



**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL
TIMBER COUNCIL**

Distr.
GENERAL

ITTC/EP-52
9 June 2017

Original: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE EXPERT PANEL
FOR TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ITTO PROJECT PROPOSALS**

**Fifty-second Meeting
5 – 9 June 2017, Yokohama, Japan**

Table of Contents

	<u>Pages</u>
Report of the Expert Panel	3
1. Terms of reference	
2. Panel membership	
3. Appraisal procedure and criteria	
4. Appraisal and assessment carried out	
5. General findings and recommendations	
6. Experience from application of the Appraisal System	
7. Panel decisions on Projects and Pre-projects Proposals	
Appendix I Terms of Reference of the Expert Panel.....	9
Appendix II Rating Categories of the ITTO System for Technical Appraisal	10
Appendix III List of Project/Pre-project Proposals reviewed by the Expert Panel.....	11
Appendix IV Membership of the Expert Panel.....	14
Appendix V Scoring table for the assessment of new Project and Pre-project Proposals.....	16
Appendix VI Flow charts for deciding categories in the scoring system	18
Annex Assessment, recommendation and conclusion by the Fifty-second Panel on each Project and Pre-project Proposal	20

**REPORT OF THE EXPERT PANEL FOR THE
TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ITTO PROJECT PROPOSALS
(Expert Panel)
REPORT OF THE FIFTY-SECOND MEETING**

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1 The Expert Panel (ITTC/EP-52) worked in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached, see **Appendix I**. Furthermore it has been guided by the endorsement of the Council at its 40th Session of Document ITTC (XL)/5 and, in particular the authorization contained in paragraph 7, to apply the "Revised ITTO System for Technical Appraisal of Project and Pre-project Proposals". The Fifty-second Panel appraised the proposals and classified them according to categories listed in **Appendix II** applying the current consolidated version of the scoring system summarized in **Appendix V** and **Appendix VI**.

2. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The Fifty-second Expert Panel was attended by members listed in **Appendix IV**. Mr. Eric Kaffo Nzouwo (Cameroon) chaired the meeting.

3. APPRAISAL PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

- 3.1 The procedures, aspects and guidelines applied by the Panel to appraise Project and Pre-project Proposals are laid down in the Terms of Reference of the Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of ITTO Project Proposals (**Appendix I**).
- 3.2 In accordance with past practice, each Project or Pre-project Proposal was introduced by two Panel members (one from a Consumer country and one from a Producer country). After that the Panel held an open discussion and finally concluded its assessment by taking a consensus decision on the category of each Project or Pre-project in accordance with terms contained in **Appendix II**. Furthermore, it applied the criteria for assessment contained in the third edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. In cases where proposals were submitted to the Panel as revised Project or Pre-project (Rev.1 or Rev.2), the Panel first referred to the overall and specific recommendations made by the earlier Panel(s) to assess if these recommendations had been adequately addressed.
- 3.3 In cases where a Project or Pre-project Proposal was submitted to the Panel that had already been subject to two revisions by prior Panel sessions (Rev.2 documents) the Panel had to follow Council's Decision 3(XXXVII) that projects may only be assessed three times and that such Rev.2 projects would either have to (a) qualify by obtaining category 1 (to be commended to the Committee); or (b) in case it does not qualify for a category 1, it could not be commended to the Committee.

4. APPRAISAL AND ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT

- 4.1 Forty-two (42) projects and four (4) pre-projects (total of 46) proposals were received for appraisal by the Fifty-second Expert Panel. The overall list of 46 Project/Pre-project Proposals reviewed by the Expert Panel and the category of decision allocated to each proposal is presented in **Appendix III**. The procedures and criteria applied for the assessment have been specified above in section 3.
- 4.2 The ITTO Secretariat allocated the Project and Pre-project Proposals in three blocks so that the Panel could deal with all proposals related to Reforestation and Forest Management (RFM) (28) then with those related to Economics, Statistics and Markets (ESM) (14) and finally with those related to Forest Industry (I) (4). This arrangement facilitated the appraisal as well as the formulation of the overall assessment and specific recommendations for each proposal listed in the **Annex** of this report.
- 4.3 The assistance provided by the ITTO Secretariat in addressing previous deliberations and necessary background information on each Project/Pre-project was extremely useful for adequate work of the Panel before it could finalize its evaluations and recommendations.
- 4.4 In following-up the meeting's results, the Panel requested the Secretariat to provide the following information and documents to all countries who have submitted proposals:
- The Overall Assessment and Specific Recommendations on each proposal submitted by the country (**Annex**);

- General findings and final categories commended by this Panel (section 5 and **Appendix III** of this report).

4.5 General findings and recommendations of the Fifty-second Expert Panel, as derived from the appraisal of 46 proposals, are listed in section 5.

4.6 The Panel heartily appreciated the willingness of the Secretariat to work effectively for very long hours whereby full deliberation of the 46 proposals and the success of this Fifty-second Panel were made possible.

5. GENERAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel noted that the **quality** of the proposals was **variable**, which is reflected by the fact that:

- twelve (12) Proposals (26 percent of the total) received a category 4, indicating that the Expert Panel does not commend these to the Committee for approval as they require complete reformulation;
- nineteen (19) Proposals: 2 pre-project and 17 Project Proposals (41 percent of the total) will be sent back to proponents for essential revisions, rated as category 2;
- fifteen (15) Proposals: 2 pre-project and 13 Project Proposals (33 percent of the total) were commended to the Committee for final appraisal with minor modifications required (category 1), eight (8) were new projects and seven (7) were revised submissions.

See paragraph 7, pie chart "*proposals by category*".

The Panel noted:

Finding n°1: A high share of projects dealing with Reforestation and Forest Management (RFM), namely 61%, (see pie chart "*proposals by Committee area*"). Out of the 46 proposals only 4 were categorized under Forest Industry, 14 were categorized under Economics, Statistics and Market and 28 were categorized under Reforestation and Forest Management.

Finding n°2: Government agencies or research institutes were executing agencies in 28 proposals. Out of this number, 12 were research organizations. NGOs and Associations represented 18 proposals. From these, there was only 1 proposal submitted from a Women's Association and 2 from youth related Associations.

Findings n°3: Only two proposals covered transboundary topics and gender issues are mostly not being incorporated in Project Proposals.

Finding n°4: Numerous proposals didn't fully utilize the ITTO Manual for project formulation (inconsistency of headers, length and contents of chapters, maximum total length of the proposal, full sized and small sized projects), as well as often did not follow the relevant guidelines. Many proposals did not follow the correct formulation of budgets, especially the Master budget. 12% for ITTO program support cost were often not properly taken into account.

Finding n°5: Proponents are still having difficulties in using the tools that ITTO provides for project formulation, specifically Protool as related to the construction of the budget. The Panel noted in some proposals that when proponents exported their budgets from Protool to the proposal, the budget was not readable, potentially related to different versions of operating systems. The majority of proposals had issues in the presentation of their budgets.

Finding n°6: Proposals from new members often didn't meet the criteria of the ITTO Manual for project formulation of 2009.

Finding n°7: A failure to address project sustainability after completion was a common problem, and the knowledge management component of the projects was not properly addressed.

Finding n°8: Numerous proposals did not adequately state clear roles and responsibilities of the government agencies, NGOs and timber associations collaborating on the implementation.

Finding n°9: In several cases the focal point did not give due attention in screening the proposals before the submission.

Finding n°10: The process from going from a proposal to funded project is slow. In the 51st Panel, 20 proposals were categorized as two, 13 out of them came to the 52nd Panel and only 7 out of 13 were accepted as category 1. Furthermore, it is not certain that these 7 proposals will actually be funded.

Finding n°11: The draft *Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects* were tested in a number of proposals and found useful. However, in order for the Panel to review these risks, the proponents must address them directly in their proposals.

Recommendations:

For the Secretariat:

1. Considering that formulating proposals in accordance with the ITTO Manual for project formulation may be a complex process, the Secretariat should encourage the countries to seek guidance from their ITTO country focal points. The Panel suggests going back to the proponents and asking for feedback on Protocol and the budget development and address the issues with Protocol.
2. The manual needs some revision, with special attention to Item 83 of the budget component "ITTO Programme Support Costs" (now 12%).
3. The Secretariat should seek to enhance the capacity of new members in project formulation.
4. The Secretariat should seek to shorten the timeframe from the project idea stage to the implementation of the project.
5. The Secretariat should consider helping the Panel to provide statistics (type of executing agency, ITTO priority areas, amount of money), on the proposals during the review process.
6. The Secretariat should review the *Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects*, including the *Environmental and Social Risks Screening Checklist*. After the review has been completed, it should be included in the ITTO Manual, as well as in the Panel member's Scoring Sheet.

For the Expert Panel:

1. At the beginning of each Expert Panel (EP) session, the Panel should recall the Terms of Reference, and General Findings and Recommendations from the previous EP report. The chairperson is encouraged to follow up on recommendations to the Secretariat and to the Panel.
2. Reviewers should pay special attention to the need of signing-off final recommendation sheets after consulting between themselves.
3. With the help of the Secretariat, the Panel should collect statistics (type of executing agency, ITTO priority areas, amount of money), on the proposals during the review process instead of afterward.

For Country Focal Points:

1. Technical support to the potential proponents is essential for the good formulation of project propositions. In case the Focal Points do not feel prepared to support project proponents, they should seek support from the ITTO Secretariat.
2. It is important that focal points disseminate the ITTO manual and guidelines, the Panel recommendations, and several previous Expert Panel reports to every potential proponent.
3. It is also important that focal points fully and carefully screen the proposals, especially the revised ones, according to the ITTO Manual, before submitting them to ITTO.
4. Focal Points should help to disseminate information on ITTO cooperation program amongst less represented groups, such as indigenous and women. In addition the Focal Points should make an effort to reach out to potential Forest Industry proponents and encourage them to submit proposals.

For the Project Proponents:

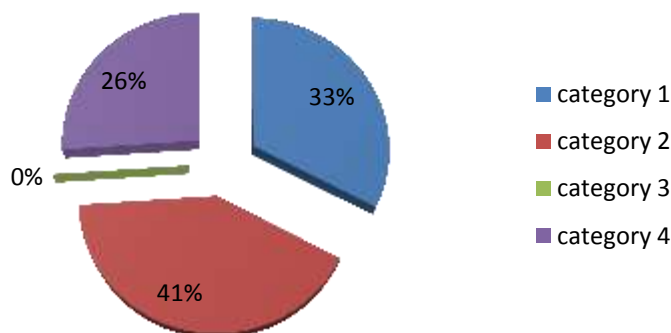
1. Always seek the guidance of the country focal point before formulating a project proposal. Pay special attention to recommendations of the Expert Panel in the case of revised proposals.
2. Carefully review and follow the latest Manual for project formulation with special attention to: problem analysis, logic framework matrix, budget plan. To the extent possible, indicators should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Appropriate, Realistic, and Time-bound).
3. Relevant ITTO guidelines should be explicitly referenced in the Project Proposals.
4. Pay special attention to Item 83 of the budget component "ITTO Programme Support Costs" (now 12%).
5. Where previously approved Project Proposals are directly relevant to the proposal in question (the searchable data tool "Project Search" [www.itto.int/project_search] could be consulted), they should be explicitly referenced in the proposal.
6. Always take into consideration to the extent possible gender issues that promote womens' participation in the project.

6. EXPERIENCE FROM APPLICATION OF THE APPRAISAL SYSTEM

As already pointed out by the report of the 39th session of the Expert Panel (EP), the use of the appraisal system (Appendix V and VI) became standard procedure.

7. PANEL DECISIONS ON PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT PROPOSALS

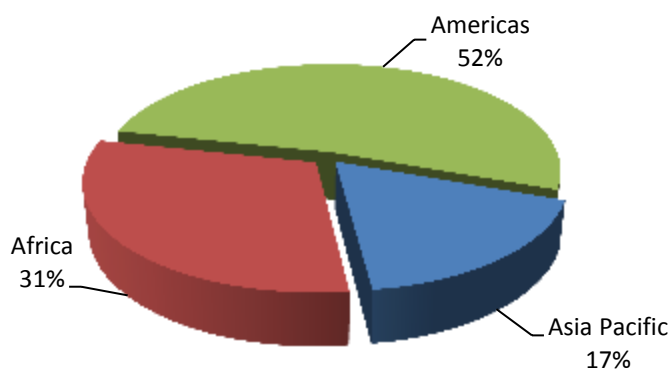
The Panel's decisions are listed in **Appendix III**, in accordance with established practice. Proposals classified by category, by regions, by committee areas and by submitting countries are summarised in the following tables and charts:



Summary of Project and Pre-project Proposals submitted to the Fifty-second Expert Panel by Region

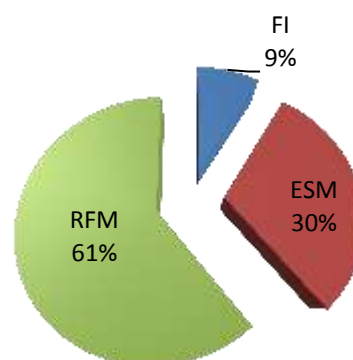
Region	Project Proposals				Pre-project Proposals				Total
	RFM	FI	ESM	Total	RFM	FI	ESM	Total	
Americas	15	1	5	21	3	-	-	3	24
Asia Pacific	4	2	2	8	-	-	-	-	8
Africa	5	1	7	13	1	-	-	1	14
Total	24	4	14	42	4	-	-	4	46

RFM = Reforestation and Forest Management
 FI = Forest Industry
 ESM = Economics, Statistics and Markets



Decisions of the 52nd Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project Proposals by Committee Area

Category	Committee			Total
	RFM	FI	ESM	
<i>Projects</i>				
1	5	1	7	13
2	13	2	2	17
3	-	-	-	-
4	6	1	5	12
Total	24	4	14	42
<i>Pre-projects</i>				
1	2	-	-	2
2	2	-	-	2
4	-	-	-	-
Total	4	-	-	4



Decisions of the 52nd Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project Proposals by Submitting Country

Country	Category				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Cameroon	1	(1)	-	-	(1)+1
Cambodia	1	-	-	-	1
Cambodia / Thailand	-	1	-	-	1
China	1	-	-	-	1
Colombia	-	-	-	2	2
Costa Rica	-	3	-	1	4
Ecuador	1	(1)+2	-	2	(1)+5
Ghana	3	1	-	2	6
Guatemala	(1)+2	2	-	-	(1)+4
Indonesia	-	2	-	-	2
Madagascar	-	1	-	1	2
Mali	-	-	-	3	3
Mexico	1	-	-	1	2
Peru	(1)+2	2	-	-	(1)+4
Togo	-	1	-	-	1
Vietnam	1	2	-	-	3
Total	(2)+13	(2)+17	-	12	46

Note: Parenthesis indicates pre-project.

