COMPLETION REPORT

Strengthening the Capacity of ITTO Producer Countries in Africa in Generating and Disseminating Scientific Information on Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services from Forests.

Name of Executing Agency (EA): ITTO (Secretariat)

Project Number:	ITTO Project RED-PA 056/11 Rev.1 (F)
Starting date of the Project:	01 February 2012
Duration of the Project:	24 months (+4 months no-cost extension)
Project costs (US $):	348,120
Type of Report:	Project Completion Report

Name	Function	Institution / Contact
Dr. Michael Kleine	Project Coordinator	International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO); Marxergasse 2, A-1030 Vienna, Austria; Tel.: +43-1-877-0151-22 Fax: +43-1-8770151-50; kleine@iufro.org
Dr. Ernest Foli	Regional Project Coordinator and Leader Expert Group (Ghana)	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, University PO Box 63, Kumasi. Ghana. Tel: +233-322-060-123; +233-243-714-148; efoli@hotmail.com
Dr. Joseph Cobbinah	Chairman CSC IUFRO-FORNESSA Regional Congress	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, University PO Box 63, Kumasi. Ghana. Tel: +233-322-060-123; +233-244-405-601; joe.cobbinah@ymail.com
Mr. Louis Bernard Cheteu	Leader Expert Group (Cameroon)	Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) Station IRAD of Abong- Mbang P.O.BOX 592 Abong –Mbang, Cameroon Tel: 00237 77 75 66 62 lbcheteu@yahoo.fr
Mr. Blamah S. Goll	Leader Expert Group (Liberia)	Forestry Development Authority Whein Town, Mt. Barclay, P.O. Box 3010 Montserrado County, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia, blamahg@yahoo.com
Dr Olajide R. Adejoba	Leader Expert Group (Nigeria)	Dr Olajide R Adejoba Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan, Nigeria, dejob_j@yahoo.com
Ms. Stella Britwum	FORNIS Coordinator	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, University PO Box 63, Kumasi. Ghana. Tel: +233-322-060-123; +233-244-381-635; sbritwum@csir-forig.org.gh; s_britwum@yahoo.com
Ms. Eva Schimpf	Project Accountant	International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO); Mariabrunn (BFW), Hauptstrasse 7, A-1140 Vienna, Austria; Tel.: +43-1-877-0151-21 Fax: +43-1-8770151-50;schimpf@iufro.org

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO); Maxergasse 2, A-1030 Vienna, Austria; Tel.: +43-1-877-0151-22 Fax: +43-1-8770151-50

Date: 14/08/2014 Place: Vienna, Austria

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Executive Summary

This project aimed to contribute to ITTO's Thematic Program on REDDES (Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services from Tropical Forests) through scientific analysis of specific REDDES pilot areas in four ITTO member countries in West and Central Africa and capacity building in dissemination of scientific information and effective interactions with policy makers at national and regional levels. The project is built on the realisation that deforestation and forest degradation is driven by a multitude of factors from outside and inside the forest sector. In order to reduce deforestation resulting in long-lasting expansion of the forest area and improvement in forest conditions, site-specific solutions, reconciled with local communities, need to be designed taking into account a wide range of ecological, socio-economic, cultural and institutional aspects. To this end, information on ecological, socio-economic to institutional and policy aspects is needed in sufficient quality and quantity as a basis for effectively reducing deforestation and expanding rehabilitated forest areas in the four ITTO target countries. In this context, the project pursued the following main components:

- REDDES Pilot Areas area assessed and strategies for their implementation developed;
- Scientific information on REDDES is disseminated to and shared with policy makers and forest stakeholders; and
- Research and networking capacity of African forest scientists expanded.

As regards to project implementation, almost all activities have been implemented according to the original plan. However, the interaction processes with communities and local policy-makers took much longer than expected, thus the development of the REDDES strategies and associated preparation of publications, promotional material and summaries for policy makers was delayed.

The situation prevailing after Project completion clearly indicates that today there is increasing awareness among local communities in the REDDES pilot sites of the severity of land degradation and the need to address these through a mix of land rehabilitation measures. The stakeholders' proposals for a wide range of land rehabilitation measures such as wildfire control, agroforestry, establishment of woodlots, sustainable harvest of NTFP and charcoal making were taken on-board in developing the REDDES strategies. Although there are no tangible impacts on the landscape thus far through project activities in reversing land degradation in the pilot areas, there are a number of other initiatives related to climate change which could help to promote land rehabilitation. It can be expected that the combined impact of these initiatives will have a positive effect on policy, management and investment into land rehabilitation in the long-run.

