

TMT approved projects

TMT Spring Cycle 2010 approved projects				
Project ID	Submitted by	Title	ITTO Funding	Project Total
TMT-SPD 002/10 Rev.1 (M)	ITTO	Improving resilience of the tropical timber sector to the impacts of global and regional economic and financial crises	\$150,000 <i>completed</i>	\$150,000
TMT 1st Cycle 2011 approved projects				
TMT-PD 004/11 Rev.2 (M)	Guatemala	Strengthening of the forest information system of Guatemala to improve market and trade transparency and decision-making in the forest sector.	\$359,716	\$656,562
TMT-PD 006/11 Rev.3 (M)	Guyana	Strengthening market information systems to enhance trade and market intelligence in the forest sector of Guyana	\$320,920	\$420,820
TMT-PA 007/11 Rev.1 (I)	ITTO	Methodological Development for Life Cycle Analysis of Tropical Wood Products to Improve their Competitiveness in International Markets	\$60,116 <i>completed</i>	\$60,116
TMT Spring Cycle 2012 approved projects				
TMT-SPD 010/12 Rev.1 (M)	France	Preparation of the publication "atlas of tropical timber species – 1 st Edition: Technological characteristics and uses of 273 tropical timber species (and 17 temperate species)	\$138,033	\$273,789
TMT-SPD 011/12 Rev.2 (M)	Gabon	Adaptation and application at the national scale of the Trace Bois-Gabon (Gabon timber tracking) for the collection and processing of forest and timber statistics in Gabon	\$138,996	\$411,996
TMT-SPD 012/12 Rev.1 (M)	Ghana	Improving intra-African trade and market transparency in timber and timber products	\$111,931	\$149,996
TMT-SPD 013/12 Rev.1 (M)	ITTO	Analysis of the Economic Impact of Governmental Procurement Policies on Tropical Timber Markets	\$150,000	\$ 150,000

STATUS OF APPROVED ACTIVITIES, PRE-PROJECTS, SMALL PROJECTS AND PROJECTS**TMT****Improving resilience of the tropical timber sector to the impacts of global and regional economic and financial crises**

Project number:	TMT-SPD 002/10 Rev.1 (M)		
Project country:	Global		
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 150,000	
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 150,000	
Submitted by:	ITTO Secretariat		
Implementing agency:	ITTO Secretariat		
Duration:	12 months		
Financed at:	TMT Spring Cycle 2010		
Status:	Completed		

Summary:

The proposal is a response towards the lack of resilience of the tropical forestry sector to the impacts of the recent global financial and economic crisis. It will particularly address the concern of ITTO producer member countries that detailed analyses of the impacts of the crisis and policy responses were required to enable them to be better prepared for future economic and financial downturns. In addition, the study will address the concern of ITTO consumer member countries that the analyses will improve the understanding of the underlying factors impacting demand for tropical wood products in consumer markets. The proposal focuses on increasing the resilience of the tropical timber sector to the threats arising from global economic and financial shocks by increasing the capacity of ITTO producer member countries to manage, adapt, recover from and anticipate such crises. The study will develop a knowledge base for informed decision-making at international, regional and national levels on strategies for minimizing the risks to the tropical timber sector from global economic and financial shocks.

Progress:

The project has been reported as completed to the 46th Session of the CEM-CFI.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Ghana's forest industries were exposed to the crisis by the predominance of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and reliance on commodities, with production and exports of most wood products declining over the crisis period. Brazil's large and growing domestic market had buffered the tropical forestry sector from the impacts of the global financial and economic crisis, although export oriented firms were most affected. Remedial measures employed by the private sector and the government initiatives focused on macroeconomic issues but had indirect impacts on the forestry sector. Malaysia had been more exposed to the crisis because of its high proportion of trade in GDP. Exports of primary wood products had fallen sharply during the crisis and had negatively impacted the wood processing sector. The Malaysian Timber Council had played an important role in assisting the industry to remain competitive and well positioned during the crisis.

It was concluded that the forestry sectors in all three case study countries had been impacted by the global downturn, and although their risk profiles were somewhat different, there were some common elements in terms of how tropical timber industries could minimize impacts and become more competitive during severe economic downturns. These included the need to develop market intelligence capabilities in the tropical forestry sector through better cooperation between private sector, government and international organizations; the importance of investing in the development of new products and geographical market opportunities, including domestic and regional markets; the need to continuously make gains in productivity to reduce costs and maintain competitiveness; the need to focus on value-added and innovative products which would be less affected by global economic downturns and the need to strengthen industry and trade associations, including marketing and promotional support organizations, which would be crucial for

implementing policies to ensure export competitiveness during downturns.