APPENDIX I

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EXPERT PANEL FOR THE TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ITTO PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Panel shall:

- (i) Assess new Project and Pre-project Proposals submitted to the organization. The recommendations for amendments to these proposals shall be made by the Expert Panel exclusively for the purpose of ensuring their technical soundness;
- (ii) Screen the Project Proposals for their relevance to ITTO's Action Plan and Work Programs (in the areas of Economics, Statistics and Markets, Reforestation and Forest Management, and Forest Industry), and consistency with ITTO decisions and policy guidelines, but not otherwise prioritize them;
- (iii) Where reformulation involving major amendments is recommended, request to carry out a final appraisal of the revised versions of Project and Pre-project Proposals, prior to their presentation to the relevant ITTO Committees;
- (iv) Report on the results of the technical assessment of Project and Pre-project Proposals to the submitting governments and to the ITTO Council and Committees, through the ITTO Secretariat;
- (v) The Expert Panel shall take into consideration previous Expert Panels' reports.

The Expert Panel, in assessing Projects and Pre-projects, shall also take into account:

- (a) their relevance to the objectives of the ITTA, 2006 and the requirement that a Project or Pre-project should contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Agreement objectives;
- (b) their environmental and social effects;
- (c) their economic effects;
- (d) their cost effectiveness;
- (e) the need to avoid duplication of efforts;
- (f) if applicable, their relationship and integration with ITTO policy work and their consistency with the ITTO Action Plan 2013-2018 including:
 - Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Production Forests, 1993;
 - ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests, 1996;
 - ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests, 2002;
 - ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests, 2009; and
 - Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests, 2015.

APPENDIX II

Rating Categories of the ITTO System for Technical Appraisal of Project and Pre-project Proposals

Rating schedule for Project Proposals

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category 3: The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a Pre-project Proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the Pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee (e.g. complete reformulation is necessary; in case of rev.2 Project Proposals; Project not relevant; Project with insufficient information, etc.).

Rating schedule for Pre-project Proposals

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with the incorporation of amendments.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that the Pre-project Proposal is not commended to the Committee. The proposal is submitted with the recommendation not to approve the Pre-project Proposal.

APPENDIX III
List of Project and Pre-project Proposals reviewed by the
Fifty-second Expert Panel

Project No.	Title	Country	Category
PPD 186/16 Rev.1 (F)	Establishment of Enabling Conditions for the Restoration and Sustainable Development of Forests in the Southern Area of the Sierra de Lacandon National Park, Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala	Guatemala	1
PPD 187/17 (F)	Support for the Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Savannah Ecosystems in Cameroon	Cameroon	2
PPD 188/17 (F)	Reforestation of Degraded Areas Using Native Timber Species for Industrial Purposes in the Napo River Watershed, Ecuador	Ecuador	2
PPD 189/17 (F)	Development of a Full Project Proposal to Generate Tools to Ensure the Establishment of Timber Forest Species through Natural Regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Peru	Peru	1
PD 781/15 Rev.1 (F)	Master Plan for the Repositioning of Forest Management as a Competitive Land Use in the Agroforestry Landscape of the Northern Region of Costa Rica	Costa Rica	2
PD 810/16 Rev.1 (F)	Making Forest Relevant for People: Empowering Local Communities to Contribute to Forest Law Compliance in Ghana	Ghana	2
PD 812/16 Rev.1 (F)	Promoting Community-level Forest Landscape Planning, Diversification, Restoration and Protection to Reduce Forest Degradation and Improve Biodiversity and Local Livelihoods	Ghana	1
PD 818/16 Rev.1 (F)	“Boss - Cushabatay” Project – Forest Management and Restoration in the Cushabatay Basin on the Eastern Slope of the Cordillera Azul National Park (PNCAZ), Peru	Peru	2
PD 826/16 Rev.1 (F)	Sustainable Forest Management in the Condor Range, Morona Santiago, Ecuador	Ecuador	2
PD 827/16 Rev.1 (F)	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in Indigenous Lands of the Ecuadorian Amazon through Improved Access to Forest Product Value Chains	Ecuador	4
PD 828/16 Rev.1 (F)	Land Management, Sustainable Forest Management and Commercial Production in Kichwa and Siekopai Communities of the Ecuadorian Amazon Region	Ecuador	1
PD 833/17 (F)	Improving the Genetic Base for Teak Plantation Establishment in Ghana	Ghana	4
PD 834/17 (F)	Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests in Colombia	Colombia	4
PD 836/17 (F)	Enhancing Capacity of Local Communities and Forest Administration to Effectively Implement Community Forestry Programme (CFP) in Kratie and Mondulkiri Provinces of Cambodia	Cambodia	1
PD 840/17 (F)	Strengthening Forest Protection and Biodiversity Conservation in Yok Don National Park, Vietnam and Establishing Trans-boundary Coordination with Cambodia, in the Eastern Plains Landscape	Vietnam	2

PD 842/17 (F)	Exploring Innovative and Appropriate Tenure Conflicts Resolution Model on State Forest for Strengthening Forest Management Unit (Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan/KPH) in Implementing Sustainable Forest Management	Indonesia	2
PD 848/17 (F)	Promoting Inclusive Forest Development and Landscape Restoration in Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica	Costa Rica	2
PD 849/17 (F)	Increasing Commercial Reforestation Competitiveness in Costa Rica	Costa Rica	2
PD 850/17 (F)	Strengthening of Sustainable Forest Management through Pilot Experiences for Integrated Utilisation of Forest Value-Adding Potential in Ethnic Group Lands in the Colombian Pacific Region	Colombia	4
PD 852/17 (F)	Development of a Regional Strategy for the Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Areas on the South Coast of Peru	Peru	2
PD 853/17 (F)	Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Tropical Forests and Forest Plantations in Peru	Peru	1
PD 854/17 (F)	Promoting the Sustainable Production and Utilization of Mahoganies for Timber and Non-Timber Products by Industrial and Community Stakeholders in the West African Region	Ghana	4
PD 855/17 (F)	Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to Promote Cooperation for Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos (Phase IV)	Cambodia Thailand	2
PD 856/17 (F)	Forests and Communities: Sustainable Management of Secondary Forests in the Colonso Chalupas Biological Reserve Buffer Zone, Province of Napo, Ecuadorian Amazon	Ecuador	2
PD 859/17 (F)	Establishment of a Collaborative Framework through the Creation of a Local Joint Management Body for the Haho-Baloé Reserved Forest in Togo	Togo	2
PD 861/17 (F)	Carbon Storage in Timber Producing Forests as a Value Criterion in Rural Communities in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico	Mexico	1
PD 862/17 (F)	Capacity Building for the Establishment of Forest Plantations in South-East Mexico	Mexico	4
PD 864/17 (F)	Forest Restoration to Reduce the Vulnerability of Rural Communities to Climate Change in Five Municipalities of Las Verapaces	Guatemala	2
PD 815/16 Rev.1 (I)	Increasing Efficiency of Acacia Plantation and Timber Processing Industry in Vietnam	Vietnam	1
PD 841/17 (I)	Building Partnerships Among Actors Involving in Acacia and Eucalyptus Value Chain in Vietnam	Vietnam	2
PD 851/17 (I)	Program to Enhance the Efficiency of the Primary Timber Processing Industry in Guatemala	Guatemala	2
PD 857/17 (I)	Sustainable Management of the Cinzana and Samine Communal Forests through the Promotion of NTFPs in the Segou District	Mali	4
PD 791/15 Rev.2 (M)	Community Forest Landscapes and Small Enterprises Contributing to Legal Timber Trade in Ghana	Ghana	1
PD 795/15 Rev.2 (M)	National Participatory Inventory of Forest Species to Support the Development of Public Forest Management Policies in Ecuador: A Case-Study on <i>Swietenia Macrophylla</i>	Ecuador	4
PD 817/16 Rev.1 (M)	Strengthening of the Timber Value Chain by Small and Medium Producers in the Caribbean Region of Costa Rica	Costa Rica	4

PD 819/16 Rev.1 (M)	Market Survey for Forest Products in Peru	Peru	1
PD 832/16 Rev.1 (M)	Implementing Mechanisms to Improve Traceability in the Forest Production Chain in Guatemala	Guatemala	1
PD 835/17 (M)	Establishment of a National Forest Information and Statistics Management System in Mali	Mali	4
PD 839/17 (M)	Strengthening and Consolidating the National Process for Controlling Illegal Logging and Associated Trade in Cameroon – Phase 2	Cameroon	1
PD 844/17 (M)	Promoting Plantation of The Locally Endangered Species Timoho (<i>Kleinhovia hospita</i> L.), Mentaok (<i>Wrightia pubescens</i> R.Br.) and Terbelo puso (<i>Hymenodictyon orixense</i> (Roxb.) Mabb.) to Enhance Sustainable Use, Local Communities Livelihood and Culture	Indonesia	2
PD 845/17 (M)	Enhancing the Capacity of Forest Communities in Forest Governance, Monitoring and Community Development Projects in Mankraso Forest District Ghana	Ghana	1
PD 846/17 (M)	Assessing the Standing Timber Volume and Genetic Diversity of Five Commercial <i>Dalbergia</i> Species from Madagascar	Madagascar	4
PD 847/17 (M)	Sustainable Management of <i>Prunus Africana</i> Population in Madagascar: Assessment of Growing Stock, Analysis of Genetic Diversity and Dissemination of Bark Harvesting Method	Madagascar	2
PD 858/17 (M)	The Trends of Chinese Wood Product Markets and their Dependence on International Trade of Tropical Timber Towards 2030	China	1
PD 860/17 (M)	Building the Capacity for Forest Law Enforcement and Local Governance in the Industrial and Commercial Use of Wood and Timber in the Segou Region, Mali	Mali	4
PD 863/17 (M)	Development and Strengthening of the Domestic Market for Non-Timber Forest Products and Environmental Services in Guatemala	Guatemala	1

APPENDIX IV

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIFTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE EXPERT PANEL
FOR TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF PROJECT PROPOSALS
Yokohama, 5 – 9 June 2017

PRODUCER COUNTRIES:

- 1. Mr. Eang, Savet (Cambodia)**
Director
Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity
Forestry Administration
#40, Preah Norodom Blvd
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Tel: (855) 12-915372
Fax: (855) 23-212201
E-mail: savet2003@yahoo.com
- 2. Mr. Kaffo Nzouwo, Eric (Cameroon)**
Sous Directeur des Inventaires et
Aménagement Forestiers
Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune
BP 34430 Yaounde
Cameroon

Tel: (237) 67797-5589
E-mail: kaffoeric@yahoo.fr
- 3. Mrs. Rigueira, Valéria Cristina (Brazil)**
Chancellery Officer
Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE)
SAF/Sul – Qd. 2 Lote 2, Bloco B – Edif. Via Office – 5th Floor
70.070-080 Brasilia, DF
Brazil

Tel: (55-61) 2030-6899
Fax: (55-61) 2030-6894
E-mail: valeria.rigueira@abc.gov.br
- 4. Dr. Velázquez Martínez, Alejandro (Mexico)**
Professor
Silviculture and Forest Ecosystems
Colegio de Postgraduados
Km 36.5 Carretera México – Texcoco
Montecillo, Texcoco edo. de México
C.P. 56230
Mexico

Tel: (52-595) 9520200/1470
Fax: (52-595) 9520-252
E-mail: alejvela@colpos.mx

CONSUMER COUNTRIES:

- 1. Dr. Korhonen, Kari Tapani (Finland)**
Senior Researcher, Team Leader
Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)
Yliopistokatu 7, FI-80101 Joensuu
Finland

Tel: 358 (0) 50 391 3030
E-mail: kari.t.korhonen@luke.fi
- 2. Mr. Lu, Wenming (China)**
Director
Division of International Cooperation
Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)
Wan Shou Shan, Beijing 100091
China

Tel: (86-10) 6288-9727
Fax: (86-10) 6288-4229
E-mail: luwenmingcaf@126.com
- 3. Mr. Takayanagi, Takeharu (Japan)**
Deputy Director
Wood Products Trade Office
Forest Policy Planning Department
Forestry Agency
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8952
Japan

Tel: (81-3) 3502-8063
Fax: (81-3) 3502-0305
E-mail: t_takayanagi030@maff.go.jp
- Mr. Saito, Hiroyuki (Japan)**
Section Chief
Wood Products Trade Office
Forest Policy Planning Department
Forestry Agency
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8952
Japan

Tel: (81-3) 3502-8063
Fax: (81-3) 3502-0305
E-mail: hiroyuki_saito360@maff.go.jp
- 4. Dr. Schroeder, Jobst-Michael (Germany)**
Senior Scientist
Thünen Institute of International
Forestry and Forest Economics
Leuschnerstr. 91
21031 Hamburg
Germany

Tel: (49-40) 73962-146
Fax: (49) 40-73962-399
E-mail: jobst.schroeder@thuenen.de
- 5. Dr. Shim, Kug-Bo (Korea)**
Senior Research Scientist
Dept. Forest Products
National Institute of Forest Science
57 Hoegi-ro, Dongdaemun-gu
Seoul, 02455
Republic of Korea

Tel: (82-2) 961-2707
Fax: (82-2) 961-2719
E-mail: kbshim@korea.kr
- 6. Ms. Zamecnik, Alexandra (U.S.A.)**
Biological Scientist
U.S. Forest Service
International Programs
Washington, D.C.
U.S.A.