After completion of this project, the REDDES strategies developed across pilot sites need to be implemented on a demonstrational scale to allow replication and scaling up. For this to happen, local decision-makers and relevant government agencies involved in the entire process would need to ensure that these strategies be integrated into district level programmes and activities. This could further be facilitated by additional support provided by ITTO through IUFRO and FORNESSA for this type of project aiming at the demonstration of selected priority REDDES activities in each pilot site to facilitate replication and up-scaling.

1 Project Identification

1.1 Context

Reducing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing environmental services from forests have become central to the global debates on climate change, conservation of biological diversity and sustainable forest management. Towards this end, this project aimed to contribute to ITTO's Thematic Program on REDDES (Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services from Tropical Forests) through scientific analysis of specific REDDES pilot areas in four ITTO member countries in Africa and capacity building in dissemination of scientific information and effective interactions with policy makers at national and regional levels. In addition, the project supported the organisation of a regional forest science congress, including a special event organised by the African Forest Forum and ITTO.

The main focus of the project's work was directed towards four REDDES pilot sites located in Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria as shown below.

Map showing the four pilot sites in West and Central Africa.

The project was clearly related to ITTO's mandate and directly contributed to ITTO's Objective No. 2 as provided for in the ITTA, 2006. Furthermore, the project was designed as a contribution to ITTO's Thematic Programme on REDDES, pursuing specific REDDES objectives such as (a) reducing unplanned deforestation; (b) reducing forest degradation; and (c) contributing to the social and economic sustainability and well-being of forest-dependent communities by increasing forest values through forest restoration and rehabilitation. In addition, the project addressed three of the four strategic areas of the Thematic Programme including (a) assessment and diagnosis, by enhancing availability and accuracy of data and information on the state of and threats to forest resources; (b) enabling conditions and capacity-building, by supporting the formulation of national forest policies including legislation as well as expanding the necessary national capacity through training; and (c) scaling up and dissemination, through sharing information and lessons learned locally, nationally, and internationally.

1.2 Origin and Problem

Over the past years, ITTO and IUFRO have been collaborating in support of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS). ITTO provided funding to IUFRO under its Biennial Work Programmes to further develop and expand GFIS in ITTO producer countries, mainly in Africa. These activities have helped to further populate GFIS with new information resources, bring aboard new partners from ITTO member countries and make this service better known among the forestry community in developing countries, particularly in Africa.

Besides strengthening the capacity of forest research institutions in developing countries in effectively disseminating forest-related information, IUFRO is also promoting the creation of new scientific knowledge through networking and closer cooperation among forest scientists and institutions. Many of the recent research results on complex forest policy and management issues published in international journals have been generated by groups of scientists. These initiatives usually bring together scientists from various specialisations, in order to work in a multidisciplinary fashion and look at social, economic and ecological aspects of a specific forest management or policy problem. In addition, scientists from different regions contribute a wide range of experiences and in this way enhance interregional exchange of information and learning.

Towards this end, IUFRO through its Special Programme for Development of Capacities (formerly Special Programme for Developing Countries (IUFRO-SPDC)) is working with the Forestry Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA) on themes such as forests and climate change, poverty alleviation, forest policy and governance, as well as forest products and marketing. Recent results of this thematic networking include a scientific report and regional policy brief on “Making African Forests Fit for Climate Change” and the development of pilot cases for translating adaptation policies into concrete community activities on the ground. These pilot studies have been conducted in the tropical high and transition forests in Western Africa.

This project, which addresses ITTO’s thematic programme on “Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and enhancing Environmental Services from Forests”, builds on early thematic networking initiatives of FORNESSA. The most significant initiative has been the Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands in Sub-Saharan Africa which evaluated the lessons learned on case studies of forest rehabilitation and afforestation covering the humid, sub-humid and dry land forest zones in Western and Eastern Africa. The results of these studies served as the basis for scientific assessment and elaboration of strategies in specific REDDES pilot areas in four ITTO member countries (i.e. Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria).

The rationale for this project is built on the realisation that deforestation and forest degradation is driven by a multitude of factors from outside and inside the forest sector. Population growth, expansion of agriculture land for food and biofuels and poverty are factors external to the forest sector, while commercial harvesting, firewood collection, excessive grazing and uncontrolled forest fire are directly related to forest governance. Experiences in the past have shown that successfully reversing deforestation and rehabilitating forests require work on a complex mix of underlying causes that vary from country to country. In order to reduce deforestation resulting in long-lasting expansion of the forest area and improvement in forest conditions, site-specific solutions, reconciled with local communities, need to be designed taking into account a wide range of ecological, socio-economic, cultural and institutional aspects.