Report available at:

Technical Report 'Riding out the storm. Improving resilience of the tropical timber sector to the impact of global and regional economic crises, ITTO TI Series 41.

- [Riding out the storm: Improving resilience of the tropical timber sector to the impacts of global and regional economic crises](#)



Strengthening of the forest information system of Guatemala to improve market and trade transparency and decision-making in the forest sector

Project number:	TMT-PD 004/11 Rev.2 (M)	
Project country:	Guatemala	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 656,562
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 359,716
	Government of Guatemala	US\$ 270,278
	IUCN	US\$ 26,568
Submitted by:	Government of Guatemala	
Implementing agency:	Instituto Nacional de Bosques (INAB)	
Duration:	36 months	
Financed at:	TMT 1 st Cycle 2011	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

Guatemala has launched the implementation of a national forest statistics information system available at <http://www.sifgua.org.gt/>. In this second system enhancement phase, the project will strengthen strategic information access and availability with a view to increasing the sustainable management of the country's forest resources. To this end, processing tools need to be developed to link the various systems and to automate technical procedures. The project also aims at fostering a pro-forest and environment culture by developing and implementing a plan to build awareness on the system. Simultaneously, the project will compile and analyse the strategic information required to support forest product monitoring and tracking, thus contributing to the reduction of illegal activities in this sector.

Progress:

Project activities commenced on January 2013, and as of 30 June 2013, progress is reported as follows:

Output 1, "There is a system to analyse and process SIFGUA's forest sector statistical data": Some progress has been made in developing the design of application and tools for the Information System, incorporating information such as statistical databases, and linking the current systems of the National Forest Authority (INAB) and the National Authority for Protected Areas (CONAP). In general the Information system will allow registration, administration and monitoring of forest management plans, issue timber transport bills, and request of issue of CITES certificate.

Output 3, "At least five forest management processes have been automated through SIFGUA": Currently analysis of input and output of information is being carried out; from such analysis the following processes are expected to be automated through the Information system:

- For forest management outside natural protected areas: (i) registry, management and monitoring of licenses for forest harvesting, (ii) forestry incentives, (iii) national forest registry, (iv) bills for timber transport, (v) others.
- For forest management inside natural protected areas: (i) registry, management and monitoring of harvesting licenses, (ii) registry of forestry specialist, (iii) bills for timber transport, (iv) issuance of CITES certificates.
- Module for forest industries: (i) submission of reports of timber inventories, processing and finish product, (ii) bills of transport.

The regulations involved in the above mentioned process are being revised, so automation can be done accordingly.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Nothing yet to report

Strengthening market information systems to enhance trade and market intelligence in the forest sector of Guyana

Project number:	TMT-PD 006/11 Rev.3 (M)	
Project country:	Guyana	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 420,820
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 320,920
	Government of Guyana	US\$ 99,900
Submitted by:	Government of Guyana	
Implementing agency:	Guyana Forestry Commission	
Duration:	18 months	
Financed at:	TMT 1 st Cycle 2011	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The specific project objective is to improve the Guyana market information systems, and the capacity to promote trade and especially to develop an integrated market and trade information system that will benefit the regulatory agency and those directly or indirectly involved in the production, processing or trade of timber. Ultimately, through greater foreign exchange and domestic earnings, the benefits will filter to the wider population of Guyana through increased revenue, employment opportunities and service provision. Additionally, the main advantage of enhancing market information system will be to allow for a more diverse market and trade environment to be developed in Guyana's forest sector which then will allow for a more dynamic and sustainable forest industry. A major change envisaged will be a more thorough and rational approach to tropical timber trade issues and marketing based on greater knowledge and capacity. By involving stakeholders – including local communities – during the development of the activities, target groups will have a sense of ownership of the outcomes. The project will establish the technical capacity (hardware, software and human resource) to sustain the outcomes and GFC will provide the labor and finance to continue the utilization of the technology/systems developed.

Progress:

The project implementation has started in June 2012 and the project is well on track in accordance with the work plan. The following activities have been carried out:

- Execution of Procurement Processes for the following main project positions: International Marketing Specialist, National Systems Specialist, and Trade Specialist
- Plans for commencement of consultancy activities and overall project activity execution have commenced.
- Continuation and finalization of the procurement process for the 3 consultants
- Conducting discussion with stakeholders' group of matters relating to production, markets and trade.
- Conducting a diagnostic study on factors affecting markets and measures impacting tropical timber use, and
- Conducting a technical study and market survey on factors related to competitiveness such as chain of custody, demand and supply, niche markets and other producers.
- Development of Draft Marketing Strategy
- Preparation of diagnostic report/study on critical specific data gaps related to production, markets and trade and data collection methods
- Preparation of draft diagnostic report on factors affecting markets and measures impacting tropical timber use
- Preparation of draft technical study and market survey on factors related to competitiveness such as chain of custody, demand and supply, niche markets and other producers.
- Development of a draft country level marketing strategy for Guyana
- Preparation of the framework for the integrated information system
- Draft report on the review of market framework for trade development in Guyana

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

A framework as well as a methodology for strengthening data collection efforts were developed. This builds on the existing system which is available and improves on areas where there were evident data gaps and inefficiencies in data process and management time.