Tel: (1-202-569-3497)
Fax: (1-202-644-4603)
E-mail: alexandrazamecnik@fs.fed.us

APPENDIX V

Revised Scoring Table – ITTO Project Proposal (PD)

Weighted Scoring System								
1.	Project relevance, origin and expected outcomes (15)			Mark	Score	Threshold		
1.	1.	Relevance						
1.	1.	1.	Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities (1.2.1)				Y	
1.	1.	2.	Relevance to the submitting country's policies (1.2.2)				Y	
1.	2.	Origin (1.1)				5		
1.	3.	Geogr. location (1.3.1)+ Social, cultural and environ. aspects (1.3.2)				5		
1.	4.	Expected outcomes at project completion (1.4)				5		
2.	Project identification process (25)							
2.	1.	Institutional set up and organisational issues (4.1. + 2.1.1)				5		
2.	2.	Stakeholders				10	Y	6
2.	2.	1.	Stakeholder analysis (2.1.2)		5			
2.	2.	2.	Stakeholders involved at inception (2.1.3.) & implementation (4.1.4.)		5			
2.	3.	Problem analysis (2.1.3)				10	Y	6
2.	3.	1.	Problem identification		5			
2.	3.	2.	Problem tree		5			
3.	Project design (45)							
3.	1.	Logical framework matrix (2.1.4)				20	Y	13
3.	1.	1.	Objectives (2.2)		5			
3.	1.	2.	Outputs (3.1.1)		5			
3.	1.	3.	Indicators & means of verification (columns 2 and 3 of the LogFrame)		5			
3.	1.	4.	Assumptions and risks (3.5.1)		5			
3.	2.	Implementation				20	Y	13
3.	2.	1.	Activities (3.1.2)		5			
3.	2.	2.	Strategy (approaches and methods, 3.2)		5			
3.	2.	3.	Work plan (3.3)		5			
3.	2.	4.	Budget (3.4)		5			
3.	3.	Sustainability (3.5.2)				5	Y	3
4.	Implementation arrangements (15)							
4.	1.	Project's management (EA - 4.1.1, Key staff - 4.1.2, SC - 4.1.3)				5	Y	3
4.	2.	Reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation (4.2)				5		
4.	3.	Dissemination and mainstreaming of project learning (4.3)				5		
Entire project proposal (100)					100,0%	Y	75%	
Category					1			

Marks indicate:

- 0 - Information is completely missing
- 1 - Very poor: some elements are there but the essential ones are missing
- 2 - Poor: essential elements are incomplete, insufficient, wrong or misunderstood
- 3 - Moderate: essential elements are available but unclear or inaccurate
- 4 - Good: clear, accurate and informative
- 5 - Excellent: clear, accurate, informative and comprehensive (perfectly integrated with other items)

Rating categories:

Category 1:	The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.
Category 2:	The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.
Category 3:	The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a Pre-project Proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal.
Category 4:	The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

Revised Scoring Table – ITTO PRE-PROJECT PROPOSALS (PPD)

Weighted Scoring System								
1.	PRE-PROJECT CONTEXT (5)				Mark	Score	Threshold	
1.	1.		Origin and justification			5		
1.	2.		Relevance					
1.	2.	1.	<i>Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities</i>				Y	
1.	2.	2.	<i>Relevance to the submitting Country's policies</i>				Y	
2.	JUSTIFICATION OF PRE-PROJECT (15)							
2.	1.		Objectives			15	Y	9
2.	1.	1.	<i>Development objective</i>		5			
2.	1.	2.	<i>Specific objective</i>		5			
2.	2.		Preliminary problem identification		5			
3.	PRE-PROJECT INTERVENTIONS (25)							
3.			Outputs and activities			10	Y	7
3.	1.		<i>Outputs</i>		5			
3.	2.		<i>Activities, inputs and unit costs</i>		5			
3.	3.		Approaches and methods			5		
3.	4.		Work plan			5		
3.	5.		Budget			5		
4.	IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS (15)							
4.	1.		Executing agency and organizational structure			5		
4.	2.		Pre-Project Management			5		
4.	3.		Monitoring and reporting			5		
Entire project proposal (60)						100,0%	Y	75%
Category						1		

Marks indicate:

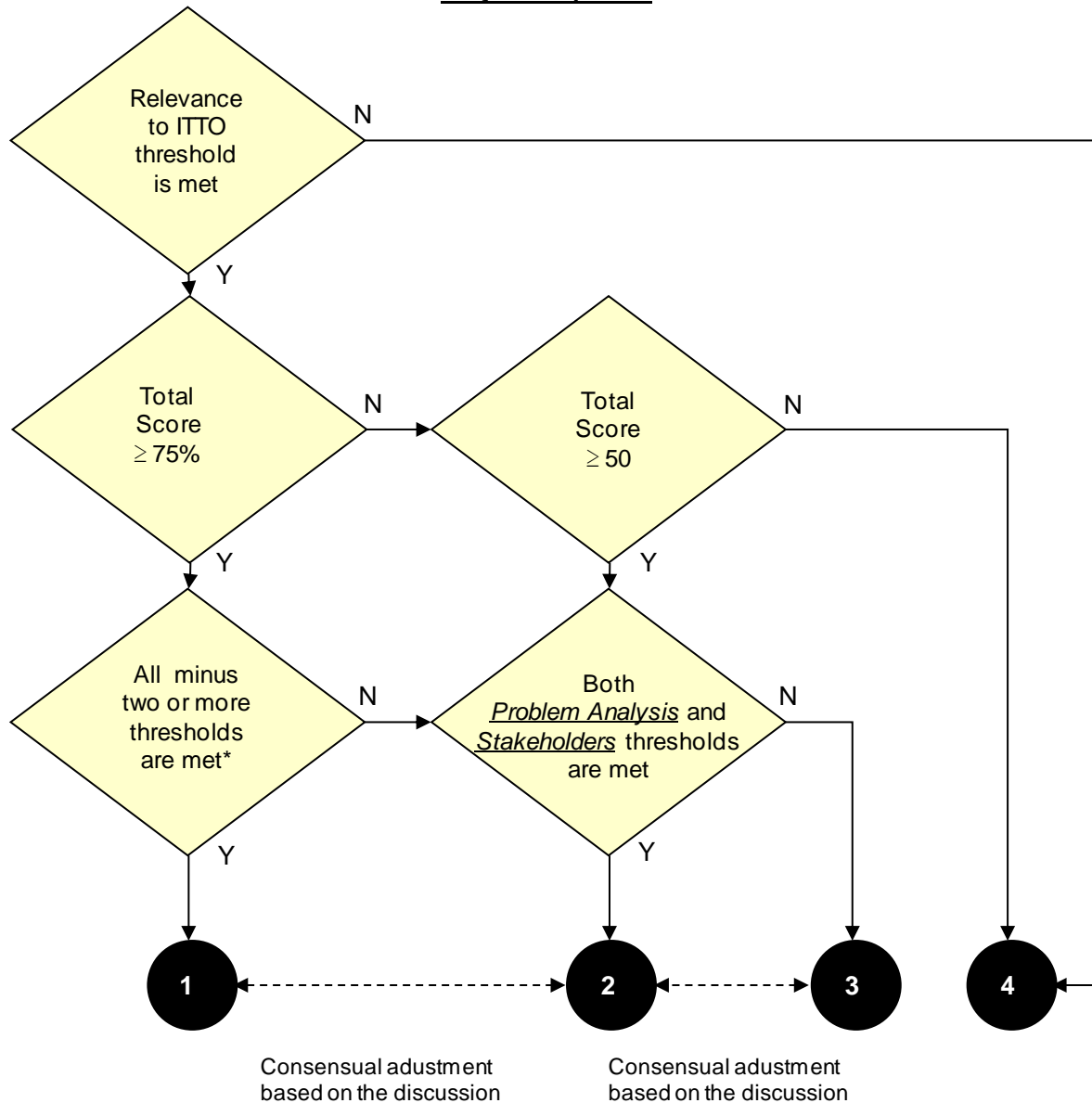
- 0 - Information is completely missing
- 1 - Very poor: some elements are there but the essential ones are missing
- 2 - Poor: essential elements are incomplete, insufficient, wrong or misunderstood
- 3 - Moderate: essential elements are available but unclear or inaccurate
- 4 - Good: clear, accurate and informative
- 5 - Excellent: clear, accurate, informative and comprehensive (perfectly integrated with other items)

Rating categories:

Category 1:	The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.
Category 2:	The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.
Category 4:	The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee

Appendix VI
Flow charts for deciding categories in the scoring system

Project Proposals

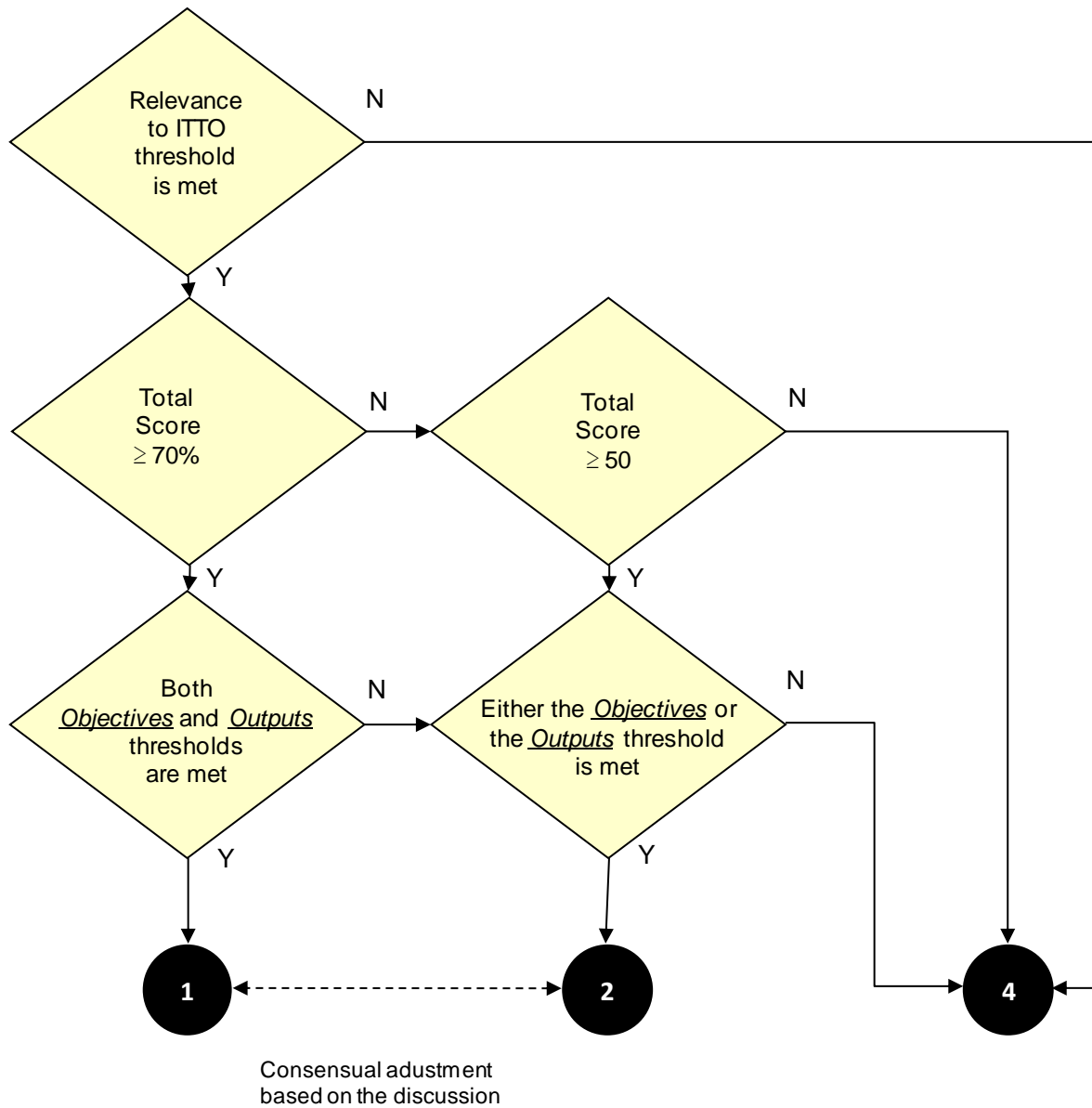


*Thresholds failed cannot be any two among the following three:

- Stakeholder
- Logical Framework
- Sustainability

- Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments. Proposal commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments if any.
- Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee. Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent.
- Category 3: The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a pre-project proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal. Proposal is missing fundamental information, consequently a pre-project is required and to be submitted to the EP.
- Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee. Proposal not recommended but submitted to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal, (a) either because a complete reformulation is necessary, or (b) because it's not relevant to ITTO. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

Pre-Project Proposals



Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments. Proposal commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments if any.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee. Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee. Proposal not recommended but submitted to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal, (a) either because a complete reformulation is necessary, or (b) because it's not relevant to ITTO. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

Annex

Assessment, recommendation and conclusion by the Fifty-second Expert Panel on each Project and Pre-project Proposal

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project for promoting sustainable forest management in the Northern Region of Costa Rica in line with the ITTO's objectives and priorities as well as the National Forest Development Plan (PNDF) which provides that SFM should be promoted as a key component in the adaptation and mitigation strategy associated with carbon neutrality. The Panel also noted that the efforts made by the proponent to address the specific recommendations of the Fiftieth Expert Panel particularly, improving the problem analysis, reducing the budget and improving the risk and sustainability assessment.

However, the Panel felt that there are still weaknesses in the design and formulation of the proposal. These weaknesses include ambitious outcome indicators and incomplete budget presentation. Furthermore, the Panel expressed its concern about the proposed study on "Almendro" (almond tree) species. The Panel questioned whether almond tree could be harvested despite the ban imposed on this species in Appendix III of CITES and felt that such a study should be carried out by the national CITES Scientific Authority. In this light, the Panel was of the view that the proposal should be modified and revised so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed as below.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Provide TORs for each of key project personnel who will receive ITTO funds;
2. Provide more information on the management of permanent sample plots in the project site;
3. Clarify the proposed study on "Almendro" (almond tree) species and a management plan that includes the harvesting of this species. Consider dropping this study as it would be important for the national CITES Scientific Authority to conduct such a study;
4. Redefine the outcome indicators as the indicator with at least 800 ha of sustainable forest management area by the end of the project looks too ambitious;
5. Amend the budget presentation tables in accordance with the standard formats (master budget, budget by component – ITTO and EA) provided in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (3rd Edition);
6. Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (Sub-component 83) specified in the budget so as to conform with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
7. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of the project and acknowledged that efforts had been made to address the comments in the overall assessment and specific recommendations made by the Fifty-first Expert Panel. However, the Panel noted that there were still important weaknesses in many sections and sub-sections of the project proposal. The most important weakness was the lack of consistency regarding the number of activities in the objective tree (derived from the problem tree) and the list of activities listed under each output in the section 2.2.2 and also in the work plan. In addition, the implementation approach did not provide enough information on the ways and means to involve sixty selected local communities for their effective empowerment regarding forest law compliance in Ghana.