Because to date in many African countries adequate site-specific scientific information on REDDES implementation is largely absent, the key problem has been defined as “Insufficient

generation and dissemination of scientific information on REDDES for policy and management". This key problem was addressed by working with the forest science community in Africa towards strengthening the capacity in scientific analysis and evaluation of REDDES implementation projects, and dissemination of the scientific information to policy makers, forest managers, and local communities. The main focus of this project was, therefore, to actively engage the forest science community in the development of successful reforestation and forest rehabilitation programs in ITTO member countries in Africa.

2 Project Objectives and Implementation Strategy

The project builds on the assumption that scientific information on REDDES in all its dimensions, ranging from ecological, socio-economic to institutional and policy issues, is needed in sufficient quality and quantity for effectively reducing deforestation and expanding rehabilitated forest areas in the four target countries in West and Central Africa. It is therefore a challenge for the forest science community in these countries to deliver such information for policy and management.

Towards this end, the project aimed at bringing about the following changes:

- Forest scientists in the targeted countries are enabled to provide comprehensive scientific analysis and evaluation of specific REDDES implementation sites. Such evaluations should address the problems of forest rehabilitation and reforestation at various scales (i.e. landscape, stand and individual trees) and in its ecological, socio-economic, institutional and policy dimensions.
- The forest science community is able to effectively communicate the scientific results of REDDES assessments to policy-makers and practitioners, so that appropriate policies and implementation strategies can be devised. On the other hand, the project also contributes to better awareness among decision-makers and society at large of the needs for addressing deforestation, not only for purposes of climate change mitigation, but also for enhancing land productivity and environmental services from forests such as soil protection, water conservation, mitigating climate change and combating desertification.
- Given the limited resources available to forest research institutions in the targeted countries, forest scientists maintain a functioning regional research network with forest scientists from neighboring countries and throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, in order to share expertise and information on REDDES, collaborate in joint research and dissemination projects and in this way make best use of the limited resources.

Development objective

- Improve forest dependent livelihoods through sustainable management and restoration of tropical forests.

The Development Objective of the project is clearly related to ITTO's mandate and directly contributes to ITTO's Objective No. 2 as provided for in the ITTA, 2006: "To promote the sustainable management of tropical timber producing forests". Furthermore, the project is designed as a contribution to ITTO's Thematic Programme on REDDES pursuing the following specific REDDES objectives:

- Reducing unplanned deforestation;
- Reducing forest degradation; and

- Contributing to the social and economic sustainability and well-being of forest-dependent communities by increasing forest values through forest restoration and rehabilitation.

Specific objective

- Scientific information on REDDES for policy and management is available in sufficient quantity and quality

The specific objective of the project is directed towards contributions of forest science institutions towards providing adequate information on REDDES pilot areas as well as strategies to successfully implement REDDES on the ground. Besides appropriate methodologies for assessment and evaluation of concrete sites for REDDES implementation, the project also disseminates scientific information for enhancing the interactions between the forest science community and various sector of the society (e.g. policy-makers, forest communities, forest managers).

Implementation strategy

The project in its implementation pursued a three-tiered approach comprising the following components:

REDDES Pilot Areas assessed and strategies for their implementation developed: in a first step forest landscapes were selected in the four participating countries serving as test sites for assessment and development of strategies to reduce deforestation. Besides assessment of the biophysical environment and level of degradation of natural resources such as vegetation, water and soils, the surveys also extensively covered the socio-economic conditions in the areas through interviews with stakeholders at village, and district levels. The initial indicator formulated for this project result assumed that at least one REDDES pilot area in Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria, respectively, had been assessed. Based on the interviews and consultation with relevant forest stakeholders in the four pilot sites, site-specific strategies were developed for the implementation of REDDES activities in each of the pilot sites.

Scientific information on REDDES disseminated to and shared with policy makers and forest stakeholders: as a logical follow-up to the assessments in the pilot areas, the project subsequently disseminated the results to various stakeholders, in order to inform them about potential steps to be undertaken by the local communities to reverse further natural resource degradation. According to the initial plans, the results of the REDDES pilot areas should be available to stakeholders through the FORNIS website and policy briefs.

Research and networking capacity of African forest scientists expanded: The involvement of four national research organisations, with their groups of expert scientists working on the REDDES pilot areas aims at intensifying interaction and mutual learning within the region. The assumption was that by the end of the project, more than 50 forest scientists from the targeted countries would have participated in the REDDES studies and the ITTO-IUFRO-FORNESSA Regional Congress, held in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2012.

Assumptions and risks

There are a number of risks and challenges associated with implementation of activities to reduce deforestation and forest restoration under conditions found in West- and Central Africa. To this end, several assumptions related to an enabling environment for successful project implementation have been formulated and include:

- National-level policies favour the implementation of REDDES activities;

- Sufficient funding is made available for the conservation and rehabilitation of tropical forests;
- National decision-makers and local forest stakeholders support the establishment of REDDES pilot areas and are also willing to participate in the project's dissemination activities;
- The leadership of the forest science community continues to encourage scientists to participate in science communication and networking activities.

