patty’s second stint of running the office of the ED (which started in January 2000) was even more distinguished than her first. ITTO grew steadily more active during this period, with an increasing amount of authority devolved from Council to the ED under the annual and biannual work programs adopted starting in 2003. Patty not only handled the administrative side of this increasing workload, she was also increasingly called on by Dr Sobral to play an

important role in implementing activities. Patty excelled in everything she was asked to do, and often in things that she wasn’t asked to do. Her ability to think independently and anticipate what needed to be done without being told made her indispensable to Dr Sobral, who often commented that it was Patty that was in charge of the office, not him. Amazingly, in addition to all of her work for ITTO during this time, she found time to undertake correspondence study towards a business degree. In 2005, Patty was rewarded for her service when Dr Sobral promoted her to Programme Officer, making her the first ITTO staff member to make the transition from the general to the professional category. When Dr Sobral was replaced by Emmanuel Ze Meka as ED at the end of 2007, Patty helped to ensure a seamless transition in the operation of the office of the ED.

Patty’s competence
was matched by an



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