The Panel noted that the logical framework matrix was still weak with impact indicators not appropriately formulated and not clearly linked to the development objective, while the outcome indicators of the specific objective in the logical framework matrix were not consistent with those listed under the section 2.1.6 where it is defined in the project document. The Panel also noted that the master budget table was missing while the table of the ITTO budget by component was not detailed at the level of sub-components as done for the consolidated budget by component, making it difficult to assess the level and appropriateness of the budget amount for each component. Finally, the Panel noted that the profile of the executing agency did not provide the budget-related information for the last three years as recommended by the ITTO manual for project formulation, in order to assess its internal financial capability.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Further improve the quality of the map of the project area by providing one with an appropriate scale showing the project sites in relation to the four forest reserves where fringe local communities will be subject to empowering process contributing to the forest law compliance in Ghana;
2. Revise the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of the project target area by elaborating these aspects in separate sub-sections under the Section 1.3.2;
3. Add a detailed stakeholder analysis above the related table of stakeholders which should be amended in correlation with the stakeholder analysis, as required in the manual for project formulation;
4. Revise the description of the outcomes at project completion, mainly in consistency with the improved outcomes indicators of the specific objective, as required in the manual for project formulation;
5. Amend the logical framework matrix by improving the indicators of the development objective and specific objective which were not formulated, as required in the manual for project formulation;
6. Further adjust the problem tree and related objective tree in order to ensure the consistency of activities with those listed in the section 2.2.2;
7. Further elaborate the implementation approach and methods by adding information on the selection process of local communities to be subject to the empowerment in relation to the forest law compliance in Ghana;
8. Improve the profile of the executing agency by providing the budget-related information, for the last three years, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
9. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Add the master budget table (by activity), as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
 - b) Significantly scale down the ITTO budget by transferring some budget costs from ITTO contribution to the counterpart contribution [project director (budget item 10.2), project coordinator (budget item 10.3), project driver (budget item 10.5) and office rent (budget item 50.2)],
 - c) Revise the tables of budget by components, to be detailed at the level of sub-components, for each source of funding (ITTO and counterpart), in correlation with the master budget,
 - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and

10. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of the project proposal intending to promote community-level forest landscape planning, restoration and protection through the reduction of rapid destruction of community forests and plantations resulting from wildfires and destructive forest-based livelihood activities, in Ghana. The Panel acknowledged that efforts were made to substantially address the comments in the overall assessment and most of the specific recommendations of the Fifty-first Expert Panel. However, the Panel noted that there was a need for the improvement and clarification on the following elements: assumptions, risks and sustainability, equipment and materials, and budget calculation of ITTO programme support costs.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve the Section 3.5.1 (assumptions and risks) in accordance with the assumptions mentioned in the logical framework matrix;
2. Add the lists of forestry equipment and materials with unit cost and quantity, as well as the list nursery tools and materials with unit cost and quantity, as annexes of the project proposal;
3. Correctly calculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82), and adjust the total ITTO budget accordingly;
4. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

PD 818/16 Rev.1 (F) “BOSS - CUSHABATAY” Project – Forest Management and Restoration in the Cushabatay Basin on the Eastern Slope of the Cordillera Azul National Park (PNCAZ), Peru

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the international and national relevance of this project proposal and acknowledged that efforts were made to address the comments in the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the Fifty-first Expert Panel. However, the Panel also recognized some fundamental problems in many sections and sub-sections of the project proposal. The noted weaknesses were dealing with the following aspects: project brief not following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation, expected outcomes still formulated like outputs, logical framework matrix with activities, activities not formulated in a concise manner, budget tables needing improvement, incomplete profile of the executing agency, and terms of reference for consultants not adequately elaborated in the annex 3.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve the project brief by following the format recommended in the ITO manual for project formulation;
2. Rewrite the whole section of the expected outcomes (Chapter 1.4) because the expected outcomes are not project outputs but the situation to be expected from the achievement of specific objective. Therefore, expected outcomes should be specific and include changes that will take place in the project target area if it is successfully implemented;
3. Further improve the problem tree and related objective tree by appropriately adding arrows indicating the vertical (cause-effect) logic of the problem analysis;
4. Reformulate the specific objective in a positive manner in consistency with the objective tree, as the current specific objective is the key problem as mentioned in the problem analysis and related problem tree;
5. Amend the logical framework matrix by correcting the specific objective and deleting all activities in order to comply with the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
6. Formulate all activities, in Section 3.1.2, in a concise manner as recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation. The current description of activities in Section 3.1.2 could be inserted in the Chapter 3.2 (implementation approaches and methods);
7. Improve the executing agency profile by following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation, on page 63;
8. Revise in a concise manner the terms of reference of consultants while referring to the guidance in the ITTO manual for project formulation, on page 63;
9. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Replace the current master budget table (by activity) with the appropriate one following the new format, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
 - b) Revise the tables of budget by components, to be detailed at the level of sub-components, for each source of funding (ITTO and counterpart), in correlation with the master budget,
 - c) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$30,000 for 3 years) and the budget item 82 to the standard rate of US\$15,000 for ex-post evaluation costs,
 - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and

10. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The importance of this project was recognized by the Panel for the implementation of new sustainable forest management regulations by the Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador. It was acknowledged that efforts were made to address the comments in the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the Fifty-first Expert Panel. However, the Panel noted that there was still the need to address some important weaknesses observed in many sections and sub-sections of the project proposal dealing with: map of the project area, logical framework matrix, problem tree and objective tree not following the required format, outputs and related activities, and incomplete profile of the executing agency. The Panel also noted that the explanation on the national forest timber products traceability system was not provided, although included in the Output 1, for a better understanding of the flowchart included as annex 1. Finally, the Panel noted that the ITTO budget was still too high while the master budget (by activity) was included in the annex instead of being the core part of the project proposal, as well as the problem tree and objective tree.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve the map by providing one with an appropriate scale allowing to clearly indicate the location of project site(s);
2. Provide a brief description, in the Chapter 3.2 (implementation approach and methods) allowing the understanding of the flowchart of the National Forest Timber Product Traceability System included as annex 1;
3. Improve the problem analysis for the appropriate revision of the problem tree and related objective tree which should follow the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation, while making sure to adequately include them in the core part of the project proposal;
4. Revise the logical framework matrix in correlation with the revised tree problem and objective problem while taking into account the requirements described in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
5. Consider revising outputs and related activities in correlation with the revised tree problem and objective problem;
6. Revise the work plan in correlation with the revised problem tree and related objective tree while streamlining the sequence of special activities related to traceability and certification, if still justified in the improved problem analysis;
7. Improve the profile of the executing agency by adding the budget-related information, for the last three years, as recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation, in order to assess its internal financial capability;
8. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Revise the master budget table (by activity), in correlation with the revised work plan, and insert it in the core part of the project proposal, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
 - b) Significantly scale down the ITTO budget by transferring some budget costs from ITTO contribution to the counterpart contribution [project coordinator (budget item 11.1), SFM and marketing expert (budget item 11.2), capacity building expert (budget item 11.3), forest production technician (budget item 11.4), incentives and communication expert (budget item 11.5), SFM technician (budget item 11.7), and project management costs (budget item 71)],
 - c) Revise the tables of budget by components, to be detailed at the level of sub-components, for each source of funding (ITTO and counterpart), in correlation with the revised master budget,
 - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and

9. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 827/16 Rev.1 (F)

Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in Indigenous Lands of the Ecuadorian Amazon through Improved Access to Forest Product Value Chains (Ecuador)

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted that efforts had been made to address its specific recommendations made by the 51st Expert Panel in the revised version of the project proposal in particular identifying a new objective, including a gender consideration and reducing the project budget.

However, the Panel recognized some fundamental problems and several missing parts in the proposal. These problems include: no presentation of a project brief; weak problem analysis without a problem tree; weak formulation of the logical framework matrix; inconsistent presentation of the development and specific objectives; ambitious scope of the project with four outputs; budget presentation based on the old formats; no TORs for key project personnel to be hired by the project as well as for sub-contracts. The Panel expressed its concern about the provision of capital items including chainsaws and portable sawmills without outlining responsible forest management plans incorporating RIL. Furthermore, the Panel noted that the project is too ambitious with a larger scope of action which includes marketing of timber products from both plantations and natural forests. Regarding the capacity of the Executing Agency, the Panel questioned whether all the proposed activities could be carried out within a two-year time frame. Given this observation, the Panel felt that the proposal needs a complete reformulation.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee because a complete reformulation of the project proposal is necessary.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of the project proposal and acknowledged that efforts were made to address the comments in the overall assessment and most of the specific recommendations of the Fifty-first Expert Panel. However, the Panel noted that there was a need for improvement in some sections and sub-sections of the project proposal. The improvement is required on the following elements: project brief, conformity with ITTO's objectives, expected outcomes, problem tree and objective tree in relation to the work plan, specific objective formulation and budget tables missing or not enough elaborated.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Further improve the project brief by making sure to comply with the guidance provided in the ITTO manual for project formulation, on page 16;
2. Revise the Section 1.2.1 (conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities) by mentioning relevant ITTO's objectives and related reference number, as presented in the ITTA of 2006, while making sure to add a brief explanation under each objective;
3. Rewrite the whole section of the expected outcomes (Chapter 1.4) because the expected outcomes are not project outputs but the situation to be expected from the achievement of specific objective. Therefore, expected outcomes should be specific and include changes that will take place in the project target area if it is successfully implemented, as explained in the ITTO manual for project formulation, on page 21;
4. Amend the problem tree in order to ensure the consistency between the number of sub-causes under Cause 2, Cause 3 and Cause 4 with the number of activities under Output 2, Output 3 and Output 4 in the objective tree;
5. Reformulate the specific objective by making sure to comply with guidance provided in the ITTO manual for project formulation, on pages 37 and 38;
6. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Prepare and add the master budget table (by activity), as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation, on pages 49, 50 and 51,
 - b) Significantly scale down the ITTO budget by transferring some budget costs from ITTO contribution to the counterpart contribution [project coordinator (budget item 11.1), support for national policy impact (budget item 11.2), forester expert (budget item 11.4), sociologist expert (budget item 11.5), financial accountant (budget item 11.7), and project management costs (budget item 71)],
 - c) Revise the tables of budget by components, to be detailed at the level of sub-components, for each source of funding (ITTO and counterpart), in correlation with the master budget,
 - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
7. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

PD 833/17 (F)

**Improving the Genetic Base for Teak Plantation Establishment in
Ghana**

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of improving the genetic base of teak plantation establishment in Ghana. However, the Panel was wondering why this research-oriented project proposal dealing with teak genetic improvement was submitted by a non-governmental organization instead of a real research institution operating in Ghana. Therefore, the sustainability of the project outcomes was highly questionable.

As general comment, the Panel noted that there were important weaknesses in all project sections and sub-sections, which are considered as critical for an ITTO project: stakeholder analysis, problem analysis and related problem tree and objective tree, logical framework matrix, budget, assumptions, risks and sustainability.

Given the abovementioned comments, the Panel was of the view that Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) could not be considered as the appropriate executing agency for a smooth implementation of this research-oriented project. Therefore, this research-oriented project proposal should not continue in the ITTO regular project cycle.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: It was the view of the Panel that the research-oriented project proposal PD 833/17 (F) should be sent back to the proponent which has no sound background for the smooth and sustainable implementation of this research-oriented project.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of the project intending to build capacity for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests in Colombia. However, the Panel noted that there were important weaknesses in all project sections and sub-sections, which are considered as critical for an ITTO project: expected outcomes not defined in correlation with the specific objective, stakeholder analysis without appropriate table of stakeholders, very poor problem analysis associated with a problem tree not consistent with related objective tree while the key problem was very poorly formulated, logical framework matrix with elements deriving from a poor problem analysis, master budget following the old format not allowing to assess the relevance and appropriateness of budgets by component, assumptions, risks and sustainability not adequately elaborated, executing agency profile missing relevant information to assess its background expertise and capability for the implementation of this project.

Given the above mentioned comments, the Panel was of the view that all critical components of an ITTO project were not appropriately elaborated by the proponent, making it impossible to consider this proposal as acceptable to continue in the ITTO project cycle. A completely new project proposal can be submitted while making sure to follow the requirements of the ITTO Manual for project formulation.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that a reformulation of the project proposal is essential and the Panel will need to assess the reformulated proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

PD 836/17 (F)

Enhancing Capacity of Local Communities and Forest Administration to Effectively Implement Community Forestry Programme (CFP) in Kratie and Monduliri Provinces of Cambodia

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the international and national relevance of this project proposal, including its potential contributions to the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018: Strategic Priorities 2, 4 and 6 as well as the National Forest Programmes of 2010-2029 which highlight community forestry development as a priority programme. The Panel also recognized that the proposal has been well prepared in accordance with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation as a follow-up to the recommendations of PD 673/12 Rev.1 (F) "Strengthening the Capacity in Forest Law Enforcement and Governance of the Permanent Forest Estates in Kratie and Monduliri Provinces of Cambodia" completed in 2016.

However, the Panel noted that the project proposal has been focused on the same two provinces of PD 673/12 Rev.1 (F) and that further improvement is needed to enhance the design and formulation of the proposal by clearly discussing a real need of concerned local communities of the project. In this regard, the Panel underlined the need for this concern to be fully addressed in a revised proposal.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Provide more information on the outcomes of the workshop conducted under PD 673/12 Rev. 1 (F) to support their relationship with this project proposal (Section 1.1.);
2. Further describe the social aspects by elaborating the potential target communities (Section 1.3.2);
3. Refine the expected outcomes at project completion (Section 1.4) by focusing on the envisaged use of the outputs by the key beneficiaries after the completion of the project;
4. Further describe the specific roles and responsibilities of the Forestry Administration at its HQs and local level as well as potential partner NGOs (Section 2.1.1);
5. Review the measurable indicators regarding 50 operational CFMUs for the development and specific objectives as they seem a bit ambitious (Section 2.1.4 and Section 3.1);
6. Improve the budget presentation tables as they are not well readable although they have been resulted from the ProTool (Section 3.4);
7. Improve the sustainability (Section 3.5.2) by addressing the issues of social sustainability, technical sustainability and economic sustainability;
8. Identify potential local NGO partner(s) to enhance the partnerships and collaborations to ensure the successful implementation of the project activities on the ground (Section 4.1.1) and further elaborate the proposed stakeholder forum to be established by the project (Section 4.1.4);
9. Correct the title of Section 4.1.3 with Project Steering Committee;
10. Further describe how the project has wider value and how its value will be mainstreamed into national policies and plans (Section 4.3.2); and
11. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Strengthening Forest Protection and Biodiversity Conservation in Yok Don National Park, Vietnam and Establishing Trans-boundary Coordination with Cambodia, in the Eastern Plains Landscape (Viet Nam)

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the international and national relevance of this project proposal, including its potential contributions to the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018: Strategic Priority 3, and the ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity such as trans-boundary conservation of tropical forest resources and combating forest degradation. The Panel also noted that the proposal has been built on the recommendations of the 1st Bilateral Meeting (Da Nang, 27 November 2014) between the respective Forestry Administrations of Cambodia and Vietnam which clearly included the promotion of a trans-boundary biodiversity conservation programme for Mondulkiri protected forests with Yok Don National Park, Dalak province. The Panel welcomed this trans-boundary cooperation initiative and looked forward to productive steps towards biodiversity conservation in the Yok Don National Park.

However, the Panel noted a number of weaknesses in the design and formulation of the proposal particularly unclear problem analysis, no presentation of a master budget schedule, ITTO financial support to several experts of WWF-Vietnam, unclear role of WWF-Vietnam in project implementation, lack of financial contributions from WWF-Vietnam as a key collaborator and limited stakeholder consultation mechanisms. In this light, the Panel was of the view that the proposal should be modified and revised so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed as below.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Clarify the relationship between the project proposal and the pre-project on Yok Don National Park supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
2. Refine or delete the statement of coordination between partners relating to distribution of ITTO funds to Yok Don National Park and WWF annually as the payments will be made based on the project document and agreement when the project is approved and financed;
3. Further elaborate the problem analysis by discussing the problems in implementing or revising the management plan of Yok Don National Park. Information on the management plan of Yok Don National Park will also clarify the first outcome indicator in the logical framework matrix;
4. Refine the problem tree by highlighting only one key problem. The Panel noted that the current key problem has been mixed with two different things such as poor management of protected area and poor cooperation of trans-boundary conservation. In this regard, the problem analysis could focus on poor management of protected area of Yok Don National Park. The project's specific objective could be amended by focusing on increased capacity in PA management and law enforcement without mixing with establishing a trans-boundary coordination mechanism. In a similar way, the project's title could be amended by focusing on strengthening forest protection and biodiversity conservation in Yok Don National Park in the context of trans-boundary conservation in the Eastern plans landscapes of Cambodia;
5. Provide relevant 2010 baseline data to support the good identification of the impact indicators in the logical framework matrix. Provide information on Conservation Oriented Patrol Standards (COPS) and expected 85% scores;
6. Present the statements of Outputs 1-3 in a concise way without listing project activities under each Output as their listing is not required;
7. Provide more information on the proposed Activity 3.1.2 regarding the intended regulations and reporting mechanisms;
8. Provide a master budget schedule under Section 3.4 (Budget);

9. Review critically the engagement of several experts of WWF-Vietnam for ITTO support and consider increasing the contribution of WWF-Vietnam as a key collaborating agency in project implementation;
 10. Provide information on the expected contribution of the Cambodia Forestry Administration as a key partner in line with the MoU with the Vietnam Forestry Administration;
 11. Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to confirm with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on the budget items 10 to 82);
 12. Consider including relevant national or local academic societies such as Vietnamese Academy of Science or a forestry university in the stakeholder consultative committee in Section 4.1.2 (Stakeholder involvement mechanisms);
 13. Provide TORs for each of key project personnel who will receive ITTO funds; and
 14. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.
- C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Exploring Innovative and Appropriate Tenure Conflicts Resolution Model on State Forest for Strengthening Forest Management Unit (Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan/KPH) in Implementing Sustainable Forest Management (Indonesia)

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized ITTO and national relevance of this project proposal, including ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018: Strategic priority 1 and the national policy on agrarian conflict resolution. The Panel also noted the importance of the project for developing guidelines on conflict resolution that can be applied in a national scope.