3 Project Performance

Realised performance versus planned performance

A full account of the results achieved during project implementation is provided in this section separately for the Specific Objectives, and Output and Activities.

Specific objectives

Scientific information on REDDES for policy and management is available in sufficient quantity and quality has been achieved through research, stakeholder interactions and analyses in all four REDDES pilot areas, producing the following main documents:

- Assessments on socio-economic, ecological and institutional issues in the REDDES pilot sites (a total of 4 reports, one each for Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria).
- District Level Stakeholders' Engagement on REDDES Implementation Strategies in Ghana, Workshop Report, August 2012.
- Local Level Actors' Engagement on REDDES Implementation Strategies in Ghana, Workshop Report, August 2012 (2 reports for different communities).
- Report on Stakeholder Meetings in Owena and Aponmu Pilot Sites at Akure Forest Reserve, Ondo State, Nigeria, September 2012.
- Stakeholder Meeting Reports, Cameroon (September 2012).
- Local Community and District Level Actors Engagement on REDDES Implementation Strategies in Liberia, September 2013.
- REDDES Fact Sheets (Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria), to be presented at the IUFRO World Congress 2014.
- Involving local communities in developing strategies for REDDES implementation in West Africa, Draft paper or submission to ITTO Tropical Forest Update.
- Developing strategies for REDDES activities in selected pilot areas in Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria. Draft Final Project Report.

Output and activities

Output 1 REDDES Pilot Areas assessed and strategies for their implementation developed	**Responsible Party**	**Schedule (in months) January 2012 to December 2013 (extended to July 2014)**																							
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
Activity 1.1	Select pilot areas for REDDES (one per country)																								
Sub-activity 1.1.1 Compile basic profiles of REDDES Pilot Areas	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity completed		
Sub-activity 1.1.2 Organise a REDDES assessment inception workshop	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity completed		
Activity 1.2	Conduct assessments on socio-economic, ecological and institutional issues in each pilot area																								
Sub-activity 1.2.1 Form an in-country expert group for each pilot area	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity completed		
Sub-activity 1.2.2 Implement assessments including stakeholder consultations	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity completed		
Activity 1.3	Organise stakeholder meetings																								
Sub-activity 1.3.1 Discuss selected REDDES strategies with policy makers	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity completed		
Sub-activity 1.3.2 Discuss selected REDDES strategies with local communities	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity completed		
Activity 1.4	Develop site-specific REDDES strategies and activities																								
Sub-activity 1.4.1 Compile and evaluate information	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity completed		
Sub-activity 1.4.2 Develop options for REDDES strategies	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity completed		
Activity 1.5	Prepare scientific reports and summaries for policy makers																								
Sub-activity 1.5.1 Organise an editorial meeting	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity not implemented		
Sub-activity 1.5.2 Publish scientific results on REDDES pilot areas	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity in progress		
Sub-activity 1.5.3 Publish policy briefs and promotional material on REDDES	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity in progress		

Output and activities (Continued)

Output 2: Scientific information on REDDES disseminated to and shared with policy makers and forest stakeholders	Responsible Party	Schedule (in months) January 2012 to December 2013 (extended to July 2014)																								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Activity 2.1: Present the results of the assessment and site-specific REDDES strategies on FORNIS																										
Sub-activity 2.1.1 Create a special REDDES Project site on FORNIS	FORNESSA Info Manager																									Activity completed
Sub-activity 2.1.2 Training of FORNESSA Information Managers	FORNESSA Info Manager																									Activity implemented virtually
Sub-activity 2.1.3 Upload documents FORNIS	FORNESSA Info Manager																									Activity continued
Activity 2.2: Disseminate project results to local stakeholders and decision makers																										
Sub-activity 2.2.1 Hold meetings with local stakeholders	FORNESSA Expert Group																									Activity completed
Sub-activity 2.2.2 Hold meetings with policy makers	FORNESSA Expert Group																									Activity completed
Activity 2.3: Establish close partnership with AFF and inform about the REDDES pilot areas																										
Sub-activity 2.3.1 AFF members conduct peer review	FORNESSA Expert Group																									Activity not implemented
Sub-activity 2.3.2 Use the AFF network for the dissemination of REDDES results	FORNESSA Expert Group																									Activity partly implemented
Activity 2.4	Publish project information in regional and global journals (see Activity 1.5)																									

Output and activities (Continued)