The completion of three main reports on Critical Data gaps, review of the market framework for trade development in Guyana, and the assessment of factors affecting markets and measures impacting on tropical timber use, were completed. The Marketing Strategy document and the Report on Competitiveness are in draft preparation. These key documents will contribute to the achievement of the objective and the implementation of the project.

Methodological Development for Life Cycle Analysis of Tropical Wood Products to Improve their Competitiveness in International Markets

Project number:	TMT-PA 007/11 Rev.1 (I)		
Project country:	Global		
Budget:	Total:	US\$	60,116
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$	60,116
Submitted by:	ITTO Secretariat		
Implementing agency:	ITTO Secretariat		
Duration:	6 months		
Financed at:	TMT 1 st Cycle 2011		
Status:	Completed		

Summary:

The amount of wood going into the long-term product pool (and therefore carbon sequestered in this pool) is relevant to almost all forest-related activities eligible for the voluntary carbon market including Afforestation/Reforestation (AR), Improved Forest Management (IFM) and Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). Thus, as the voluntary market develops, it is important that the methodologies and emission factors used are based on the most up-to-date understanding and scientific knowledge. Currently, under the voluntary market a single method dominates for wood products accounting and it is therefore in ITTO's and its member countries' best interest to revise and up-date the methodology in order to have accurate estimates of the carbon stocks stored in tropical wood products by species, product type, and end-use. This activity focuses on the development of methodologies for life cycle analysis of tropical wood product and will address apparent problems in the figures used for tropical timber products in the approved voluntary market methodology for improved forest management, reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation and afforestation/reforestation. The outcome will be a methodology to produce more accurate information on the estimation of carbon stocks in the long-term tropical wood products pool, which will improve the products' competitiveness in international markets, especially in the context of a voluntary carbon marketing scheme.

Progress:

The project was reported as completed to the 48th. It has produced two technical reports, namely:

- 1) Wood product accounting and climate change mitigation projects involving tropical timber
- 2) Work plan for accounting methodology development for wood products in climate change mitigation projects involving tropical timber.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

With analyses completed, the final part of the work that remains will be writing up methodological requirements for wood product accountings. Such text will ideally fit with minimal or no changes into existing methodologies to facilitate the process of adoption by the relevant standards.

Reports are available at:

- [Wood product accounting and climate change mitigation projects involving tropical timber](#)
- [Workplan for accounting methodology development for wood products in climate change mitigation projects involving tropical timber](#)



Preparation of the publication “atlas of tropical timber species – 1st Edition: Technological characteristics and uses of 273 tropical timber species (and 17 temperate species)”

Project number:	TMT-SPD 010/12 Rev.1 (M)	
Project country:	France	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 273,789
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 138,033
	CIRAD	US\$ 135,756
Submitted by:	France	
Implementing agency:	CIRAD	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	TMT Spring Cycle 2012	
Status:	Inception phase	

Summary:

The project aims to produce, publish and disseminate an *Atlas of tropical timber species* covering the information contained in the latest TROPIX software (version 7 - 2011) distributed by CIRAD; the very first version of this software was developed in the late 1980s by CTFT (CIRAD Forestry Department) with financial support from ITTO. This new Atlas is meant to be a continuation of the three former timber Atlas covering Africa, South America, and Asia respectively, the last of these three books (on timber from South America) have been produced and published in 1988 by CTFT and ATIBT with financial support from ITTO. The three books are still in high demand among operators of the timber sector but they are partly out of print; in addition, most of the information contained is partly obsolete and should be updated and supplemented. The Atlas will be published in French and English (TROPIX is available in these two languages). The new edition will be associated with the release of a new version of TROPIX (version 8) describing species in greater number than the current version 7 (290 total instead of the current 245) and having new technological features requested by operators in the timber sector.

The project is funded under a grant from the EU to the ITTO-CITES program which provides for part of the funds pledged to be used for TMT activities with objectives relevant to both programs.