However, the Panel noted a number of weaknesses in the design and formulation of the proposal. These weaknesses include unsound formulation of the specific objective with two key areas, weak formulation of the indicators, unjustified budget provisions for some project personnel, weak risk assessment and insufficient sustainability assessment. In this light, the Panel was of the view that the proposal should be modified and revised so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed as below.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Include partners who provide in-kind contributions to project implementation as collaborating agencies;
2. Include relevant universities in the list of abbreviations;
3. Further elaborate the environmental aspects of the project site by describing forest ecosystems;
4. Refine the specific objective by combing two specific objectives into one in Section 1.5.4 (Logical Framework Matrix) and Section 1.6.2 (Specific objective and outcome indicators). The current statement of the specific objective is too general;
5. Correct the numeric numbering of Sections 1-4 in accordance with the standard specified in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation;
6. Refine the indicators for the development objective, specific objective and outputs in a SMART (specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic and time-bound) way. In case of Output 2, lack of application model for tenure-based conflict resolution is not an indicator. Try to provide measurable indicators way. Make a consistent presentation on indicators between Section 1.5.4 and Section 1.6;
7. Provide more information on relevant laws and regulations referred in Output 1;
8. Refine Activities 1.2, 1.4 and 2.2 as they are quite similar;
9. Refine the responsible parties in the work plan by highlighting only key leading parties in implementation of each activity;
10. Reduce the budget allocated for project personnel from ITTO contribution by increasing the contribution of the Executing Agency. Justify the budget provisions for a project coordinator, field supervisor and field coordinators. Provide TORs for each of sub-contractors;
11. Further elaborate the risk assessment by describing specific risks based on the assumptions in the logical framework matrix;
12. Improve the sustainability by addressing the issues of social sustainability, technical sustainability and economic sustainability;
13. Consider combining Annex 2 and Annex 3 into one; and
14. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the importance of the project that could contribute to developing sustainable and competitive forest business models, in a collaborative and adaptive manner, in the Nicoya Peninsula of Costa Rica, with a view to strengthening producer family livelihoods, having an impact on the country's public forest policies and ensuring the flow of legal, competitive and sustainable timber.

However, the Panel noted that the project proposal contained a number of weaknesses in the following sections and sub-sections: (1) target project sites not clearly shown in the map with non-appropriate scale; (2) too many ITTO objectives which were just listed without a brief explanation added under each allowing to check if it is highly correlated to the project; (3) social, cultural; economic and environmental aspects of the project target not enough elaborated; (4) very short stakeholder analysis not allowing the understanding of the stakeholder table; (5) no problem analysis introducing and explaining the problem tree which is not following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation; (6) logical framework matrix with indicators of the development objective and specific objective too ambitious for this project while the duration of five years mentioned in the seventh indicator of Output 1 is not consistent with the 4-year duration of the project; (7) objective tree (OT) not following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation and lack of consistency with the problem tree (PT) regarding sub-causes in PT and activities in OT; (8) no impact indicators under the development objective and no outcome indicators under the specific objective; (9) lack of consistency regarding the number of activities in the objective tree and the list of activities listed under each output, as well as in the work plan; (10) master budget table missing not allowing to assess the level and appropriateness of budget by component; (11) organization structure and stakeholder involvement with a chart not easy to read; (12) 1-page curricula vitae (CV) for each key project personnel not provided.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Provide a map with appropriate scale showing the project target sites;
2. Improve the Section 1.2.1 (conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities) by focusing on ITTO's objectives which are highly correlated to the project and add a brief explanation under each objective;
3. Revise the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of the project target area by elaborating these aspects in separate sub-sections under the Section 1.3.2;
4. Further elaborate the stakeholders' analysis introducing and explaining the related table of stakeholders;
5. Add the problem analysis which should introduce and explain the problem tree and related objective tree, while both are requiring the format improvement;
6. Improve the logical framework matrix in correlation with the improved problem tree and objective tree, while complying with the requirements provided in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
7. Revise the problem tree and related objective tree in correlation with the problem analysis while making sure to follow the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
8. Add the impact indicators under the development objective in Section 2.2.1 and outcomes indicators under the specific objective in Section 2.2.2, in conformity with the guidance of the ITTO manual for project formulation;
9. Improve the chart presented for the organization structure and stakeholder involvement mechanism;
10. Add a 1-page CV for each key project personnel as annexes of the project proposal;
11. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Prepare and add the master budget table (by activity) which should be the source of budgets by component, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
 - b) Significantly scale down the ITTO budget by transferring some budget costs from ITTO contribution to the counterpart contribution [project coordinator (budget item 11.1), forest and VC

expert (budget item 11.2), SFM researcher (budget item 11.3), fellowships (budget item 14.1, 14.2 and 14.3), and executing agency management costs (budget item 71)],

- c) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$40,000 for 4 years) and the budget item 82 to the standard rate of US\$15,000 for ex-post evaluation costs,
 - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
12. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project for promoting sustainable supply of domestic timber in the national market in order to reduce illegal logging in natural forests both in protected areas and in private forest lands. The Panel also noted the importance of developing an effective reforestation financing system that promotes management of forest plantations with enhanced productivity and value-added timber products.

However, the Panel noted a number of weaknesses in relevant sections and sub-sections particularly the stakeholder analysis, problem analysis, budget presentation, risk assessment and sustainability. In line with such observations, the Panel was of the view that the proposal should be modified and revised so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed as below.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Refine Section 1.4 (Expected outcomes at project completion) by describing the intended immediate effects of the project. Avoid describing the outputs and activities;
2. Further elaborate the environmental aspects of the project as the current information is too general;
3. Further elaborate the institutional set-up issues by identifying appropriate partners for project implementation and the degree of cooperation between them;
4. Improve the stakeholder analysis by providing a stakeholder analysis table based on the guide of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation;
5. Refine the presentation of the problem tree in a tree form (key problem – trunk of a tree, causes and sub-causes – roots of a tree) in line with general guide provided in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. In a similar way, refine the presentation of the objective tree;
6. Further elaborate Section 3.2 (Implementation approaches and methods) by incorporating scientifically sound and socially inclusive approaches in addition to financial instruments;
7. Refine the works plan presentation in a quarterly base as the current monthly based presentation is hard to catch each project implementation duration;
8. Refine Section 3.4 (Budget) based on the guide of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. A master budget schedule should be provided in the beginning of the budget presentation;
9. Justify the budget provision (US\$54,000) allocated for Assistant 1. Make sure the inclusion of a budget to conduct an annual financial auditing in accordance with the relevant ITTO guidelines;
10. Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to confirm with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on the budget items 10 to 82);
11. Review the risk assessment (Section 3.5.1) in a consistent way with the risks of the logistical framework matrix;
12. Improve the sustainability (Section 3.5.2) by addressing the issues of social sustainability, technical sustainability and economic sustainability;
13. Include Section 4.1.4 (Stakeholder involvement mechanisms) to ensure the effective involvement of stakeholders in project implementation in a transparent manner;
14. Further elaborate Section 4.3 (Dissemination and mainstreaming of project learning) by describing communication strategy and methods of the project team; and

15. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project intending to strengthen the sustainable forest management through pilot experiences for integrated utilization of forest value-adding potential in ethnic group lands in the Colombian Pacific Region.

However, the Panel noted that the project proposal did not clearly identify the correlated relevant ITTO's objectives as outlined in Article 1 of the ITTA of 2006, while the conformity with the ITTO Strategic Action Plan for 2013-2018 was not explained, as strategic priorities were just mentioned without further explanation justifying the correlation with the project. The Panel also noted that most project sections and sub-sections were either poorly elaborated or presenting important weaknesses in relation to the requirements of the ITTO Manual for project formulation, including the most critical ones for an ITTO project (stakeholder analysis without appropriate table of stakeholders, very poor problem analysis associated with a problem tree not following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation while the key problem was very poorly formulated, logical framework matrix with elements not consistent with the problem tree and related objective tree, outputs and related activities not consistent with the problem tree and related objective tree, master budget following the old format not allowing to assess the relevance and appropriateness of budgets by component, sustainability not adequately elaborated while the assumptions and risks were missing, executing agency profile missing relevant information to assess its background expertise and capability for the implementation of this project). Finally, it was questioned what ITTO funds could be used for by the proponent which seems able to mobilize millions of US dollars.

Given the above mentioned comments, the Panel was of the view that all critical components of an ITTO project were not appropriately elaborated by the proponent, making it impossible to consider this proposal as acceptable to continue in the ITTO project cycle. A completely new project proposal can be submitted while making sure to follow the requirements of the ITTO Manual for project formulation.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that a reformulation of the project proposal is essential and the Panel will need to assess the reformulated proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

PD 852/17 (F)

Development of a Regional Strategy for the Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Areas on the South Coast of Peru

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of this small project which could contribute for the development of a regional strategy for the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded areas on the south coast of Peru through a participatory process of identification, demarcation and registration of degraded lands and ecosystems on the south coast of Peru.

However, the Panel noted that there were still important weaknesses in the project proposal on following sections and sub-sections: (1) ITTO objectives not clearly explained in order to check if each objective is highly correlated to the project; (2) maps of the project are not in appropriate scale allowing to locate target sites; (3) social, cultural; economic and environmental aspects of the project target not enough elaborated with environmental aspects missing; (4) table of stakeholder analysis missing; (5) problem tree and related objective tree not following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation; (6) although the logical framework matrix is not required for a small project, the one presented in the project proposal was weak with indicators not appropriately formulated; (7) development objective and specific objective not appropriately defined; (8) objective tree (OT) not following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation and lack of consistency with the problem tree (PT) regarding sub-causes in PT and activities in OT; (9) approaches and methods not enough elaborated; (10) lack of consistency regarding the number of activities in the objective tree and the list of activities listed under each output, as well as in the work plan; (10) master budget table missing not allowing to assess the level and appropriateness of budget by component, while mistakes in calculation were noted for SFM expert, forest economics expert and workshop-3; (11) incomplete profile of the executing agency; (12) 1-page curricula vitae (CV) for each key project personnel not provided.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Provide a map with appropriate scale showing the project target sites;
2. Improve the Section 1.2.1 (conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities) by focusing on ITTO's objectives which are highly correlated to the project and add a brief explanation under each objective;
3. Revise the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of the project target area by elaborating these aspects in separate sub-sections under the Section 1.3.2;
4. Further elaborate the stakeholders' analysis and add the related table of stakeholders following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
5. Improve the format of the problem tree and related objective tree, in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation while ensuring their mutual consistency;
6. The logical framework matrix is not required for a small project, however, if it is presented it should be in correlation with the improved problem tree and objective tree, while complying with the requirements provided in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
7. Define the development objective and the specific objective, in conformity with the guidance of the ITTO manual for project formulation;
8. Further elaborate the project implementation approaches and methods;
9. Improve the work plan by adding the timing of implementation for activities 1.8, 2.2, and 3.2;
10. Improve the executing agency profile by following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
11. Add a 1-page CV for each key project personnel as annexes of the project proposal;

12. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Prepare and add the master budget table (by activity) which should be the source of budgets by component, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
 - b) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$20,000 for 2 years),
 - c) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
13. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 853/17 (F)

Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Tropical Forests and Forest Plantations in Peru

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the importance of the project for reducing the occurrence of forest fires in natural forests, wild vegetation and forest plantations which have reduced the loss of forest cover and natural habitats of wild fauna and flora. The Panel also recognized that the proposal has been well prepared in accordance with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. However, the Panel noted that further improvement is needed to enhance the design and formulation of the proposal. These include: more elaboration of the project's relevance to the relevant ITTO Guidelines; clarification on the involvement of primary stakeholders in project implementation; refinement of the statements of the development and specific objectives; more elaboration on the sustainability to ensure the extended work; justification of some budget items; and increased efforts for dissemination of project results.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Elaborate the relevance of the project proposal with the ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests (Section 1.2.1);
2. Further improve the stakeholder analysis by clearly describing the involvement of primary stakeholders in project implementation (Section 2.1.2);
3. Refine the statements of the development and specific objectives (Section 2.1.4 and Section 2.2) to reflect the effects to be achieved in the long term and the short term. The current statement of the development objective looks like the statement of the specific objective and vice versa;
4. Refine the outcome indicators as training of a total of 2,300 local dwellers seems to be too optimistic (Section 2.1.4 and Section 2.2.);
5. Further improve the sustainability of the project after its completion by specifying the extended work on the training programme and curriculums to be established by the project (Section 3.5.2);
6. Justify the budget provisions allocated for participants in events and meeting (item 12.3) and for refreshments (item 16.4) (Section 3.4). Consider reducing the refreshments provision from the ITTO contribution while increasing the EA contribution on this item. Ensure the inclusion of an appropriate budget to facilitate the dissemination of project results;
7. Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to confirm with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on the budget items 10 to 82);
8. Further elaborate the dissemination of project results (Section 4.3.1) by considering the use of social media including Facebook. As the 7th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) will take place in May 2019 in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, it is encouraged to disseminate the outcome of the project in this international event; and
9. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of the regional project intending to promote the sustainability of indigenous Mahogany in the West African region by developing the genetically improved Mahogany planting stocks that are ecologically adapted and insect tolerant for reforestation activities. The Panel was reminded that this regional project proposal, which was supposed to be the continuation of the project PD 528/08 Rev.1 (F), was considered as category 4 by the 51st Panel because it was submitted too earlier while PD 528/08 Rev.1 (F) was still operational under the ITTO regular project cycle.