Output 3: Research and networking capacity of African forest scientists expanded	Responsible Party	Schedule (in months) January 2012 to December 2013 (extended to July 2014)																							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Activity 3.1: Establish FORNESSA expert groups to work on the REDDES pilot areas																									
Sub-activity 3.1.1 Identify expert group leader	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity completed		
Sub-activity 3.1.2 Select members of the expert group	FORNESSA Expert Group																						Activity completed		
Activity 3.2: Involve young forest scientists in the Regional Congress (ITTO & IUFRO component)																									
Sub-activity 3.2.1 Select scientists for support	SPDC Coordinator.																						Activity completed		
Sub-activity 3.2.2 Organise the SAP	SPDC Coordinator.																						Activity completed		
Activity 3.3: Organise a one-day ITTO & AFF forest policy event																									
Sub-activity 3.3.1 Prepare programme of the event	AFF																						Activity completed		
Sub-activity 3.3.2 Implement and moderate the event	AFF																						Activity completed		

As regards the outputs and activities, almost all activities have been implemented according to the original plan as presented in the tables above. The following adjustments to the plans were made during implementation:

Activity 1.5: Prepare scientific reports and summaries for policy makers: Because of longer than expected data collection and interaction processes with communities, the preparation of publications, promotional material and summaries for policy makers started late. Due to time constraints, Sub-activity 1.5.1 on an editorial meeting was carried out "virtually" between the Project Coordinator, Regional Project Coordinator and expert team leaders instead of holding a physical editorial meeting. The publications and fact sheets will be available at the XXIV IUFRO World Congress, in October 2014.

Activity 2.1: Present the results of the assessment and site-specific REDDES strategies on FORNIS: All sub-activities have been implemented except for the training of FORNESSA information managers on FORNIS. With the development of this website enough technical expertise could be developed so that a separate training for the information managers was deemed to be superfluous.

Activity 2.3: Establish close partnership with AFF and inform about the REDDES pilot areas. Initial plans provided for disseminating REDDES project results throughout Africa through AFF. The above-mentioned delays in data acquisition and stakeholder interactions and challenges to engage local policy makers in the discussions about REDDES strategies, did not allow dissemination activities beyond the district-level. However, the final results will be promoted beyond the project period by IUFRO and FORNESSA at the African and global level in cooperation with AFF. Also, some degree of dissemination of information about the project was achieved during the first ITTO-IUFRO Regional Congress in Nairobi.

Schedule

The project had an initial duration of 24 months starting on 01 February 2012 with an envisaged completion on 31 January 2014. Due to delays in activities, a no-cost extension was approved by ITTO resulting in the official completion date of 31 July 2014.

Total expenditures

Project accounting was fully integrated into IUFRO's double-entry accounting system. Because of the fact that the final financial results will only be available at the end of 2014, the financial figures below and in Annex 1 refer to January 2014.

ITTO Budget:	US$204,000.00
Expenditure to date:	US$179,070.65
Total budget remaining (ITTO):	US$24,929.35
IUFRO Budget:	US$95,000.00
Expenditure to date:	US$165,878.00
Deficit (Expenditure over Budget):	US$70,878.00

Overall, the entire allocation of US$204,000.00 was spent at the end of July with an additional approximately US$20,000 on the IUFRO budget.

4 Project Outcome, Target Beneficiaries Involvement

Achievement of project specific objective

The project output "Scientific information on REDDES for policy and management is available in sufficient quantity and quality" has largely been achieved for the following reasons:

- Comprehensive surveys and analyses of the biophysical, social and economic situation as well as the causes and effects of forest and land degradation in all four pilot areas have been successfully completed. The various reports describe the situation in detail.
- A series of stakeholder meetings held with local politicians, interest groups, farmers etc. to discuss the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation provided excellent opportunities to raise awareness of the environmental problems in the pilot areas.
- A comprehensive household survey conducted among communities in all four pilot areas added more details to the analysis from the perspective of various groups of stakeholders.

Situation at project completion compared to pre-project situation

The level of participation of local stakeholders and responses received clearly indicate that today there is increasing awareness among local communities of the severity of land degradation and the need to address these. The participatory processes applied in analyzing the local situation in the pilot areas and the series of meetings organized by the project to obtain information and discuss REDDES strategies have been a key to raising this awareness.

The project duration of 2.5 years has been too short to expect visible impact of project activities on sectoral policies and programs. However, key decision-makers in the districts of the pilot areas showed keen interest in REDDES and actively participated in the discussions on the various options to reduce land degradation including the necessary policy changes.

The project did not have any effect on the physical environment because of the long-term nature of the strategies needed to reverse deforestation and forest degradation.