Progress:

The project has been approved under the TP Spring Cycle 2012 and is in the inception phase.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Nothing yet to report

Adaptation and application at the national scale of the Trace Bois-Gabon (Gabon timber tracking) for the collection and processing of forest and timber statistics in Gabon

Project number:	TMT-SPD 011/12 Rev.2 (M)	
Project country:	Gabon	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 411,996
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 138,996
	Government of Gabon:	US\$ 273,000
Submitted by:	Gabon	
Implementing agency:	Ministry of Water and Forests, Directorate of Information Systems	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	TMT Spring Cycle 2012	
Status:	Inception phase	

Summary:

Despite five phases completed to date, the ITTO support to improve statistics on forest and timber in Gabon has not been fully brought to function. This small project aims to build upon the achievements of previous projects, applying nationwide the computer module *Trace Bois Gabon (Gabon Timber Tracking)* designed for the collection and processing of Gabon's statistics on forests and timber, for the benefit of the Ministry of Water and Forest Resources and that of economic operators in the timber sector. The project includes work on finalizing the software development, and a training program for users. It aims to provide a dashboard of the forest and timber economy in Gabon and the related monitoring structure. Following this project, all statistical data on forests, forest production, timber processing and trade in Gabon will be compiled and computer processed to track the products from the forest to processing plants and final marketing and sale outlets.

Progress:

The project has been approved under the TP Spring Cycle 2012 and is in the inception phase.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Nothing yet to report

Improving intra-African trade and market transparency in timber and timber products

Project number:	TMT-SPD 012/12 Rev.1 (M)	
Project country:	Ghana	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 149,996
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 111,931
	Ghana Timber Millers Organization:	US\$ 38,065
Submitted by:	Ghana	
Implementing agency:	Ghana Timber Millers Organization (GTMO)	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	TMT Spring Cycle 2012	
Status:	Inception phase	

Summary:

African timber suppliers accounted for less 10% per year of the total African imports of timber and timber products (ITTO 2010). One major constraint identified was the lack of knowledge among traders in the region. This proposal seeks to increase knowledge of the regional market and promote trade (and thus leading to an increased intra-African market share) within the region through active engagement of traders and information provision. The outputs of the study will be an online timber marketplace, capacity building of enterprises to leverage ICT to enhance their competitiveness, and a geospatial database of market access and logistic information. The online timber marketplace will catalogue timber companies, trade leads and provide a social media tool to facilitate liaison among African traders. At the marketplace, regular surveys will be conducted with trader and market intelligence will be gleaned, prepared and reported on the website for the various users.

The project is funded under a grant from the EU to the ITTO-CITES program which provides for part of the funds pledged to be used for TMT activities with objectives relevant to both programs.

Progress:

The project has been approved under the TP Spring Cycle 2012 and is in the inception phase.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Nothing yet to report

Analysis of the Economic Impact of Governmental Procurement Policies on Tropical Timber Markets

Project number:	TMT-SPD 013/12 Rev.1 (M)	
Project country:	Global	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 150,000
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 150,000
Submitted by:	ITTO Secretariat	
Implementing agency:	ITTO Secretariat	
Duration:	12 months	
Financed at:	TMT Spring Cycle 2012	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

Legality requirements and timber procurement policies are being introduced in many countries. These requirements and policies are principally aimed at addressing public concerns about the legal and environmental credentials of products. Many purchasers are demanding that products should come from sustainable, or at least legal, sources and that this be verifiable in order to maintain credibility with buyers in the market place. Such requirements and policies have significant implications for tropical timber suppliers. As developments are occurring at a rapid rate, there is an urgent need for tropical wood product exporters to monitor these developments, assess their ability to meet these requirements which are being widely adopted, and explore the market implications and opportunities presented by these developments.

This small project aims to analyze the economic impact of governmental procurement policies on tropical timber markets, update the developments on legality requirements and timber procurement policies and assess market implications and opportunities for ITTO producers and consumers.

Progress:

The small project has been approved under the TP Spring Cycle 2012 and the implementation was commenced from December of 2012. The following activities have been carried out:

- Co-Consultants, R. Michael Martin (USA) and Baharuddin Ghazali (Malaysia) hired.
- The detailed work plan was prepared and approved for the efficient and effective implementation of the project in accordance with the approved project document and the terms of reference of the co-consultants.
- Structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders in the public and private sectors. The co-consultants attended the FAO Global Timber Forum in Rome and visited EU officials in Brussels and met with public agencies and timber sectors in Ghana and Peru.
- Draft report prepared for presentation (by the co-consultants) at the 49th ITTC

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The analysis will be focused on the economic impact of governmental procurement policies on tropical timber markets through the update of the developments of legality requirements and timber procurement policies and the assessment on market implications and opportunities for ITTO producer and consumers. The report to be presented to Council will include:

- Update of the ITTO study "The Pros and Cons of Procurement";
- Comprehensive analysis of impacts of procurement policies on markets;
- Examination on the challenges faced by producer and consumer members;
- Recommendations for further action by ITTO