The Panel was informed that the completed project PD 528/08 Rev.1 (F) had produced valuable results and findings which are available in the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), and therefore making irrelevant the key problem identified in the problem analysis and related problem tree of this regional project. It was questioned why the project proposal was not submitted by FORIG which has the intellectual propriety rights on the results and findings of PD 528/08 Rev.1 (F), instead of University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR) which did not provide any memorandum of understanding with FORIG regarding the access to the abovementioned results and findings. In addition, it was noted that all letters of support from collaborating countries and institutions) were those sent to FORIG, not to UENR, and put as annexes in the previous project proposal.

As general comment, the Panel noted that there were important weaknesses in all sections and sub-sections, which are considered as critical for an ITTO project: stakeholder analysis, problem analysis and related problem tree and objective tree, logical framework matrix, budget, assumptions, risks and sustainability.

Given the abovementioned comments, the Panel was of the view that UENR could not be considered as an acceptable executing agency for a smooth implementation of this regional project. Therefore, this regional project should not continue in the ITTO regular project cycle.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: It was the view of the Panel that the regional project proposal PD 854/17 (F) should be sent back to the proponent which has no intellectual property rights on the results and findings of PD 528/08 Rev.1 (F) which should be crucial for the smooth implementation of this regional project.

PD 855/17 (F)

Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to Promote Cooperation for Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos (Phase IV) (Cambodia & Thailand)

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the international and national relevance of this project proposal, including its potential contributions to the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018: Strategic Priority 3 and the ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity in relation to trans-boundary conservation of tropical forest resources and combating forest degradation. The Panel also noted that the proposal has been built on lessons learned from the implementation of Phase III and Phase II of the project in order to address remaining limitations that impact the sustainability of biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods of concerned local communities.

However, the Panel expressed its concern about the continued support of the project after its third phase and noted the critical importance of strengthening the sustainability of the project beyond ITTO involvement. In this regard, the Panel underlined the need to closely link the project activities with existing government programmes in key areas, including biodiversity conservation and community development. The Panel also noted that some texts of the proposal were merely copied from Phase III without addressing the current need compared to the situations of Phase III. The Panel was of the view that the proposal should be modified and revised so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed in Section B).

As an attempt to implement the “Guidelines on Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment (ESIA)” which were adopted by the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management (CRF) of the ITTC at its session in 2016, the Panel reviewed potential risks of the project based on the draft Environmental and Social Risk Screening Checklist which prepared by the Secretariat. Checking the project’s potential risks in relation to the five overarching principles (environmental sustainability, social sustainability, gender equality, forest governance and security of tenure) specified in the draft Screening Checklist, the Panel determined the overall risk of the project as Category C (Proposal that is likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental or social impacts). In its appraisal of the project proposal in relation to the draft Screening Checklist, the Panel underlined the importance of screening proposals to ensure the environmental and social sustainability and welcomed the pilot phase. Furthermore, the Panel suggested the use of the Environmental and Social Risk Screening Checklist by project proponents and further improvement of this Checklist particular the questions listed under the environmental and social standards in eight working areas.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Include LAO PDR in the list of abbreviations;
2. Update the relevance of the project to the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018 and elaborate the relevance of the project to the achievement of the ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity (Section 1.2.1);
3. Correct Phase III with Phase IV in Section 2.1.1 , Section 2.2 and others as some texts are still mentioning Phase III;
4. Improve the stakeholder analysis table for Cambodia component (Table 1) by differentiating the primary, secondary and tertiary beneficiaries (Table 1);
5. Refine the problem tree by presenting relevant sub-causes equality for each cause in line with the standard presentation format of a problem tree in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. The current presentation of the sub-causes is misleading as it shows a higher up effect from the bottom to next;
6. Review the inclusion of the third cause and Output 3 as they are the same with Phase III. The Panel felt that Output 3 could be removed as Phase III has already provided an important platform;
7. Improve the logical framework matrix by refining the indicators in a SMART (specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic and time-bound) way. Try to provide measurable indicators;

8. Rephrase the specific objective 2.2.2 into more clear language;
9. Clarify the 2nd indicator for Output 2 relating to the number of the seedlings as relevant activities are not found in Table 2 (List of activities – Cambodia component). Alternatively, revise the activities related to this output;
10. Provide more information on the proposed Activity 1.3 (research on modalities of landscape management) as it is too general;
11. Clearly specify key responsible parties for the implementation of each activity in the work plan as three countries are engaged;
12. Reduce substantially the budget allocated for the implementation of Activity 1.1 (Revise and establish PSC and other coordination structures) as its current provision is too high (Section 3.4.5 ITTO budget table – Cambodia component);
13. Provide a TOR for the conduct of a sub-contract with Lao scientists;
14. Rework Part IV (Implementation Arrangements) as many parts are merely copying the texts of Phase III. Improve Section 4.1.4 (Stakeholder involvement mechanisms), Section 4.2 (Reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation), and Section 4.3 (Dissemination and mainstream of project learning) in accordance with the guide of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation as they are too general and still referring Phase III;
15. Review the purchase of the capital items as this proposal is the same with Phase III and substantially reduce the ITTO budget for these items while increasing the contributions of the two Executing Agencies;
16. Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to confirm with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on the budget items 10 to 82); and
17. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 856/17 (F)

Forests and Communities: Sustainable Management of Secondary Forests in the Colonso Chalupas Biological Reserve Buffer Zone, Province of Napo, Ecuadorian Amazon (Ecuador)

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of this project intending to contribute the sustainable management of secondary forests in the Colonso Chalupas biological reserve buffer zone, province of Napo, in the Ecuadorian Amazon. It is planned to be achieved through a participatory integrated management plan for forest rehabilitation, sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services, coordination and cooperation between community organizations and environmental institutions.

However, the Panel noted that the project proposal contained a number of weaknesses in the sections and sub-sections dealing with: (1) target project sites not clearly shown in the map with non-appropriate scale; (2) ITTO objectives not clearly explained in order to check the correlation with the project; (3) social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of the project target not enough elaborated; (4) no problem analysis introducing and explaining the problem tree and related objective tree; (5) logical framework matrix with indicators too ambitious for this project; (6) objective tree (OT) not consistent with the problem tree (PT) regarding sub-causes in PT and activities in OT; (7) lack of consistency regarding the number of activities in the work plan in correlation to the sub-causes of the problem tree; (8) master budget table missing not allowing to assess the level and appropriateness of budgets by component; (9) no terms of reference for sub-contracts; (10) 1-page curricula vitae (CV) for each key project personnel not provided; (11) letters of commitment from collaborating agencies missing.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Provide a map with appropriate scale showing the project target sites;
2. Improve the Section 1.2.1 (conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities) by focusing on ITTO's objectives which are highly correlated to the project and add a brief explanation under each objective;
3. Revise the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of the project target area by elaborating these aspects in separate sub-sections under the Section 1.3.2;
4. Add the problem analysis which should introduce and explain the problem tree and related objective tree;
5. Improve the logical framework matrix in correlation with the problem tree and objective tree, while complying with the requirements provided in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
6. Revise the problem tree and related objective tree in correlation with the problem analysis while ensuring their mutual consistency;
7. Add the terms of reference for important sub-contracts as annexes of the project proposal;
8. Improve the executing agency profile by following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation, on page 63;
9. Add the letters of commitment from collaborating agencies as annexes of the project proposal;
10. Add a 1-page CV for each key project personnel as annexes of the project proposal;
11. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Prepare and add the master budget table (by activity) which should be the source of budgets by component, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
 - b) Significantly scale down the ITTO budget by transferring some budget costs from ITTO contribution to the counterpart contribution [project coordinator (budget item 11.1), socio-

environmental expert (budget item 11.2), forester (budget item 11.3), and executing agency management costs (budget item 71)],

- c) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$20,000 for 2 years) and the budget item 82 to the standard rate of US\$15,000 for ex-post evaluation costs,
 - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
12. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 859/17 (F)

Establishment of a Collaborative Framework through the Creation of a Local Joint Management Body for the Haho-Baloé Reserved Forest in Togo

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the relevance of this project which could contribute to the establishment of a collaborative framework through the creation of a local joint management body for the Haho-Baloe forest reserve in Togo. That contribution could be made possible by establishing a climate of trust conducive to collaboration between local communities and the Togolese agency for forest development and use (ODEF) for the participatory management of Haho-Baloe forest reserve.

However, the Panel noted that the project proposal contained a number of weaknesses in the sections and sub-sections dealing with: (1) project brief missing; (2) reference to the ITTO Action plan for 2008-2011 instead of ITTO Strategic Action Plan for 2013-2018; (3) expected outcomes not appropriately formulated in relation to the specific objective; (4) institutional set-up and organizational issues not enough elaborated; (5) lack of consistency between the problem analysis and the problem tree with a key problem requiring improvement; (6) logical framework matrix with indicators too ambitious for this project and the second output not clearly correlated to forestry; (7) no impact indicators under the development objective and no outcome indicators under the specific objective with both not adequately defined; (8) master budget table missing not allowing to assess the level and appropriateness of budgets by component; (9) no terms of reference for sub-contracts.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Add the project brief following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
2. Improve the Section 1.2.1 (conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities) by referring to the ITTO Strategic Action Plan for 2013-2018;
3. Rewrite the whole section of the expected outcomes (Chapter 1.4) because the expected outcomes are not project outputs but the situation to be expected from the achievement of specific objective. Therefore, expected outcomes should be specific and include changes that will take place in the project target area if it is successfully implemented;
4. Further elaborate the institutional set-up and organizational issues while providing more information on NGOs and their profiles;
5. Redefine in appropriate manner the key problem in correlation with the problem analysis;
6. Improve the logical framework matrix in correlation with the revised problem tree and objective tree;
7. Revise the problem tree and related objective tree in correlation with the redefined key problem;
8. Add the impact indicators under the development objective in Section 2.2.1 and outcomes indicators under the specific objective in Section 2.2.2, in conformity with the guidance of the ITTO manual for project formulation;
9. Avoid inconsistencies on the project duration (18 or 36 months if referring to page 34);
10. Add the terms of reference for sub-contracts as annexes of the project proposal;
11. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Prepare and add the master budget table (by activity) which should be the source of budgets by component, to be detailed at the level of sub-components, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
 - b) Reduce the cost of the vehicle to US\$40,000.00, as well as the cost of financial audit to US\$10,000.00,

- c) Scale down the ITTO budget by transferring some budget costs from ITTO contribution to the counterpart contribution [premises (budget item 41) and executing agency management costs (budget item 71)],
 - d) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$20,000 for 2 years) and the budget item 82 to the standard rate of US\$15,000 for ex-post evaluation costs,
 - e) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
12. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 861/17 (F)

Carbon Storage in Timber Producing Forests as a Value Criterion in Rural Communities in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of this project aiming at generating scientific and technical knowledge on carbon storage in tropical forests as a criterion for PES valuation in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico where has been affected by considerable rates of deforestation resulting from forest fires. However, the Panel noted some weakness of this project proposal particularly the project budget and underlined the need for further improvement of the proposal.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Elaborate the relevance of the project with the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018 (Section 1.2.1);
2. Refine the impact indicators describing longer-term effects beyond the completion of the project (Section 2.1.4 and Section 2.2.1);
3. Refine the budget presentation in accordance the standard formats (3.4.1 Master budget schedule, 3.4.2 Consolidated budget by component, 3.4.3 ITTO budget by component, 3.4.4 Executing Agency budget by component) specified in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (Section 3.4). The proposed Executing Agency budget should be further detailed. Justify the budget provision allocated for the Capital Items. Specify the expected contributions of partners such as USFS and NASA in project implementation.
4. Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to confirm with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on the budget items 10 to 82);
5. Further describe the project partners by elaborating their roles in the implementation of the project (Section 4.1.1);
6. Provide TORs for each of key project personnel and sub-contracts (Annex); and
7. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted the relevance of the project to the ITTO objectives and the national policies, including its contributions to human resource capacity to implement SFM.

However, the Panel recognized some fundamental problems and several missing parts in the proposal. These problems include: weak problem analysis without a problem tree; inconsistent presentation of the target beneficiaries and their numbers between Section 1.4 (Expected outcomes at project completion) and Section 2.3 (Objectives); unclear stakeholder analysis by differentiating the primary stakeholders into a small and large scale; weak formation of three outputs; inconsistent budget presentation between the cover page and Section 3.4; no presentation of Executing Agency budget by component and the calculation of the ITTO programme support cost based on the old guide; and unclear organizational chart for project implementation. With regard to the project budget, the Panel expressed its concern that there was no financial contribution from the government side to support the conduct of many capacity building programmes to guarantee the sustainability of the project after its completion. The Panel also questioned the desirability of providing international financing to support the conduct of basic training and felt that such training could be supported by national resources.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee because a complete reformulation of the project proposal is necessary.

PD 864/17 (F)

Forest Restoration to Reduce the Vulnerability of Rural Communities to Climate Change in Five Municipalities of Las Verapaces (Guatemala)

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project for strengthening community capacities in restoration of degraded forests, soil and biodiversity resources as well as capacities of community leaders in mitigating climate change impacts on community farms so as to promote sustainable development and alleviate poverty.