Participation of target beneficiaries

As mentioned earlier there was adequate participation in the workshops by various local stakeholder groups and key decision-makers. However, the project did not have any formal arrangement with local NGOs or stakeholder groups for implementing project activities such as social surveys, analysis of data etc. These activities were implemented by staff of IRAD, FORIG, FDA and FRIN, respectively.

Project sustainability

Based on the results of project activities and the rather short duration, it is difficult to judge whether there will be a long-lasting impact of the project on reversing land degradation in the pilot areas. The situation found in each of the four countries also differs with regard to the project environment. For example, in the Ghana REDDES pilot site, various other initiatives related to UN conventions such as climate change (REDD+) and combating desertification have sensitized local communities about the land degradation and possible future solutions. Thus, it can be expected that the combined impact of these initiatives will have a positive effect on policy and management and investment into land rehabilitation in the long-run. The pilot site in Liberia and the other countries, for example, did not yet benefit from the presence of other projects addressing deforestation and forest degradation. However, the advent of

projects like enhancement of carbon stocks, poverty alleviation, REDD+ which are all embedded in the policies of the participating countries and backed by national frameworks and laws would guide REDDES into the future.

5 Assessment and Analysis

Analysis and comments on the project rationale and the project identification: Stakeholder participation in the project formulation process

West African countries have a history of deforestation and forest degradation and thus, it is commonly accepted that efforts to address these issues need to be stepped up. In this context, all four research institutions over the past decades have worked on projects and programs to reverse deforestation in their countries. Although there was no direct involvement of local stakeholders in the formulation of the project, the participating scientists have acquired long-term experiences on land rehabilitation and are aware of local thinking and preferences.

In addition the project also intended to strengthen regional forest research cooperation by means of networking through a joint undertaking addressing the same topic. This objective has been very successful.

The adequacy or inadequacy of the results of the identification process: definition of the problem, the project objective and the choice of the implementation strategy

Deforestation and forest degradation are caused by a complex mix of various socio-economic problems, most of them originating outside of the forestry sector. In this context, the definition of the problem to be addressed by the project has been too broad. As a result, the REDDES strategies developed for the individual pilot areas are very broad and lack specific detail that would be needed for concrete decision-making on REDDES implementation. The overall project strategy to first thoroughly assess the pilot areas followed by the development of strategies to reverse deforestation and land degradation with strong participation of local communities has been very successful. However, the duration of the project was too short for the promotion of the results at local and national political levels.

The most critical differences between planned and actual project implementation

Differences between planned and actual project implementation occurred in Output 2 "Scientific information on REDDES disseminated to and shared with policy makers and forest stakeholders" and include the following two aspects:

- The original project plan placed emphasis on online presentation (FORNIS) and dissemination of REDDES results. During project implementation, however, the need for workshop and direct interactions at the local level became apparent. Therefore, the training on FORNESSA information managers was not implemented.
- Dissemination of REDDES results at the regional level through AFF could not be implemented within the period of the project, mainly because project results were available rather late and were first promoted and disseminated at the local and district levels. However, after the completion of the project IUFRO and FORNESSA intend to cooperate with AFF in making the results available at the regional and global levels.

Time and project inputs quality and quantity: personnel and equipment, financial resources, knowledge and expertise

In general the resources provided for project implementation in terms of personnel, knowledge, expertise and finances have been adequate. The following aspects are considered important for this type of knowledge and dissemination project:

- Longer project periods would be needed to fully capitalize on the outcome (new knowledge) of such a project and to adequately inform stakeholders and decision-makers.
- There should also be some financial resources in the project to cover field testing and demonstration plots. Such field-based examples of best practices are effective means of motivating local stakeholders to embark on such new approaches, besides being useful to clarify operational and economic issues under local conditions.

Anticipation and reality of external influences, assumptions and risks etc. and the effectiveness of mitigating measures

The basic assumptions relating to national policies and national and local decision-makers support for REDDES, which were formulated during initial planning of the project, have been realistic. Although basic legal and policy provisions in support of REDDES are available in all four countries, the financial means by Governments to embark on larger-scale forest rehabilitation and combating deforestation are largely absent. If significant progress cannot be made to this end, projects such as this one will not have impact at the country and/or regional level.

In addition, renewed efforts would also be needed to further develop regional research networking. To this end, forest research leaders in the region should enhance their efforts towards raising the necessary funds and motivating scientists to participate in collaborative projects beyond borders.