However, the Panel noted a number of weaknesses in the design and formulation of the proposal particularly limited information on the origin of the proposal, weak identification of the impact indicators in the logical framework, incomplete presentation of ITTO budget components, and insufficient information on stakeholder involvement mechanisms. In this light, the Panel was of the view that the proposal should be modified and revised so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed as below.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Further elaborate the project brief by describing the key message of the proposal including the indication of extended work after project completion and the budget amount requested from ITTO and the contribution of the Executing Agency;
2. Provide more information on the outcome of the economic and environmental assessment study carried out in 2014 in order to support the project proposal (Section 1.1 Origin);
3. Provide a better map showing the region and the project location;
4. Correct the error of the page numbering in the beginning part of the proposal;
5. Refine the impact indicators in the logical framework matrix in a realistic way. It questioned whether the forest cover would be increased by 50% (from 275 ha to 412.5 ha) a year after project completion;
6. Improve Section 2.2 (Objectives) by including respective impact indicators and outcome indicators for the development and specific objectives in line with refined indicators in the logical framework matrix;
7. Further elaborate the effective participation of stakeholders in all stages in Section 3.2 (Implementation approaches and methods);
8. Justify the budget provisions allocated for Item 41 (Office space for headquarters) and Item 51 (Miscellaneous consumable items for nurseries). The Panel felt that the Budget Item 41 should be covered by the Executing Agency;
9. Include ITTO budget components (items 81, 82 and 83) in Section 3.4.1 and Section 3.4.2 and Section 3.4.3 in accordance with the guide specified in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation;
10. Further elaborate the social sustainability of the project in Section 3.5.2 (Sustainability);
11. Improve Section 4.1.4 (Stakeholder involvement mechanisms) to ensure the effective involvement of stakeholders in project implementation in a transparent manner;
12. Further elaborate Section 4.3 (Dissemination and mainstreaming of project learning) by describing communication strategy and methods of the project team;
13. Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to confirm with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on the budget items 10 to 82); and
14. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PPD 186/16 Rev.1 (F) Establishment of Enabling Conditions for the Restoration and Sustainable Development of Forests in the Southern Area of the Sierra De Lacandon National Park, Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the pre-project proposal to develop a participatory strategy for forest restoration, sustainable use and production development in the southern area of the buffer zone of the Sierra del Lacandon National Park in the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR). The Panel noted that all the recommendations of the Fifty-first Expert Panel have been adequately addressed in the revised proposal, particularly as regards clarifying the effective engagement of the Sierra del Lacandon National Park and reducing the budget. However, the Panel felt that the proposal could be further enhanced with more information on the social and environmental aspects of the buffer zone of the Sierra del Lacandon National Park.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Further elaborate the preliminary problem analysis by reviewing social and environmental aspects in the southern area of the buffer zone of the Sierra del Lacandon National Park from its existing Master Plan to ensure the effective development of a community-based forest development plan; and
2. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the importance of the pre-project aiming to formulate a full project proposal intending to support the restoration and sustainable management of degraded savannah ecosystems in Cameroon. However, the Panel also noted that there were weaknesses in the sections and sub-sections dealing with the following issues: (1) ITTO's objectives just listed with no explanation provided under each of them in order to check their relevance for the future project, in the Section 1.2.1 (conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities); (2) map not focused to the target areas of the future project; (3) incomplete objective tree without its related problem tree source, but neither a problem tree nor an objective tree is required for a pre-project; (4) specific objective not appropriately formulated and looking like an activity; (5) no mention of which target areas of the future project currently facing terrorist threats; (6) third pre-project output not to be considered as an output but as an activity to be placed under an output; (7) MINFOF too vague to be considered as a responsible party for the implementation of activities; (8) duplication of pre-project permanent personnel with consultants in the pre-project personnel costs and too high financial audit cost; (9) master budget (by activity using the old format.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve the conformity with ITTO's objectives by adding the appropriate explanation under each relevant objective of the ITTA of 2006;
2. Add a map with appropriate scale focusing on the target areas of the future project and clearly locate them;
3. Delete the incomplete objective tree of the future project which is not required for a pre-project, or improve it and add its related problem tree source;
4. Improve the formulation of the specific objective in accordance with the guidance provided by the ITTO manual for project formulation;
5. Provide information on the target areas of the future project currently facing terrorist threats;
6. Insert the activities under the third output in the second output, as the third output cannot be considered as an output;
7. Clarify which directorate of the MINFOF will be a responsible party for the implementation of pre-project activities;
8. Prepare the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Prepare and add the master budget table (by activity) which should be the source of budgets by component, to be detailed at the level of sub-components, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
 - b) Scale down the ITTO budget by transferring some budget costs from ITTO contribution to the counterpart contribution [pre-project coordinator (budget item 11.1), reforestation expert (budget item 11.2), socio-economist expert (budget item 11.3) and environment expert (budget item 11.4)], and also by reducing the financial audit costs,
 - c) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$5,000.00 for the monitoring and review costs of a pre-project,
 - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
9. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the pre-project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised pre-project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the ITTO and national relevance of this project proposal, including its potential contributions to the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018: Strategic Priorities 2, 3 and 6 as well as the new national reforestation incentive program promoting sustainable timber production with incentive policies and forest credit lines.

The Panel noted that further improvement is needed to enhance the formulation of the proposal. These include: further elaboration of the target groups and their expected benefits from the pre-project and justification of the engagement of key pre-project personnel in many pre-project activities. The Panel's primary concern was that the costs associated with the pre-project were too high, given the scope of the activities in the pre-project targeting on the formulation of a full project proposal. In this regard, the Panel noted a systematic engagement of some pre-project personnel in many activities such as the engagement of a forest economist, and a forest engineer in the implementation of Activity 1.1-1.5 and a long engagement of a forest economist in the implementation of Activity 2.1. The Panel suggested that the ITTO budget should be substantially scaled down while increasing the contribution of the Executing Agency.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Provide a list of abbreviation and acronyms;
2. Provide a better map showing the research area location;
3. Further elaborate who will benefit and how the target groups will receive benefits from the pre-project;
4. Refine Section 3.3 (Approaches and methods) in line with the list of the pre-project activities in a consistent way;
5. Improve the work plan by including responsible parties for the implementation of each project activity;
6. Provide TORs for each of key pre-project personnel in addition to an international consultant;
7. Scale down substantially the pre-project budget in the following way:
 - a) Reducing costs for the pre-project personnel particularly forest economist and forest engineer from the ITTO contribution while increasing the contribution from the Executing Agency;
 - b) Consider conducting some of the duties of an international consultant by national pre-project personnel;
 - c) Reducing the travel cost such as local travel as well as the consumable items such as office supplies;
 - d) Delete the ITTO monitoring and review costs as it is a pre-project;
 - e) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to confirm with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on the budget items 10 to 82);
8. Provide an organizational structure chart for the implementation of the pre-project; and
9. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the pre-project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised pre-project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PPD 189/17 (F)

Development of A Full Project Proposal to Generate Tools to Ensure the Establishment of Timber Forest Species through Natural Regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Peru

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the international and national relevance of this proposal, including its potential contribution to the achievement of the ITTO-CITES Programme and the National Forest Policy to facilitate the monitoring of forest management implementation by forest concessions and native communities. The Panel noted that further improvement is needed to enhance the formulation of the proposal. These include: further elaboration of the origin of the proposal; refinement of the problem analysis; and amendment of the budget presentation.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve Section 1.1 (Origin and justification) by briefly describing the methodology carried out by the study "Management of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King.) and cedar (*Cedrela* spp.) seed stands in a forest concession for the conservation of the Tahuamanu Seed Stand in the province of Tahuamanu, Madre de Dios, Peru" which was conducted with support of the ITTO-CITES Programme as indicated in Activity 1.3 in relation with this proposal;
2. Refine the key problem analysis by focusing on only one key problem and consider combining Outputs 1 and 2 into one;
3. Provide a concise table for planned activities, inputs and total costs while including a detailed budget in Section 3.5;
4. Include relevant responsible parties for the implementation of project activities in the work plan table;
5. Provide an organizational chart showing the organizational set-up of the pre-project;
6. Amend the budget presentation tables in accordance with the standard formats (master budget, budget by component – ITTO and EA) provided in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (3rd Edition);
7. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted that the revised project proposal was significantly improved and most issues were addressed in accordance with the assessment and specific recommendations of the previous EP meeting. However, the Panel was of the view that, in order to increase the chance of a successful project, the proposal should be modified and further reviewed so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed as below.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Improve the Project Brief in accordance with the ITTO Manual, present it in concise way, and ensure its consistency with information provided in the body text. For instance, the listed activities in the Project Brief are different with those in Section 3.2;
2. In Section 1.2.1, maintain consistency of Outputs' text with the text provided in Section 3.1;
3. In Section 1.3, improve the presentation of the map;
4. In Section 1.3.2, improve the explanation on the environmental aspect;
5. In Section 1.4, rephrase the paragraphs to elaborate less ambitious Expected Outcomes;
6. In Section 2.3.1, rephrase the sentences in the Objective Tree into negative sentences;
7. In section 3.5, add Master Budget and present the budget arrangements in full conformity with the ITTO Manual;
8. In Part 4, revise the presentation in accordance with the contents of an ITTO small project provided in the ITTO Manual (Part 4 consists of 4.1 Executing agency and organizational structure, 4.2 Project management, 4.3 Monitoring and reporting). For a small project, a Project Technical Committee (PTC) is needed, not a Project Steering Committee (PSC); and
9. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold** and underlined) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to develop an effective and efficient plantation timber value chain in Vietnam through building partnership among acacia and eucalyptus timber value chain actors. The Government of Vietnam seeks to generate greater benefits to forest growers and the timber industry. The Panel confirmed that the project proposal is in conformity with the ITTO objectives and priorities. However, the Panel opined that the proposal needs to be improved to ensure its successful implementation. One of the weaknesses which was underlined by the Panel was the need to reduce the proposed budget. In addition, it is necessary to provide more information about the partnerships, the purpose and its sustainability after the project, and elaborate the explanation on how will the final report be shared with all of the stakeholders.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. In Section 2.1.1, add more information about how the different institutions will work together;
2. In Section 2.1.2, move some of the primary stakeholders to the secondary stakeholder category who will not be direct beneficiaries;
3. In Section 2.1.3, revise the Problem Tree in accordance with the ITTO Manual so that the Causes correspond to the Outputs and Sub-causes correspond to Activities. Formulate the Objective Tree in accordance with the ITTO Manual;
4. In Section 2.2.2, Rewrite SO into an objective (Such as... 'to build partnership among.....');
5. In Section 3.1.1, Output 2, Clarify what the purpose of the database will be and how it will be developed. What software or system will it use? How will it be used after the program is done? Provide more information about the partnerships - what is the purpose? How will they be sustained after the project? How will the final report be shared with all of the stakeholders?;
6. In Section 3.1.1, Output 3, it should have more than one activity and they should correspond to the Problem Tree and the Objective Tree.
7. In Section 3.1.1, Output 4, explain about the targeted journal for papers submission. Note: Upon published, the papers should be presented to the project stakeholders in Vietnam;
8. In Section 3.4, formulate a Master Budget with detail in full conformity with the ITTO Manual. Reduce wherever possible the budget for the project personnel. Allocate budget for financial audit year 1 and year 2;
9. In Section 3.5.1, improve the elaboration of the section. Highlight the important of having value chain information in improving forest sector in Vietnam;
10. In Section 3.5.2, add information on intended use of the products from this project. How will the report, database and journals articles be used and how will it lead to change of the targeted value chains? Explain how the project's outputs be applied to ensure the sustainability of the project?;
11. In Section 4.1.2, Figure 4, mention the institutions involved only (avoid to include names of person);
12. In Section 4.1.3, replace the name of 'Dr. Ma Hwan Ok of ITTO' to 'ITTO representative', and
13. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold** and underlined) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

PD 851/17 (I)

Program to Enhance the Efficiency of the Primary Timber Processing Industry in Guatemala

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to improve primary timber processing efficiency through institutional support and capacity-building for the forest industry in Guatemala.

However, the Panel noted a number of weaknesses in relevant sections and sub-sections, especially the project brief, project origin, the target area and map, social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects, institutional set-up, the problem analysis, development and specific objective and indicators, outputs and activities, work plan, the project budget, and in Annex.

The Panel was of the view that, in order to increase the chance of a successful project, the proposal should be modified and further reviewed so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed as below.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. In the project brief, briefly describe how to implement, what is key assumptions and risks and mitigation those, sustainability of the project and summary of budget;
2. In the project origin, delete the unnecessary information such as irrelevant research results;
3. Add more information explaining the project location and map;
4. In social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects, restructure this part with correct number and delete the duplicated sub-sections such as culture, economic, environmental aspects. Also need to provide information for forest industry aspects;
5. The institutional set-up should be more specific, with specific role and capacities of the participant institutions;
6. The key problem in the problem analysis should be inconsistent with in the problem tree. The key problem and its logical links with causes and effects should also be improved;
7. Refine development and specific objective and indicators based on the relationship with ITTO's mandate and host government's development goal;
8. Modify outputs and activities by making them more specific and measurable, such as Output1 and Output 3 and their activities associated;
9. Explain why there were no scheduled arrangements for the first and last quarters of the workplan;
10. Explain what is Activity 3.3 (development of a database) of Output 3; Add responsible party for Output 3;
11. Clarify the need for purchasing a vehicle and many laptop computers;
12. Clarify if the financial consultant in Annex 3 was the administrative assistant appeared in ITTO budget. Add more references for duties of technical assistants in forest industry.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to achieve sustainable management of communal forests through the promotions of NTFPs in the Segou District. The panel recognizes that the NTFPs are a vital source of income. Therefore, the topic of the project is considered of high importance for the Panel. Also, as ITTO promotes gender equity and highly welcomes proposals from women associations which could play a key role in the implementation of sustainable forest management in Africa.

However, the Panel noted one major weakness in the project proposal: the lack of definition of the key problem to be tackled during the implementation of the project. Despite the fact that the budget is relatively modest, the number of problems that the project tries to respond seems too ambitious and numerous. The project does not clearly define the expected outcomes and the project formulation seems unspecific on the outcomes of the project.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. The Panel noted that the definition of communal forests and their legal framework (ownership, legality issues) were missing in the project proposal. The project proposal would substantially benefit from a clear definition of communal forests as well as the possibility of creating a partnership or participatory approach with forest owners for the implementation of the project;
2. The Panel noted that the definition of NTFPs was missing in the project proposal making difficult to identify which NTFPs production was going to be sustainably managed;
3. The Panel questioned the purpose of the project on whether the project aim was to develop sustainable forest management of communal forests or developing the sustainable production of NTFPs;
4. The Panel noted that the project document was not properly following the ITTO *Manual for Project Formulation* (no problem tree, logical framework is incomplete) and it advised the Executing Agency to consult with the ITTO Focal Point in Mali for strengthening the project formulation.

C) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposals to the Committee, and submits them to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged improvements made in the proposal in accordance with the overall assessment and recommendations provided by the 51st Expert Panel. However, the Panel is in view that further refinements are necessary to strengthen the project set-up and its presentation in full conformity with the ITTO manual for project formulation.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. In Section 2.1.2, maintain the consistency of stakeholder grouping (primary, secondary) as it is presented in Annex 5;
2. Move the Objective Tree presented in Section 2.2 to Section 2.1.3;
3. In Section 2.2.1, Development Objective, add one more impact indicator in consistency with the Logical Framework;
4. In Section 2.2.2, correct the second outcome indicators in consistency with the Logical Framework;
5. In Section 3.3, correct the list of activities in consistency with the activities in Section 3.1.2. Remove the Reporting part (Progress Report and Annual Report) from the Work Plan;
6. In section 3.4, add Master Budget (with its details for each activity) and improve all budget tables in accordance with the ITTO Manual. Add 'subtotal' in each of the budget item categories. Improve 'numbering', especially in budget line 60. Note: Panel considered high budget allocations that need to be reduced in the following items: 44.1, 57.1, 60.5, and 60.6. Item 41 preferred to be an in kind from the EA; and
7. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold** and underlined) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to conduct joint efforts with the participation of key stakeholders to assess the current status of the natural populations of *Swietenia macrophylla* in the Amazon Region of Ecuador.

The Panel acknowledged the efforts made by the proponent in revision of the project proposal and noted that the revised proposal has been improved in a number of sections according to the recommendations from last Expert Panel.

However, the Panel noted that a number of significant weaknesses were still remained in relevant sections and sub-sections, especially the project origin, problem analysis, development and specific objective and indicators, and the project budget.

Nevertheless, the Panel appreciates the potential of this project and encourages the proponent to reformulate the proposal by taking into account the above comments.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this small project is to strengthen the economy and generate environmental benefits for community families in the Caribbean region of Costa Rica by marketing higher value added timber products through marketing chains.

The Panel acknowledged the efforts made by the proponent in revision of the project proposal and noted that the revised proposal has been improved in a number of sections according to the recommendations from last Expert Panel.

However, the Panel noted that a number of significant weaknesses were still remained in relevant sections and sub-sections, especially the stakeholders and problem analysis, development and specific objective and indicators, outputs and activities, the project budget, and implementation arrangements.

Nevertheless, the Panel appreciates the potential of this project and encourages the proponent to reformulate the proposal by taking into account the above comments.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second PanelA) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to collect and disseminate updated information on national and international forest markets so as to promote forest conservation, the marketing of forest products and services, and forest governance in Peru.

The Panel noted that the revised project proposal was significantly improved and most issues were addressed in accordance with the assessment and specific recommendation of the previous EP meeting. The revised proposal was clearly structured and well formulated in conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities.

However, the Panel further noted that the project proposal could be further improved in some sections and sub-sections and suggested the specific recommendations mentioned below for that purpose, such as conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities, the stakeholders analysis, the project budget, and terms of reference.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Quote and list the related ITTA objectives (Objective d, e, f, h, i, l, k) and ITTO Strategic Priorities (Priority 1, 2, 3, 4, 5);
2. Move the paragraph for ITTO Strategic Priorities under 1.2.1 to the Strategic Priorities part of this sub-section;
3. Further refine the stakeholder analysis by including government stakeholders and trade associations and elaborate how they will be involved in the project, based on the specific recommendation provided by last Panel session;
4. Delete the words "Consolidated" from the title of 3.4.3 and 3.4.4;
5. Delete "3.4.5 Budget by activity and component";
6. Combine the terms of reference of the economics consultant and the marketing consultant in Annex 3, as two posts were merged.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this small project is to collect and disseminate updated information on national and international forest markets so as to promote forest conservation, the marketing of forest products and services, and forest governance in Peru.

The Panel noted that the revised project proposal was significantly improved and most issues were addressed in accordance with the assessment and specific recommendation of the previous EP meeting. The revised proposal was clearly structured and well formulated in conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities.

However, the Panel further noted that the project proposal could be further improved in some sections and sub-sections and suggested the specific recommendations mentioned below for that purpose, such as the problem analysis, development and specific objective and indicators, outputs and activities, the project budget.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Clearly elaborate the key problem and its logical links with causes and effects;
2. Keep consistency between the problem tree, the objective tree and the specific objective, as addressing the key problem and its causes will turn to be the specific objective and outputs respectively;
3. For the 1st impact indicator, delete by 10% as the increase from 1.6 to 1.9 million m3 should be around 19%;
4. For the 1st outcome indicator, as it was modified from 50 m3 to 200 hectares, there should be consistent with activities (Activity 1.1, 1.2 etc.) as well as the workplan and the budget;
5. As the explanation for purchasing a vehicle is not convincing, the EA needs to consider renting a vehicle for the same uses.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Assessment by the Fifty-second PanelA) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to achieve sustainable forest management by establishing a national forest information and statistics management system in Mali. The Panel recognizes that the need of a statistical system is critical for Mali especially in evaluating its forest resources.

However, the Panel noted several weaknesses in the project formulation and budget and the overall assessment of the Panel for this project proposal was category 4. The Panel noted that this project proposal was very difficult to follow particularly the various activities and their outcomes which are extremely vague and unspecific. The types of data collected, the methods for data collection and the sustainability and viability of the project need to be completely reformulated as they fundamentally lack precision in this project document. The total budget was also inconsistent through the document.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. The project formulation does not follow the *Project Manual for formulation* particularly for:
 - Section 1.3.2,
 - the Problem Tree in which the outputs and activities should be revised substantially,
 - section 3.5.2 which did not describe the sustainability of the project in technical, financial, social, economic and institutional terms,
 - and for the sections 4.2, 4.3.1 and 4.3.2.
2. The types of data collected must be specifically described in the project document as well as the people/organization/departments in charge of such data collection;
3. The method of collection of the data is also insufficiently documented in the project proposal;
4. The Panel also doubted of the sustainability of this project as it is too unspecific and vague;
5. Finally, the Panel requested the assumptions and risks (Section 3.5.1) to be much more detailed and specific.

C) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposals to the Committee, and submits them to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal.

PD 839/17 (M)

**Strengthening and Consolidating the National Process for
Controlling Illegal Logging and Associated Trade in Cameroon –
Phase 2**

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to strengthen and consolidate the national process for controlling illegal logging and associated trade in Cameroon. The Panel recognized that the project proposal was strong, very specific, consistent with ITTO's mandate and had clearly defined activities and outputs. This proposal has also a coherent plan to accomplish the Strategic Objective that will lead to the Development Objective. The Panel also reported that the overall project proposal was satisfactory in regards of the *ITTO Manual for Project Formulation*.

However, some minor changes are requested to be implemented in this revised project proposal. Those changes are listed in the Specific Recommendations.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. The project brief should be reduced to one page;
2. Activity 3.1 should be clarified, particularly on how the database will be developed, who will maintain it and how sustainable it will be once the project will be completed. The Executing Agency should also precise how/what information will be uploaded inside the system and how frequently the system will be maintained and updated;
3. In Section 2.1.2, the timber control and law enforcement agencies should be moved to the primary stakeholders group;
4. For Activities 3.1.2, the Executing Agency should clarify how the 500 officials listed in Output 1 will be reached. According to the number of workshops listed, the 500 officials are not reached through these workshops. The Executing Agency should also describe how the workshops participants' evaluations will be conducted to ensure the workshop training has been successful;
5. Section 3.4.1 should provide more details and has to be reformatted to follow the ITTO master budget format of the *ITTO Manual for Project Formulation*;
6. In Section 3.4.2, the Executing Agency should provide all the in-kind terms that the Government and TRAFFIC will be providing in order to increase the counterpart budget. As the Executing Agency has to finance the audit, the audit must be moved to the counterpart budget;
7. In Section 4.3.2, the Executing Agency should consider using Facebook or other social medias for sharing the successes of the project to the general public. The Executing Agency should also consider the possibility to share the outputs of the projects with other countries working in similar topics with TRAFFIC across the world.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

PD 844/17 (M)

Promoting Plantation of the Locally Endangered Species Timoho (*Kleinhovia Hospita L.*), Mentaok (*Wrightia Pubescens R.Br.*) and Terbelo Puso (*Hymenodictyon Orixense (ROXB.) MABB.*) to Enhance Sustainable Use, Local Communities Livelihood and Culture (Indonesia)

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the project proposal aimed at contributing to the promotion of plantation of three local endangered species through conservation efforts in Gunungkidul District, Yogyakarta Province. Exploitation of these local trees as raw material for crafting industries is not followed by planting activities and leads to their endangered status.

The Panel was of the view that, in order to increase the chance of a successful project, the proposal should be improved and further reviewed so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed as below.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. In Section 1.1, clarify state of the art of the three endangered species. Describe how they are spotted (habitat distribution of the species) in the forest;
2. In Section 1.3, improve the presentation of project area map and enrich it with more informative legend. Add more information on the existing land use in the District;
3. In Section 2.1.2, revisit the grouping of the stakeholders. It is found in the stakeholder analysis that the primary stakeholders are mostly government institutions and lack of non-state actors. Some of the tertiary stakeholders may be categorized as the primary stakeholders;
4. In Section 3.2, describe how the production of seed/seedling in nurseries, scope and purposes of soil and plant analysis, and NTFPs products related to the three species;
5. In Section 3.4, reduce the budget allocation for DSAs. Clarify the need to allocate budget for radio, television, newspaper in the consumable items. Increase the budget allocation for ITTO monitoring and review to USD 25,000.00. Clarify the allocation of the EA budget for 'visa cost', 'air tickets in Java' and the purpose of the 'drone';
6. In Section 3.4, provide description of purchased capital items;
7. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold** and underlined) in the text; and
8. In Section 3.2, indicate which biological and ecological measurements are foreseen. Furthermore apply consistency in the paragraph on LEK for the grouping into 2 or 3 groups.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

PD 845/17 (M)

Enhancing the Capacity of Forest Communities in Forest Governance, Monitoring and Community Development Projects in Mankraso Forest District Ghana

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project proposal to contribute to legal compliance for the production and export of legal timber right from the forest gate through capacity building activities to improve community participation in forest governance, monitoring and access to equitable benefit sharing arrangements in timber revenue.

The Panel noted that the project proposal was clearly structured and well formulated in accordance with ITTO Manual for Project Formulation and in conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities. However, the Panel further noted that the project proposal could be further improved in some sections and sub-sections and suggested the specific recommendations mentioned below for that purpose.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. In Section 1.2.1, include the conformity of the project proposal with ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018;
2. In Section 2.3.1, rephrase the Impact Indicators b, c, d into measurable indicators;
3. In Section 2.3.2, rephrase the Outcome Indicator e into measurable indicator;
4. In Section 3.5, revised the budget arrangements and presentations in accordance with ITTO Manual. Include the budget allocation for ITTO monitoring & review (at least USD10,000.00) and ITTO program support (12%). Correct the numbering of the budget lines;
5. Complete and improve the Annexes 1, 2, and 3 in accordance with the ITTO Manual. Provide TORs and CVs of involved personnel; and
6. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold** and underlined) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of assessing the standing timber volume genetic diversity of *Dalbergia sp* to determine prudent quotas and to issue non-detriment findings (NDF) in view of the readiness of the Government of Madagascar to implement action plan recommended by CITES. Ultimately, the project's outcomes will lead to the withdrawal of the logging and international trade suspension for Madagascar.

The Panel noted missing essential information in the project proposal with regard to risk assessment of current situation of *Dalbergia sp* in Madagascar without which the implementation of the project may create worsen status of the species. Furthermore, the project proposal was not formulated in full conformity with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation.

The Panel was of the view that, in order to ensure successful project implementation and the usefulness of the project's outputs, the proponent may submit a **pre-project** with the purpose to gather relevant information and undertake analysis on the risk factors of harvesting *Dalbergia sp*.

The Panel provided specific recommendations detailed as below to show the weakness of the formulated project which may be used as the proponent's references for future work.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Identify the five species of *Delbergia* to be studied;
2. In Section 1.1, describe roles of the Executing Agency;
3. In Section 1.2.1, specify relevant objectives of the ITTA 2006 and priorities of ITTO Action Plan 2013-2018 to the project;
4. In Section 1.4, rewrite the expected outcomes at project completion in accordance with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation;
5. In Section 2.1, rewrite the stakeholder analysis. Include relevant stakeholders. Note: stakeholders include: government, private sector, civil society and local community);
6. In Section 2.3.2, reformulate the Specific Objective (SO). SO must have only one objective;
7. Reformulate the budget arrangement in full conformity with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. Ensure the correct calculation, numbering and attributes (unit, unit cost, quantity, total cost, etc.); and
8. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold** and underlined) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposals to the Committee, and submits them to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal.

PD 847/17 (M)

Sustainable Management of *Prunus Africana* Population in Madagascar: Assessment of Growing Stock, Analysis of Genetic Diversity and Dissemination of Bark Harvesting Method

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the importance of the project for the resumption of *Prunus Africana* utilization in Madagascar through the assessment of its growing stock, analysis of genetic diversity and dissemination of bark harvesting method.

The Panel noted that the overall formulation of the proposal was not strictly adhered to the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. Specifically, the Specific Objective must have only one objective and the budget arrangement need to be reformulated.

The Panel was of the view that, in order to increase the chance of a successful project, the proposal should be modified and further reviewed so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed as below.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. In the list of abbreviations and acronyms, check their correctness and revise accordingly (such as WWF);
2. In Section 2.1, rewrite the stakeholder analysis. Include relevant stakeholders. Note: stakeholders include: government, private sector, civil society and local community);
3. Identify the five species of *Delbergia* to be studied;
4. In Section 2.3.2, reformulate the Specific Objective (SO). SO must have only one objective;
5. Reformulate the budget arrangement in full conformity with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation by providing budget tables: i) master budget, ii) consolidated budget by component, iii) ITTO yearly budget; and iv) executing agency yearly budget. Include budget allocation for ITTO project monitoring and administration and calculation with standard rate of 12% for ITTO program support cost. Ensure the correct calculation, numbering and attributes (unit, unit cost, quantity, total cost, etc.). Include executing agency yearly budget;
6. In Section 4.3, simplify the elaboration of monitoring system;
7. Complete and improve the Annexes 1, 2, and 3 in accordance with the ITTO Manual. Provide TORs and CVs of involved personnel; and
8. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold** and underlined) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Assessment by the Fifty-second PanelA) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to analyze the dynamics and direction of forest products markets in China, and forecast their dependence on international trade of tropical timber towards 2030.

The Panel noted that the proposal was clearly structured and well formulated in conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities.

However, the panel recognized that the project proposal could be further improved in some sections and sub-sections and suggested the specific recommendations mentioned below for that purpose, such as conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities, target areas and map, social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects, expect outcomes, the problem analysis, the project budget, and in Annex.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Present a map which clearly reflects the main production areas, the main processing areas and main consuming areas;
2. Quote and list the related ITTA objectives (Objective d, e, k) and ITTO Strategic Action Plan Priorities (Priority 1, 2, 4, 5);
3. Provide more basic information in the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects – add information on forest leasing systems and cutting rights;
4. Modify the expect outcomes, elaborating on expected outcomes after the project implemented rather than the outputs achieved;
5. Refine the problem analysis including elaborating the effects of the key problem and the problem tree respectively;
6. Keep consistency among different budget tables including the total amount and increase ITTO programme support costs from 8% to 12%;
7. Add the terms of reference for national consultant and sub-contractions funded by ITTO in Annex 3. Elaborate more detailed responsibilities for the correspondents;
8. Correct the title in the cover page from the year 2020 to 2030.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

PD 860/17 (M)

Building the Capacity for Forest Law Enforcement and Local Governance in the Industrial and Commercial Use of Wood and timber in the Segou Region, Mali

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel wishes to thank Mr. Bouare for his comments sent to the Secretariat on February 2, 2016. However, the Panel noted that the project proposal was completely identical to the proposal PD 809/16 (M) submitted to the 51st Expert Panel and already assessed category 4. A category 4 assessed project cannot be resubmitted as such to the Expert Panel. Therefore the Expert Panel assessed this project category 4 again.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposals to the Committee, and submits them to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal.

Assessment by the Fifty-second Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this small project is to improve local capacities to produce and market NTFPs and environmental services in Guatemala.

The Panel noted that the proposal was clearly structured and well formulated in conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities.

However, the panel recognized that the project proposal could be further improved in some sections and sub-sections and suggested the specific recommendations mentioned below for that purpose, such as conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities, the problem analysis, development and specific objective and indicators, outputs and activities, the project budget, and in Annex.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. List the numbers of 4 ITTO objectives in the table;
2. Clearly elaborate the key problem and its logical links with causes and effects;
3. It was confused between the development objectives under 2.3.1 and the specific objective under 2.3.2. If the later one is the specific objective, restructure section 2.3 Objectives and delete the unnecessary elements;
4. Make the activities more specific and concrete. For instance, describe how many trainings and events will be held and how many people will participate and benefit;
5. Add the terms of reference for all project staff, consultant and experts funded by ITTO in Annex 3, including the accountant-administrator, the consultant in NTFP and the consultant in PES.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

* * *