The participation of anticipated and actual project beneficiaries in project implementation and how they have and will be benefited from the project

The anticipated participants/beneficiaries in the project findings, besides the forest authorities, are a wide range of other stakeholders such as local communities, farmers, district governments and NGOs working on environmental and social issues in rural areas. The project has provided them with a comprehensive set of strategies for improving land management and thus contributing to reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

Sustainability after project completion

Based on the results of project activities and the rather short duration, it is difficult to judge whether there will be a long-lasting impact of the project on reversing forest degradation in the pilot areas. The situation found in each of the four countries also differs with regard to the project environment. For example, in the Ghana REDDES pilot site, various other initiatives related to UN conventions such as climate change (REDD+) and combating desertification have sensitized local communities about the land degradation and possible future solutions. Thus, it can be expected that the combined impact of these initiatives will have a positive effect on policy and management and investment into land rehabilitation in the long-run. The pilot site in Liberia and the other countries, for example, did not yet benefit from the presence of other projects addressing deforestation and forest degradation. However, the advent of projects like enhancement of carbon stocks, poverty alleviation, REDD+ which are all

embedded in the policies of the participating countries and backed by national frameworks and laws would guide REDDES into the future. Furthermore, the expertise developed by the expert teams in the pilot countries would enable the scientists to follow up on the project in order to actualize the proposed REDDES strategies in the various countries.

The understanding and appropriateness of the roles and responsibilities of the institutions involved with the project implementation

The institutions invited to participate in the project were carefully selected by the execution agency and included four IUFRO member institutions representing forest research in the participating countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria). In addition, FORNESSA, IUFRO's regional partner network played a coordinating role in the project. The four research institutions were the appropriate partners for the establishment of the REDDES pilot areas because of their long-term involvement with R&D projects related to forest rehabilitation, nature conservation and rural development.

6 Lessons Learned

Lessons learned from project identification, design and implementation

The following lessons have been learned from project design and implementation:

- From a perspective of a global network such as IUFRO, the involvement of local research institutions (IUFRO members) and a regional coordinator allowed adequate design and steering of the project.
- With regard to local stakeholder engagement, the project should have had more resources and time to organize additional working sessions, workshops and joint field visits, in order to better promote REDDES strategies into local land planning and management.
- Joint learning processes with local stakeholders should be supported by experimental field plots, demonstration areas and or test sites for novel approaches to land management. These additional components require adequate additional funding to be included into the project budget. Such demonstrational aspects in pilot sites augur well for practical acceptance of the strategies developed, and could facilitate scaling up of REDDES activities beyond the pilot areas.
- Future projects of this kind would need at least a three-year period of implementation. Alternatively, an initial two year period should be subject to extension for another two years. This will lead to higher impact of project results both at the decision-making levels of governments as well as testing and piloting at the field level.

The following lessons have been learned from operational matters of project implementation:

- The REDDES expert groups consisted mainly of scientists from one research institution. In order to analyse the complex problems of forest degradation more interdisciplinary groups of experts from various specialized institutions including universities, NGOs and interest groups could be formed.
- Close cooperation between the coordinators at the global, regional and country levels worked well. However, more opportunities for face-to-face meetings, at least once a year, would be beneficial for information flow among project partners, discussions on urgent project amendments and overall project steering.

- The flow of funds between ITTO and IUFRO as well as between IUFRO and the country partner institutions went well. ITTO provided the funds as planned; likewise IUFRO mobilized additional resources to supplement the budget as agreed in the project document.

7 Conclusions and Recommendations

All in all, the conclusions and recommendations are summarized as follows:

- Identification: Addressing issues relating to Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services from Forests (REDDES) is particularly relevant in the four West-African countries which have participated in the project.
- Design: The approach pursued in the project, namely working with local forest research institutions which bring on-board long-term experience in addressing land management issues in the pilot sites, turned out to be an excellent way of mobilising available scientific information and bringing these insights to the attention of local stakeholders. However, the initial project period of two years has proven to be too short to sufficiently disseminate the information to relevant stakeholders.
- Implementation: Mobilising available scientific information has been successful, though the composition of the expert team could have been broader in terms of scientific specialisations and affiliation. To this end, there was insufficient time arrange for such a local inter-agency cooperation. The dissemination component of the project suffered from a short project duration and insufficient funds. Additional face-to-face meetings with stakeholders would have helped in better integrating REDDES information into local decision-making processes.
- Organisation & Management: The decentralised nature of project organisation proved to be successful. Each national project partner (national forest research institution) independently organised the work in their respective pilot site. IUFRO and FORNESSA as global and regional partners facilitated the work in terms of coordination, financial management and reporting.

Potential for replication and scaling up

After completion of this project, the REDDES strategies developed across pilot sites need to be implemented on a demonstrational scale to allow replication and scaling up. However, since the relevant government agencies were involved in the entire process, it is hoped that the strategies would be integrated into district level climate change mitigation activities. If this is done, then scaling up would be facilitated. It is recommended, however, that additional support could be provided for the project to be carried into a second phase for demonstration of selected priority REDDES activities in each pilot site to facilitate replication and up-scaling.

Responsible for the project

Name: Dr. Michael Kleine Position held: Project Coordinator

Sign:

Date: 1 September 2014

Annex 1: Financial Statement

PROJECT FINANCIAL STATEMENT (in US Dollar)
(To be prepared separately for ITTO funding and for Counterpart Funding)

Project No.: **RED-PA 056/11 Rev.1 (F)** Period ending on: 31/01/2014

Project Title: **STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF ITTO PRODUCER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA IN GENERATING AND DISSEMINATING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON REDUCING DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION AND ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FROM FORESTS**

Component	Original Amount (A)	Expenditures To-date			Available Funds (E) { A - D }
		Accrued (B)	Expended (C)	Total (D) { B + C }	
I. Expenditures (by Executing Agency)					
10. Project Personnel					
11. National Experts (long term)			0,00	0,00	0,00
11.1 IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator	30.000,00		20.000,00	20.000,00	10.000,00
12. Other Personnel					
12.1 FORNESSA Coordinator	10.000,00		4.223,65	4.223,65	5.776,35
12.2 FORNIS Developer			0,00	0,00	0,00
19. Component Total:	$40.000,00	$0,00	$24.223,65	$24.223,65	$15.776,35
20. Sub-contracts					
21. Sub-contract (FORNESSA experts)	30.000,00		26.847,00	26.847,00	3.153,00
22. Sub-contract (Information Managers)	6.000,00		0,00	0,00	6.000,00
29. Component Total:	$36.000,00	$0,00	$26.847,00	$26.847,00	$9.153,00
30. Travel					
31. Daily Subsistence Allowance					
31.1 Travel for Regional Congress	98.000,00		98.000,00	98.000,00	0,00
31.3 Others			0,00	0,00	0,00
33. Local Transport Costs					
33.1 Training costs (stakeholder meetings	30.000,00		30.000,00	30.000,00	0,00
39. Component Total:	$128.000,00	$0,00	$128.000,00	$128.000,00	$0,00
70. National Management Costs					
71. Executing Agency Management Costs			0,00	0,00	0,00
79. Component Total:	$0,00	$0,00	$0,00	$0,00	$0,00
100. GRAND TOTAL:	$204.000,00	$0,00	$179.070,65	$179.070,65	$24.929,35

Note: Budget Components are those detailed in the Project Document.

(1) The **Cash Flow Statement must be completed first**, before the input into the Financial Statement.
(2) Accrued expenditure: expenditures incurred during the reporting period, but not yet settled.
(3) Amounts under the "Expended" column will be imported from the Cash Flow Statement (with direct link).

PROJECT CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Project No.: **RED-PA 056/11 Rev.1 (F)** Period ending on: **31/01/2014**

Project Title: **STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF ITTO PRODUCER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA IN GENERATING AND DISSEMINATING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON REDUCING DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION AND ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FROM FORESTS**

Component	Reference	Date	Amount in US$	Amount Local Currency (EUR)
A. Funds received from ITTO:				
1. First instalment		Feb.-2012	$150.000,00	112.983,00 €
2. Second Instalment			£29.955,90	£22.693,86
3. Third instalment				
Total Funds Received:			$179.955,90	135.676,86
B. Expenditures by Executing Agency:				
10. Project Personnel				
11. National Experts (long term)				
11.1 IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator			$20.000,00	15.151,52 €
12. Other Personnel				
12.1 FORNESSA Coordinator			$4.223,65	3.196,97 €
12.2 FORNIS Developer				
19. Component Total:			$24.223,65	18.348,49
20. Sub-contracts				
21. Sub-contract (FORNESSA experts)			$26.847,00	20.338,64 €
22. Sub-contract (Information Managers)				
29. Component Total:			$26.847,00	20.338,64
30. Travel				
31. Daily Subsistence Allowance				
31.1 Travel for Regional Congress			$98.000,00	73.684,21
31.3 Others				
33. Local Transport Costs				
33.1 Training costs (stakeholder meetings on REDD/ES pilot areas)			$30.000,00	22.727,27
39. Component Total:			$128.000,00	96.411,48
70. National Management Costs				
71. Executing Agency Management Costs				
79. Component Total:			$0,00	0,00
Total Expenditures To-date:			$179.070,65	135.098,61
Remaining Balance of Funds (A-B):			$885,25	578,25

Notes: (1) Amounts in U.S. dollars are converted using the average rate of exchange when funds were received by the Executing Agency;

(2) Amount of expenditures in US dollar should be the same as amount shown in column (C) of the Financial Statement (exported with direct link from the Cash Flow Statement); and

(3) Submit bank reconciliation statement along with the bank statements to support the remaining balances/funds in the Cash Flow Statement.